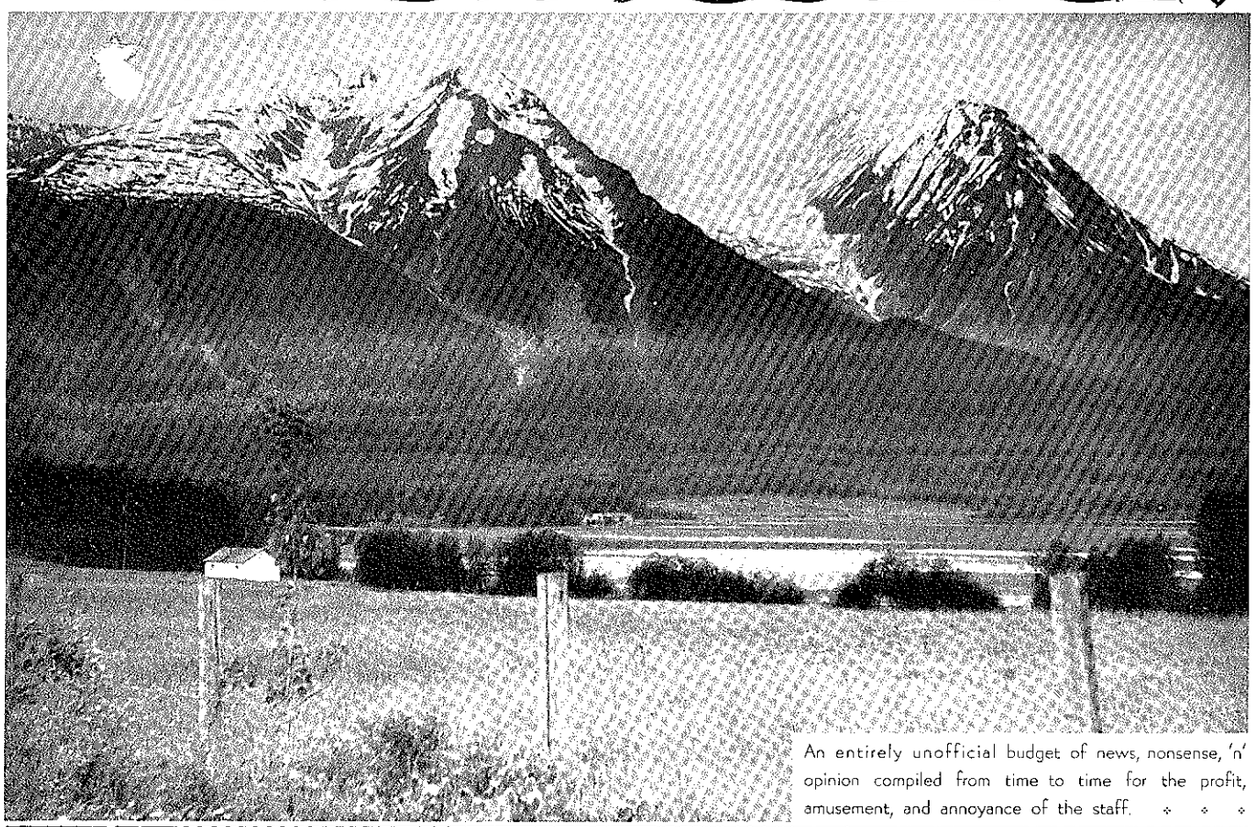
FOREST SERVICE NEWSLETTER



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

No. 119 VICTORIA, B.C. JUNE, 1953

## THE SCOREKEEPERS

by W.V. (Viv.) Hicks, Comptroller.

The Forester can see the tangible result of his labours in an improved and properly managed tree crop; the Agrologist can measure his accomplishments by the sight of healthy cattle feeding on lush grazing lands; and the Engineer can gaze on well-constructed roads, bridges, and buildings as monuments to his skill. The Accountant has only drab figures and records to show for a lifetime of effort.

Yet, as the sailor observed to his pal on the beach at Waikiki, "You know, Joe, figures can be pretty interestin', especially if they're neat and well-balanced. I guess it all depends on the viewpoint." If pressed, the Accountant will admit (although usually professing frustration) that he derives a great deal of satisfaction from a neat and well-balanced statement resulting from a well-planned set of records, efficiently kept. The "Dyed-in-the-wool" or should I say "Inked-by-the-pen" Accountant or Bookkeeper will tell you there's a real thrill in getting a "sight balance", and if there should be a difference, he is constantly intrigued until he not only finds the error but also discovers how it was made.

The real frustration, we find, is in coping with the masses of paper upon which the figures must necessarily be written. For instance, over 60,000 vouchers must be perused and signed annually by the Accountant or Assistant Accountant, as must all Purchasing Commission requisitions issued in the Service. As signature at this point constitutes final approval on behalf of the Deputy Minister, a spot check is insufficient and each voucher or requisition must at least be hastily scanned. Sometimes it seems as though our Service alone must be keeping all the paper mills in the Province busy, but I suppose we are not alone in this feeling. However, this is a situation we are constantly trying to improve by the streamlining of forms and records and elimination of duplication where possible, without loss in information or efficiency.

One of our biggest problems, really a double-edged one, is in explaining to the field man, on the one hand, the need for the numerous financial regulations which appear to him as so much "red tape", and, on the other hand, explaining to Finance the reasons why some of said regulations can not be easily complied with in various phases of our work. Strange as it may sometimes seem, there are usually sound reasons for most of the regulations and I believe most of us realize these days that any big business (and the present-day Forest Service is certainly big business) must have adequate regulations to maintain uniformity, give guidance, and prevent abuses. In this connection, it is perhaps not generally understood that, according to the "Audit Act", the Comptroller-General "shall direct the method by which the books of any Department shall be kept." However, in practice, a co-operative arrangement exists whereby we are permitted to adapt detailed methods to our own needs, provided certain basic practices are followed.

This arrangement is proving very beneficial to us in the decentralized accounting system which we are now introducing into the District offices, as recommended in the Stevenson and Kellogg Report, as we are now able to adapt detailed procedures to the peculiar needs of each District. Incidentally, in connection with the new accounting system, we were recently publicly chastised by the Dean of our District clerical colleagues (Note: This man has since left the Service) for "turning things upside down." We trust those Districts as yet uninitiated will not think their Accounting clerks will be expected to work from an inverted position in future. Seriously, we realize such changes cause disruption and inconvenience until the inevitable "bugs" are weeded out of the new routines, but the new system offers definite advantages and safeguards in dealing with revenue and a very considerable amount of duplication is eliminated. One important

The Scorekeepers (continued)

advantage which will be gained when installation of the new system is completed will be the institution of periodic visits to District offices by senior Headquarters personnel to check on procedure and discuss problems, to our mutual advantage.

Of course, all our work in Forest Accounts does not consist of keeping figures and records. The Division actually divides into two arms. Besides the actual accounting and recording routines which are directed by the Chief Accountant, numerous other phases are handled directly from the Comptroller's office. These include all problems affecting difficult collections such as administration of liens and handling of bankruptcies (in close consultation with Forest Counsel), processing of export applications and orders-in-council, shipping-permit problems, supervision of collection of lumber selling-price data and investigation of mill records, problems affecting Timber Licences, Leases and Berths, in addition to compilation of the Annual Estimates for final presentation, and various items of a minor nature.

There is plenty of variety where seizures and bankruptcies are concerned as all cases differ in some particular. As the Government must have an elephant's memory and lose no reasonable opportunity to collect monies rightfully owing to the Crown for the benefit of the public, some of these cases drag on for years before settlement. For example, it might be of interest to the reader to learn that we recently disposed of a quantity of logs placed under seizure in 1921 and fairly frequently deal with material seized some years previously.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that our activities bring us into close contact with every other Division of the Service. So, while we sometimes feel that we have little of a tangible nature to show for our efforts, there is compensation in the knowledge that if we discharge our responsibilities efficiently, we can make an effective contribution to the well-being of the Service as a whole.

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## VANCOUVER DISTRICT

Hatched

To Richard ("Dick") Barriscale, of the Scaling office staff, and Mrs. Barriscale, on February 7, 1953, a SON, Richard Sydney.

To Tom Hubbard, of Management office staff, and Mrs. Hubbard, on March 30, 1953, a DAUGHTER, Carol Ann.

To Gord. Charnell, of Campbell River office, and Mrs. Charnell, on May 11, 1953, a DAUGHTER, Patricia Lynn.

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Welcome Mat

We welcome the following new members to the Vancouver office staff. First, new members of the filing staff, three young ladies from the prairies, Misses Betty Allan, from Edmonton, where she worked in the Correspondence Department of the Alberta government; Elinor Carlson, from her hometown of Winnipeg; and Hazel Weaver from the Selective Service treasury department, Endiang, Alberta.

Then, joining the Scaling office staff is Mrs. June (Jerry) Fillmore who previously worked for Crane Limited, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Next, the Management office welcomes Mary Teichroeb from New Westminster, Mary previously worked at Essondale.

Also, we re-welcome Bob Peacock back for another summer of timber cruising with Headquarters party.

A most hearty welcome to you all.

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Resignation

Miss Delphine Armour, of Scaling office staff, resigned her position with us to accept a position with the B.C. Electric Company, Vancouver. On Friday, May 29, a camera was presented to her by the Vancouver office staff in appreciation of her work and friendship. We all wish you the very best of luck and happiness, Delphine.

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The following is the first in what we hope will be a series of investigations of the many problems confronting the field men of the B.C. Forest Service, in the Vancouver Forest District. There have been searching investigations into Communism, Camp Petawawa, the disappearance of your favourite F2½ pencil, and why salt makes beer fizz (one glass at a time). So why not look into our more serious problems?

"HOW NOT TO BE ALL WET"

Since man first entered the woods of B.C., his main problem was not to count the trees but how to keep dry in the process. One way I think a person could do this would be to wear a suit of heavy armour. But in due time this would become very rusty and it would prove impractical to carry a can of oil wherever you went.

The diving-suit has proven very satisfactory in the wet climate of the ocean bottom, which is comparable to reproduction on a wet day. The great expense of such a suit would make it available only to the high-salaried men who never go out in the rain anyway.

Vancouver District (continued)

"How Not To Be All Wet" (cont'd)

We must focus this discussion on the needs of the timber cruiser, or compassman, who must "squish" his way up and down the hills regardless of the weather.

Wool has been a favourite in the woods for a long time. While it keeps you warm it has the cursed ability to absorb every drop of water with which it comes in contact.

In the morning you may weigh a compact 170 pounds but by the end of the day you weigh a droopy 200. If you are out in a fly camp, it is very annoying to have to remove a soggy pant-leg from near the fire to get at your dinner soup.

The "Dry-Bak" rainclothes can stand on their own merits. All you have to do is to stand them in the corner after you are through with them for the day.

The field of plastics have invaded the rainclothing field and have been purchased by quite a number of fellows. I personally think a man who can wear a pair of plastic pants for a week without tearing them should get his photograph in TIME magazine. (ED: Quit plugging our main competitor, eh?). Plastics have a sneaky way of tearing and before you realize it, all you have are a few shreds on your back and water is running down your spine. One thing, though, you can use the remaining bits of your coat to wrap up your lunch.

Rubber is too commonly used to lack mention in this investigation. The trouble with rubber is that while it keeps the water out, it also keeps the heat in. Rubber pants are very similar to a pressure-cooker, they keep you warm the same way it cooks potatoes. Consequently you find very few half-baked cruisers.

One could wear his suit (his birthday suit, that is) but then he would have no place to carry his bandaids, tobacco and matches, which are so necessary for existence in the woods. Also, he would have no pant seat to light his matches on. However he would not find it necessary to dry any clothes, just a brisk rub with a towel and he would be ready for dinner.

This investigation, like most, has not come to any concrete conclusions but it might spark a revolt to make the manufacturers find a way to keep a man dry and warm in the woods .....

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NOTE: Next month, if they let me, I will endeavour to give you some advice on HOW TO CROSS A CREEK.

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PRINCE RUPERT DISTRICT

Items

Whether or not Mike Malkow returns to his lookout post in the Smithers Ranger District remains in the lap of the gods. But he wishes all his Forest Service friends to know that his trip to the uranium mine in Boulder, Montana, has considerably alleviated the arthritis which laid him low.

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Scaler Montieth arrived from the South, and now that the feminine gasps are less irregular, certain of the girls in Head Office are laying plans to keep him still long enough to find out if he is actually real!!!

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Hope rises again! Architect Taylor came visiting and kept the draughting room in a tizzy with talk of the longed-for new building. Which year will it be, Santa?

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The lady dispatcher-clerks in the Interior are informed that the yellow convertible with chartreuse (pronounced shartrerz) top is driven by Vic Young; the open season is on!

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District Forester Young not mentioning the fact of his recently acquired outboard motor setup, the idea appears to be surprise entries in the current local Salmon Derby; enough said.

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Prince Rupert District (continued)

Items (cont'd)

Man around here says, "Call me Captain!" Hugh MacMillan has taken his Mate's ticket and rates congratulations.

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Al MacPherson and Johnny Keefe now Ranger graduates of Green Timbers, the latter is at Terrace while Al will shortly leave Ootsa Lake for a full-sized job at Atlin. Good luck, fellows!

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Both Muriel Tait and Margaret Harris have left us, to pound typewriter keys only five days per week in future. Private enterprise, we envy you!

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Aussie left us and the Rupert skies have wept ever since. Last year she became Mrs. Morris Bishop and now has broken her nine years of service, so we could but send her away with Bev. Boulton's valediction and the engraved silver tray from all of us. Happy living, Aussie!

"Aussie"

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W.C. Higgins came, saw, left, and with trepidation we await the inauguration of the mooted new accounting system. We wonder .... (Ed: Read lead article).

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Big-time operations meetings throughout the District in late April and early May, gave opportunity for some of the new people to get acquainted. The strong, silent Garon, of Hazelton, will find a long-term security, particularly in working with John Willan, who is practically a living legend in Forestry circles up here.

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Now that Les Taft is out of hospital he is using some of his huge energy by prexying the newly-formed Hazelton Rod & Gun Club, while postmaster-storekeeper-former-Ranger Archie Willan, "secretaries" with him. If you don't know, then Archie is son of John, and that serves to introduce A/R Haynes, of Kitwanga, who just missed meeting Tom Campbell on his way to Ocean Falls as Lookoutman. This summer stint should serve to rehabilitate Tom who cracked up his skull north of Hazelton last winter.

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A/R's King and Russell, at Terrace, with the latter presently in Kamloops boning up on Air Observation stuff. He will be briefing the rest of us when he has the thing absorbed. Smacks somewhat of Wartime! Good to know that Don Smith is improving and will shortly resume the reins that Tom Ridler now holds.

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Jerry Haldeman and that super-size foreign car are already famous, but that is the way our dispatchers are accustomed to living.

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Welcomes

Welcome to ex-policeman Horne - he is already quite at home; A/R Petty has left big ships for the more sumptuous craft the Service provides at Queen Charlotte City, and H. Eidsvick and W.D. Clay are with Herb Hammer at Ocean Falls. The mermaids down that way should remember that Harold is a roving Viking and will only leave them to take his sophomore year at U.B.C. next Fall.

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A/R Schmidt probably seeking more fishing than Mission afforded, he and A/R Mackie in the heart of the great Tweedsmuir Park seeing B.C. first, and Leo Vitick thoroughly enjoying the bright lights with that other old bachelor, Jim Gilmour, the Houston philogynist. (Just fooling, Jim). By the way, is Bob Smith reminded of Jeanne Mancefield in his present haunts? One new A/R on big Babine Lake. This correspondent definitely envies Jimmy Antenenko his place. Stick around man, there's good hunting coming up!

In case anybody is missed, don't feel badly, you are all much needed and more than welcome; blame the dilatoriness of your scribe spending time batting this out instead of attending to your records!!

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Hatched

Ranger Herb Hammer is daddy to brand new Frances Margaret, and Ranger Johnny J. Keefe has his second exemption in two years, to wit, one wife and now Jocelyn Jeannette; hope the double J works as well as it did for old John Jacob Astor!

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Prince Rupert District (continued)

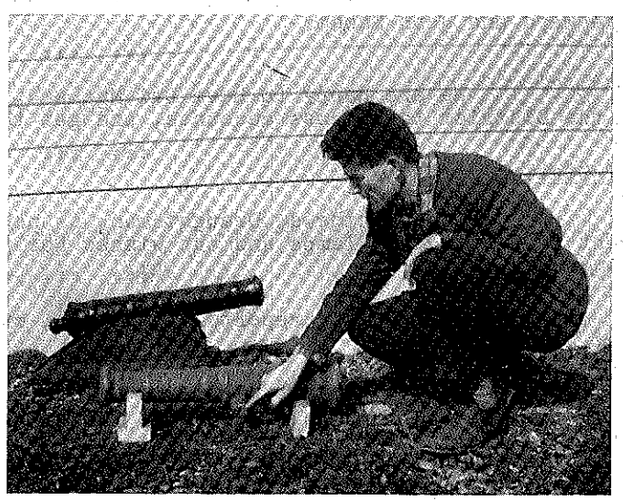
## DISPATCH FROM QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS

by J.F. Munroe

Having managed to slip into relative anonymity through the medium of a blown fuse on the office radio and a lack of cash to purchase stamps, (with which to mail out trash such as this), we find ourselves being in the unnatural state of having complete and full contact with our District office, thanks to the untiring efforts of our radio technician and the receipt of an expense cheque.

The first intelligible message received clearly above the snapping and crackling of our radio appeared to be an appeal to members of the District to submit "... any pertinent copy, pictures, or anecdotes ...." for use in a forthcoming Newsletter. We in R.D. #6 will now endeavour to do just this:

(a) Picture: The picture shown is that of an old cannon found at low tide on the beach at Skidegate Mission. Its exact date is unknown but a similar cannon found by Mr. E.C. Stevens of Skidegate has the figure 1426 (could this be a date?) stamped on it, from which we might assume that our piece of ordnance is of similar vintage. (John Collins, please note). The only story we have been able to track down in regard to these cannon and how they came to be here is the following:



Back in the days when the H.B.C. operated trading ships and posts in this area, five Spanish ships put in at Skidegate Mission with the object of trading with the Haidas there. Apparently the Haidas wished to remain loyal to the H.B.C. and refused to do business with the Spaniards, who then became quite annoyed, moved off-shore, let go a few volleys of shot in the general direction of the village, and tied up for the night in the belief that trading would be a bit brisker on the morrow. The Haidas took exception to this indiscriminate scattering of metal about their community and, under cover of darkness, stole out to the Spanish ships, set three on fire and chased the other two back to Spain.

As to the truth of this tale we can give no guarantee, but can only pass it on as one that was told to us. We think it is a colourful story at any rate and know that cannon balls have been dug out of the trees behind Skidegate Mission so the tale can not be too far from the truth.

(b) Anecdotes: The above should do as our anecdotal contribution for this issue, or should we mention about the cows in Queen Charlotte with their great liking for paper or cardboard? This was brought home to us the day that we posted the notices for the Assistant Ranger Examinations and returned in the afternoon to find a big, black cow chewing her cud upon the part that reads ".... all candidates must be 21 years of age ...." B-U-R-R-R-P. (Pardon me!)

(c) General: A good spot to mention the swelled ranks of the Forest Service staff here in Queen Charlotte City:

Dispatcher: Gary Richardson. Claims to be descended from Richard II of England, but we know he's just working around to an invitation to the Coronation.

Asst. Ranger: "Bill" Petty, late of Squamish, Langley Prairie, Campbell River, but Nevah late to the office. Bill is not claiming to be a descendent from anyone. (Which is, you'll admit, rather unique).

Ranger: James F. Munro, of whom the less said, the better.

Well, not wanting to write the whole Newsletter by ourselves, we gracefully give up our typewriter to others in the Prince Rupert District and stagger back to work.

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## PRINCE GEORGE DISTRICT

Bare Facts

Our popular Ranger at Vanderhoof, namely, Nestor Threatful, was getting a new toe-hold in hilly country when he ran head-on into a grizzly. Nestor doesn't remember just what happened, but he lost altitude so fast that he lacerated two fingers before getting back to the trail where he could really run.

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Power of the Press

All is happy now that the District Forester, W.C. Phillips, has a new, carved name-plate, a gift from Parks and Recreation, with his name spelled correctly this time. The accompanying letter acknowledged the error but seemed to imply cruelty on our part for the exposure to Newsletter readers. It also refuted any apple-polishing motive behind the gift. This is not the first time we have had trouble with the letter "L" as it is related to our District Foresters. (Mr. Swannell please note).

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Prince George District (continued)

Floyd Nelson, our Operations chief, says that with so many green men this year we should have few fires. Actually he is pleased with our overflowing rain gauge.

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The New Faces

Our offices have been full of new faces lately. Here are some of them: Arvid Moen, from Nelson to the Fort Fraser vacancy; Alex Kuly, from Kamloops to relieve Gordon Jones at Quesnel; Gordon will move to Sicamous, only 25 miles away from his former home; Rod McKenzie has taken over Canyon Creek Ranger District temporarily, as Dave McLean is leaving for industry; Sterling Cosens goes to Aleza Lake from Ranger School; Ken Northrup has returned to Penny after a session at Ranger School; Keith Irwin is back in Prince George, another Ranger School victim.

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Goings & Comings

Mrs. Ethel Manton, typist, resigning to work for more "greenbacks" in a local planing mill office, was replaced by Mrs. Lynn Remple.

Mrs. Norma Moe, nee Keeler, returned to the Billing section to assist Billie Ward and Joan Sande.

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We are happy to have Dai MacLeod, Assistant Comptroller, Victoria, look over the District to discuss accounts, and get the mill tally boys on the job.

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Vital Statistics

Anne Matthews, Draughtsman, is now Mrs. John Houghtaling. Our wedding present to them - twin lamps and our wishes for good luck.

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Jack Bailey reports the arrival of a SON and heir, but details are missing as yet.

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Ivor Burrows, Management Forester, who recently married Miss Doreen Kinch of the local Welfare Office, returned to work after a honeymoon via Hart Highway and through Alberta. Mr. and Mrs. Burrows have taken up residence in Prince George. Ivor says he got 40 miles to a gallon and its only 38¢ in Alberta. Some uncouth fellow said Ivor was competing with Mr. Jack Benny.

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Miss Mary Bondar is now Mrs. James McCaffrey and just returned from a honeymoon in Seattle.

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"Thou Shalt Not Kill"

It has been reliably reported that Forest Service personnel have taken to rearing mice. We don't know what the normal birth-rate is, but under ideal conditions such as prevail at Tete Jaune (in the filing cabinet), and with the tender-hearted Assistant Ranger stationed there in charge of wildlife (and mice), they seem to be doing quite well. It seems this family moved in early this Spring and liked it so well they plan to stay. When asked if he had any statement for the press in regard to this undertaking, the Assistant Ranger merely stated, "They're kind of cute."

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## WILLIAM LLEWELYN THOMAS

A chance meeting with Tommy Simmons, one of the "old originals" who helps lighten the Editor's load by informing us of doings amongst the old-timers, resulted in our learning of the passing, on April 29 last, of William Llewelyn Thomas.

Llewelyn Thomas came to Victoria in 1912 and almost immediately entered Forest Service employ under the newly-appointed, first Chief Forester, Mr. H.R.MacMillan. He rose to the position of Chief Draughtsman and evidences of his skilful workmanship are still present in the records of the period between 1912 and May 31, 1941, when he retired.

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## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Since the last issue of the Newsletter, the following publications have been issued and distributed -

B.28 - "Pocket Guide to the Trees and Shrubs of British Columbia", revised by E.H. Garman. Second edition, not illustrated, 102 pages, Price 75 cents plus 2 cents SS & MA tax.

This publication has been given standard distribution throughout the Service - a supply for each District office and one copy for every Ranger. Where members of the Service desire personal copies (not office copies) they will be asked to pay for them.

Research Note #24 - "Experimental Pruning of Douglas fir in British Columbia", by J.M. Finnis.

Protection Bulletin No. 1, 1953 - deals with fire weather forecasting and fire-fighting organization.

New Publications (continued)

Forest Service Directory, May 23, 1953, - six pages, mimeographed.

Additional copies of these publications may be obtained from the Public Relations Division, Victoria.

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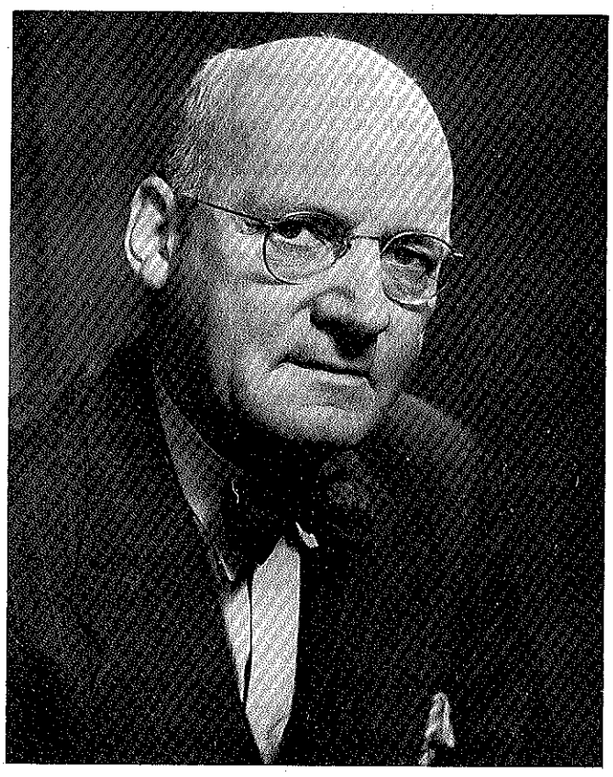
## GEORGE MELROSE LEAVES US

On Tuesday, June 9, 1953, one of British Columbia's outstanding public servants, George P. Melrose, was honoured at a large gathering of his friends and associates in Victoria, on the occasion of his optional retirement from Government service.



George Melrose was born in St. John, New Brunswick, in 1892, and graduated, B.Sc. Forestry, from the University of New Brunswick in 1914. He joined the old B.C. Forest Branch the same year and between then and 1936 served in most Districts including terms as District Forester at Vernon, Kamloops, and Nelson.

In 1936 he was transferred to Victoria as Forester-in-Charge of Operations, subsequently becoming Assistant Chief Forester. In 1946, he succeeded Mr. Harry Cathcart as Deputy Minister of Lands.

From June 1951 to January 1952, Mr. Melrose was loaned to the United Nations Organization to head its Technical Mission to El Salvador in Central America. This was indeed a signal honour to be bestowed on a British Columbia civil servant.

Mr. C.E. Hopper, the new Deputy Minister of Lands, presented Mr. Melrose with a 35 mm. slide projector and a 50-inch screen, on behalf of his host of good friends in both the Services - Lands and Forests.

George Melrose, although leaving the Service, will still be very much in the picture, returning to his first love - forestry. He will set up practice as a Consulting Forester, in Vancouver, and his headquarters will be in the offices of the Harris Lumber Company in that city.

The very best of health and good luck to you, George, and Mrs. Melrose, from all the Forest Service. Drop in to see us any time!

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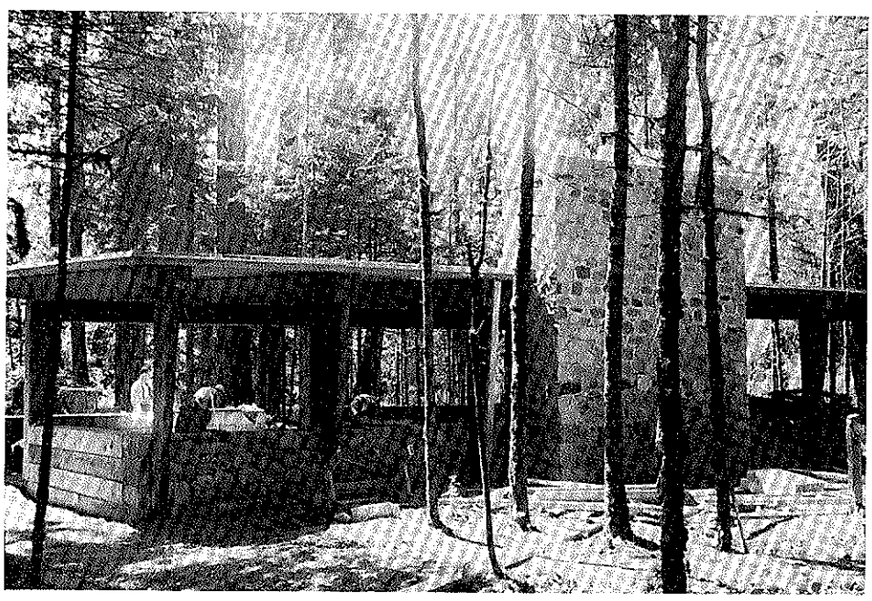
## PARKS PATTER

By the time this Newsletter goes to press, the wraps will have been removed from the newest major park in the Provincial System.

With a modicum of quite justifiable pride and a certain modestly tootled fanfare, Miracle Beach Park will be officially presented to the tired taxpayer on Saturday, June 13.



Picnic Shelter Under Construction

The acquisition of this magnificent property has filled a great gap in the Provincial Park System - the need for an easily accessible Ocean Beach Park. Miracle Beach, comprising some 258 acres, is located one mile down a park road to the east of the Island Highway between Courtenay and Campbell River. It is heavily forested with fine stands of Douglas Fir, Hemlock, and Maple. Fronting this forest is the wide, smooth, sandy Ocean Beach.

The Park has been developed both for the overnight camper and for the less

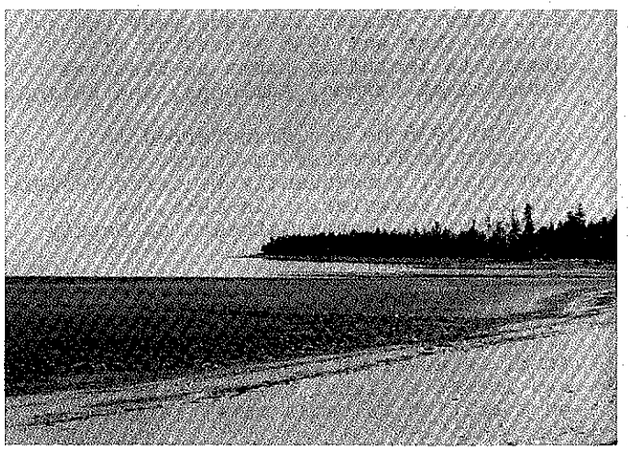
Parks Patter (continued)

rugged person who enjoys a quiet picnic with ants in the sandwiches.

The Campsite Area, when fully developed, will contain some fifty-eight standard units, each complete with parking spur, tent space, table, fireplace with wood, and garbage-can. The sites have toilet facilities and water has been piped to the area.

For the picnic enthusiast there is an area with tables set in a lovely grove of firs. It has, in addition, a splendid shelter complete with fireplaces and tables. Beyond the picnic ground and fronting the beach is a fine, modern change-house.

Of course, the pride and joy of the Division is the beach itself. At low tide it stretches far and wide, dappled here and there with tiny elfin pools filled with crabs and other obnoxious crustaceans. Actually, the beach is so big, so flat, so monotonously sandy, one requires a compass and camel to navigate its length in safety.



The Beach

The Park was named Miracle Beach following a suggestion from Bruce McKelvie, the well-known writer and authority on the Coast Indians. The area, it would seem, forms the locale for an ancient Cape Mudge legend that tells of the performance of a great miracle which turned a local princess into stone.

And so we welcome Miracle Beach into the family. We are proud of it and we have no doubts as to its immediate success with the public.

Mind you - we are not becoming too smug about this thing. We have entered negotiations with the Nepalese Government for the acquisition of the top of Mount Everest, just to round out the System, as a Class A Park. There is a whispered story going the rounds that when the British climbers panted their way to the top, they found our Planning Section busily at work, laying out campsites.

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THE MASTHEAD STORY

The Masthead on this issue shows Hudson's Bay Mountain as it looms up behind Smithers, B.C. This picture came to us via Frank Johnson of Engineering Services. Thank you, Frank.

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