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

No. 44 Victoria, B. C., March 15, 1942 08581

FIRE BOMBS------If the old saw about yesterday's news being the stalest thing in the world is true, then true also is the statement that nothing can equal the speculative possibilities of tomorrow's news. Right now we would cheerfully give what's left of our salary, after all the various and numerous deductions, for a day-by-day peek at the headlines for the next six months; that being impossible, however, we can only prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

This year the Forest Protection staff faces a gigantic problem, new and terrifying, the problem of what to do in event of large scale incendiary raids on our forests. It is not our intention to spread alarm, but we do think that every man engaged in forest protection work should go into the field this year in possession of all the facts, as we know them, and with a full knowledge of what CAN happen.

In an effort to gain as much information as possible, we have consulted several experts, men with practical experience in England and Scotland, and they are unanimous in declaring that our greatest danger lies not in the larger incendiaries, or kilo bombs, but in the smaller, leaflet-like, calling card types. These "calling cards" will probably be similar to those the R. A. F. spread over the Black Forest with such devastating effect last summer. They resemble pieces of blotting paper, 2 or 3 inches square, and are dropped wet from planes. They burst into flames when the weather conditions become favorable, maybe a day, maybe a month after they are dropped. They burn with an intense heat for about 2 minutes, and can be easily extinguished with sand.

As we see it, the menace rises not from a single leaflet, or even a hundred leaflets, for it is quite possible that a wide awake fire crew could get to and extinguish that number before any appreciable damage had resulted, but from the hundred thousand leaflets our experts assure us a single plane can carry; released from a great height, perhaps 25,000 feet, they would drift over a very wide area to contaminate the whole of Vancouver Island, say, in a single trip.

Another point that our experts made was that all the leaflets do not have to ignite at the same time, in fact they probably won't. So, after running down and extinguishing fifty fires in an area, you may look back over your shoulder and discover fifty more just coming to life.

We don't pretend to know what the solution is, but we do know that a fire is a fire, regardless of its origin, and we know too that our old maxim, "Get your fire while its small" still holds good. Working on the knowledge we have, we are arranging to multiply the fire spotting agencies, and are scattering small, highly mobile, fire fighting crews, similar to the standby crews of last year, at strategic points throughout the most hazardous sections. We are still betting on early detection and prompt vigorous suppression.

One thing more. Don't let anyone talk you into believing it can't happen here. That mental attitude resulted in a successful Jap attack on Pearl Harbour. According to the best military information, it not only can happen here, but is considered as an IMMINENT PROBABILITY. If it doesn't happen, we can thank our lucky stars, and if it does------well, we are doing everything we possibly can to prepare for that unpleasant exigency.

STOP PRESS NEWS.....We have just been handed a note from Vancouver Office. They have gone over the top with their purchases of Victory Bonds.....the first district, so far as we know, to do so. Congratulations, Vancouver!

REFORESTATION.....The spring planting programme, ably directed by Harold MacWilliams, is now well under way. We are planting 7,000,000 trees, all on Vancouver Island.

An interesting, and often overlooked phase of reforestation, is the preparatory work that must be done. This year, before a single tree could be planted, 98,000 snags had to be felled and some 30 miles of old railroad grade converted into truck roads, all in addition to camp construction and personnel organization, involving some three or four hundred men.

It is regrettable that most of the planting is done in restricted areas, for this type of work would suit our Jap internees to a "T".

THE FOREST ECONOMICS STAFF has been badly depleted due to enlistments. Thirteen full time employees are now on active service, and two others have gone into essential war services.

If we could just gather the boys together, we could really go to town on aerial surveys... Our contributions to the R. C. A. F. include three pilots, one observer, two navigation instructors, one photographer and an armament officer (we don't know just where the latter would fit it, but perhaps he could busy himself keeping the cameras ready for instant action). With the added experience Andrews and Hall are getting in air survey technique with the army, we would have a super-super organization to fly (literally) at our air survey work.

THE ANNUAL DANCE, sponsored by the Victoria staff, was held under the thatched roofs of Royal Oak Inn, on January 30th. Seventy-five were in attendance and the fun lasted, officially, from 9.30 to 1.30. By all accounts the party was a great success. George Melrose was in attendance for the first time, and suggested we should hold them once a month. The chief was only going to stay for half an hour, but was still there at 1.30 A. M. ..... W. H. "Bill" Brown brought along a lady friend.....for further details see management notes. In concluding his account, our correspondent says, "There was only one casualty, so either the Forest Branch men can take it, or they were on the wagon."

A BABY GIRL was born to Lieut. and Mrs. W. I. Ferguson (nee Doreen Cattroll, of Forest Economics) at Halifax, N. S., on February 1st. The News Letter extends congratulations for the staff of the Forest Branch.

Management Notes.....A review of Management Annual Reports just received from all districts stresses a bang-up year of activity in practically all timber products, the one notable exception being that old perennial, the lowly hewn railroad tie. Science and creosote have combined to relegate him to the background. But as the saying goes, "It is far better to be a 'has been' than not to have been at all." Certainly the axe railroad tie made lumber history in all corners of this Province in days past. .....All districts are anticipating a repetition of demand for lumber products for 1942. In fact, the millman's worry now is not how to get orders, but where to get timber. (Added note) the ranger never worries. (Question mark.)

Last year produced an all time high for timber sales, 1853 in number, which is equivalent to about six sales for every working day of the year. Some business!! Our business!! And let us remember a very large proportion of it is war business and worthy of our very best efforts.

Some silvicultural innovations during 1941 in our timber sale contracts: We are now requiring marking of all trees cut in yellow pine stands, wherever feasible; the basis of marking being that all thrifty and disease-resistant trees shall not be cut. Forest Rangers who have already had experience in silvicultural cutting are enthusiastic over this improved practice.

With the co-operation and assistance of the Forest Economics Division, we are now conducting an economic selective cutting experiment in an Engleman spruce-balsam stand in the plateau region of the Okanagan for the purpose of studying the economics of selective logging gain, if any, in percentage of upper grades of total lumber produced, and the effect of selective logging on the remainder of the stand in the way of blowdown, reproduction, fire hazard from slash, and growth increment. All field study and work preparatory to actual logging was completed; but, owing to unfavorable weather conditions, logging had to be suspended before it was well under way. The experiment will be continued when the logging resumes.

Assistant Forester Dick Nixon, who was assigned to Management as an Appraisal officer, has recently completed detailed studies in logging and milling costs in the Okanagan Valley in connection with timber sale appraisals. If you think you have any worries, says Dick, you should try your hand at research into millcost accounting.....it is interesting, too.

A new wrinkle in forest conservation sponsored by a member of the ranger staff. No cedar reproduction to be blazed, or axe-marked, in any way that will cause dry spots in future pole material.

Payroll deductions for War Savings Certificates during the month of January amounted to $646.

FIELD MEN...Have you checked any of your cruises lately?

FANFARE!!!!!!!! Mr. W. H. "Bill" Brown did take in holy wedlock, on February 6, 1942, Miss Ethel Neily, formerly of Cranbrook. Our congratulations and best wishes to the bride and groom.

MISS NORA LEE has recently joined the staff of the Forest Management office as a stenographer. Nora has a twin sister, who is also employed in the buildings, and the Management boys are having trouble with their eyesight.....but, they all agree, it's fun.

OPERATIONS.....On top of the usual rush of alloting allotments, ordering new equipment and making plans for the coming fire season, the Operations staff has the big job of planning a special organization to take care of the extra hazards that might develop in our forests this summer as a result of enemy action.

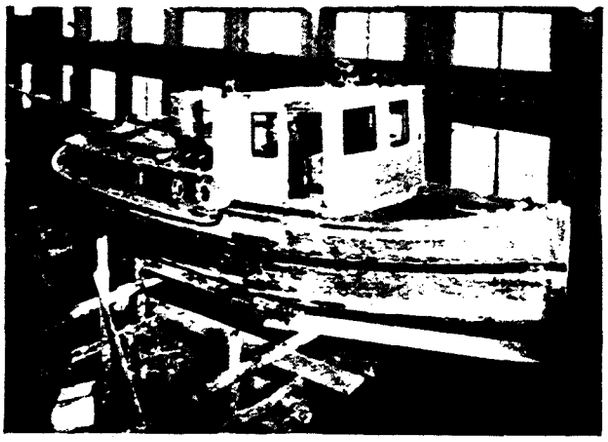
In spite of the limited amount of new equipment ordered, delivery is slow and difficult. Highboy auto equipment is out of manufacture now and the wisdom of buying even that in stock seems doubtful, as tires of the right sizes are not being made.

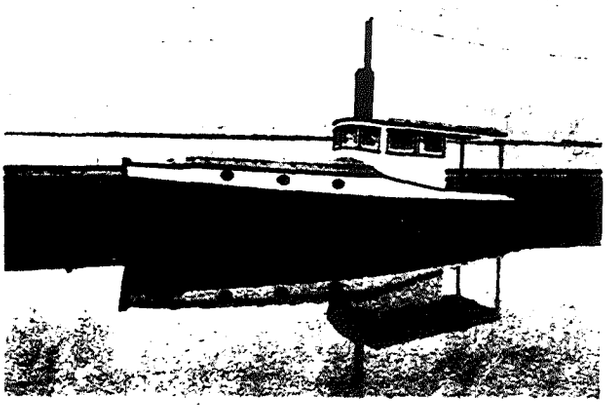
When the ASSISTANT RANGER EXAMS are held, in the next few weeks, Operations expects to work in visits with many of the field staff and, incidentally, also expects to find ALL Forest Branch calendars distributed by that time. Last year some Ranger districts had quantities left over, while others were asking for more. Calendars are expensive, so when ordering order what you can use.

We are glad to note that Ian McQueen still maintains a lively interest in Protection, in spite of his heavy duties with the Air Force. In Ian's absence, George Allen is taking over the job of Calibration and selection of hazard sticks. This operation is carried out at U. B. C., where we are able to use the facilities of the Dominion Forest Products Laboratory.

JACK SCOTT is down from the Queen Charlotte Islands with the Lillian D, for the installation of a new engine, which is the 85 H. P. diesel salvaged from the Caverhill. The old engine, a Petters semi-diesel, carried Jack 150,000 miles in the last 17 years. Same man, same boat, in some of the toughest water on the coast. Hecate Strait, Dixon Entrance, West Coast of Queen Charlotte Islands, as well as the ticklish waters around the mouths of the Nass and Skeena Rivers. From the appearance of the Lillian D one would never suspect she had been through so much.

AND LAST, but not least, word comes from Operations that the Operation Manual will be ready for circulation as soon as the King's Printer can put on the covers. It is noticeable that Mike Gregg has lost that hunted look and is once more able to hold his head up and face his fellow men.





The first of the above pictures shows the launch "Hemlock" during renovation at the Fraser River plant, while the second picture shows the "Chestnut" after treatment.

Pte. J. Eselmont, C. F. C. | P/O C. L. Botham, R.C.A.F. | P/O J. D. Le Mare, R.C.A.F. | Pte. H. Barbour, C. F. C. | Pte. M. A. Johnson.

PROGRESS REPORTS.....Si Oldham (Lieut. E. G. Oldham, 17th Searchlight Battery, R. C. A.) who was injured last fall in a tumble from a horse is again able to report to his unit for light duty.... The condition of the horse is still unknown..... It is suggested that you try a tank or a Bren carrier next time, Si.

Fin (F. S.) McKinnon, of the Economics division, was out of the hospital for Christmas. Everyone is looking forward to your early return to the office, Mac. The Chief, during the Christmas holiday season, while operating a private sawmill in his basement, got his hand caught in a saw and lost the third finger of his right hand, as well as severely lacerating the rest. He has now returned to the office after several weeks' absence. Charlie Cowan advises that the Chief has now qualified for the rather exclusive society of the Shingle Weavers Assn., also the Hungry Cruisers Club.

HERE AND THERE..... We were looking at a fire report the other day from one of our Island rangers. Under the "damage" column was listed 5 sheep..... Salable, nothing but the bells.

Does George (Vancouver) Copley, of the Kamloops district, remember the steel boots he tried in 1911? The boots wore better than George, and when last seen were hanging from a tree on Greer Creek, Nechako Valley. Tough boots and tough men in those days, George.

WHAT THE CENSOR LEFT

News from the armed forces.

Before we start quoting excerpts from the letters we have on hand, we would like to set something right. While we try to print a few lines from every letter received, it remains our primary intention to select for publication the material of the most general interest; therefore, if you want to crash this section of the News Letter, tell us something interesting; how you live; how you spend your leisure time, if any; what you are studying; or your meetings with other Forest Branch men. News of this type is extremely interesting to the staff here, as well as members of the Branch serving in the Armed Forces, who get the News Letter regularly.

C. W. Walker, formerly of Forest Economics, now an officer in the R.C.A.F., writes from Edmonton, "Of the six navigation instructors at this school, four are foresters, two of them being Hepher and Stokes..... I was up on a short flight with Ozard the other day."

News has just reached us that Captain Gerry Andrews, former O.C. of the Branch's air survey activities, is to address the Royal Geographic Society in London. This is a signal honor, and we all share in congratulating Gerry.

S. Lockard, on being interviewed re qualifications to take a mechanics course, was asked what his civilian occupation had been. He replied, "Assistant Ranger and Scaler." An officer was hastily summoned to determine whether these were legitimate occupations.

C. R. Lee is overseas and is taking a course in surveying by aerial photography. Lieut. L. G. Trorey is O. C., and Capt. Gerry Andrews lectures occasionally. A. C. Kinnear is also taking the course.

Maude-Roxby reports that one man in every twenty Canadians serving overseas is in the Forestry Corps, and that the Forest Branch is represented by more than its share of officers.

The latest compilation shows that 62 members of the Branch are on active service, and that the number is steadily increasing.

Howie Elsey and Jack Benton are now in England and posted to the Air Force. John Lemare and Eric Bennett will probably join them before we go to press.

No direct word has been received from Lieut. F. J. G. Johnson (Nelson), but we are informed that he happened to be in hospital at the time the corvette to which he had been attached was sunk in mid-Atlantic. He was home on sick leave for a short time, but has now returned for duty.

PROMOTIONS AND ENLISTMENTS.....Promotions and enlistments are increasing so rapidly we have trouble keeping track of them. 2nd Lieut. A. B. Anderson, (Forest Economics, Victoria) is somewhere in Saskatchewan and has just been promoted to Lieutenant.....J. G. Ballard, Kamloops, promoted from A. C. to L. A. C.; C. E. Bennett, Forest Economics, Victoria, now in England, goes from A. C. 2 to Sgt. Pilot.....J. H. Benton, also Forest Economics, Victoria, and also now in England has been granted his commission and is now P/O Benton.....C. L. Botham, Prince Rupert, has been commissioned in the R. C. A. F.....L. A. Chase, Kamloops, has enlisted in the army, unit still unknown here.....H. E. Elsey, Forest Economics, Victoria, is in Nova Scotia and serving in the R. C. A. F. as a Pilot Officer.....J. Eselmont, Nelson, has enlisted in the Forestry Corps.....G. H. Fewtrell, Kamloops, goes from A. C. 2 to A. C. 1.....Alex Gordon, Victoria, has been promoted to the rank of Captain (The News Letter is being edited in your old office now, Alex) .....P/O W. S. Hepher, Vancouver, is now Flying Officer Hepher.....M. A. Johnson has enlisted at Kamloops .....and A. J. Leighton, Prince Rupert, has enlisted in the Air Force.....J. D. LeMare now has his commission and is stationed with the R. C. A. F. in Nova Scotia.....S. Lockard, Nelson, has enlisted in the army, we think the Signal Corps, but have not received definite information.....P/O I. C. MacQueen, Victoria, has been promoted to Flying Officer, and is stationed in Quebec.....E. L. Scott, Kamloops, has joined the R. C. A. F.....D. A. Sims, Vancouver, has also enlisted in the R. C. A. F.....L/Bdr. A. Smith, Prince George, has been promoted to Bombardier.....L/Bdr. Harry Stevenson, Vancouver, promoted to Bdr.....C. W. Walker, Forest Economics, Victoria, has joined the Air Force as a Pilot Officer..... L. N. W. Woods, Prince George, has been raised to the rank of sergeant.....P/O J. Stokes, Forest Economics, Victoria, is somewhere in Alberta and now a Flying Officer.....

CONTRIBUTIONS to the Forest Branch Tobacco Fund up to March 6th of this year have enabled us to ship 53,700 cigarettes and 2 lbs. of pipe tobacco overseas, and 40,800 cigarettes to men in Canada..... An audited statement of the Fund was mailed recently to all districts.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS were appreciated by the boys, judging from their letters of thanks. Word came from so many of them that it would be impossible to attempt to print extracts.... To all who wrote we say, "It was swell to hear from you." The boys seem to be stepping around overseas and are sure doing their share of "square pushing." How is Leicester Square and Piccadilly, fellows, and are they still ganging up on the leave trains?

Here's a list of the letters we have received.....quite an array.....soon have a battalion... G. H. Fewtrell, C. V. Smith, H. Stevenson, H. G. Mayson, Ross Douglas, Cliff Wright, C. W. Mizon, C. L. Armstrong, G. J. Ballard, W. D. Hay, L. F. Swannell, Alex Gordon, H. Barbour, S. Lockard, Ian MacQueen, Stan Hepher, A. B. Anderson, D. R. Monk, Art Kirk, Dodo McKay, W. J. Owens, C. R. Lee, Alf Smith, Maude-Roxby, Eric Bennett, H. A. Ivarson, A. C. Kinnear, F. W. Crouch, L. N. W. Woods, Pip Ritchie, L. A. Willington, Alan Parlow, W. E. Jansen, Emery Scott, Gerry Andrews, F. V. Webber, C. L. Botham, J. Eselmont, M. A. Johnson.....

A NOTE FROM THE LADIES.....It seems a very long time since last fall when the knitting was started for Christmas parcels by the wives of the Victoria staff, present and former stenos, and other friends. Wool was purchased through the tobacco fund and 55 pairs of socks and one helmet were knitted by the following ladies.....Miss P. Christian, Forest Protection Office; Mrs. Eric Garman; Mrs. Alex Gordon; Miss J. Graham, Forest Economics; Mrs. Graham; Mrs. L. S. Hope; Miss B. Hull, Forest Protection Office, Victoria; Mrs. D. Macdougall; Mrs. J. H. McNeill, Mrs. C. D. Orchard; Miss C. Parsons, formerly management office, and Mrs. Parsons; Miss Kay Robinson, Chief Forester's Office; Mrs. G. Silburn; Mrs. W. Spouse; Miss J. Wilde, Management Office, Victoria.

Our belated, but grateful, thanks to all these ladies, who so kindly offered their help in this work. The many letters from the "boys" show how much the articles were appreciated.

Parcels mailed from Victoria on November 3rd arrived Overseas three weeks later.

A NOTE FROM K. M. R., who takes care of most of the overseas correspondence and parcels...."In complimenting us on the contents of the Christmas parcels, some of the boys feel sure we 'must have been overseas in the last war.' We admit remembering the last war, but will go no further than than.

"For those who have enquired, this is how we do it: the weekly Overseas page of the daily papers gives items that are either rationed, difficult or impossible to obtain in England. Our friends give us the benefit of their previous experience in sending out parcels. Various companies recommend against sending certain articles that have proved perishable in transit.....and so, ad infinitum. All such suggestions are noted mentally and remembered when Christmas orders are placed.

"So you see, it isn't necessary for us to have been 'overseas in the last war' to guess what you most appreciate in your Christmas parcels.....If, however, you have any suggestions to make, we would be glad to have them." (Address Chief Forester's Office, Victoria.)

HERE ARE THE LATEST ADDRESSES from overseas.....Captain William Hall, c-o A.A. P.I.U., G.H.Q., Middle East Forces, Egypt.....Cpl. R. R. Douglas, K-47893, The New Westminster Regt. (Motor) A.F., Canadian Army Overseas.....Signm. D. R. Monk, K-76165, 4th Operating Section, R.C.C.S., Canadian Army Overseas..... Sgt. Pilot C. E. Bennett, R-101384, R.C.A.F., Overseas.....P/O J. H. Benton, J-9761, R.C.A.F., Overseas .....P/O H. E. Elsey, J-9365, Canadian Base P.O., Overseas #1. England. (For R.C.A.F. Section.)

JACK PRICE.....A young fellow, 77 years of age, walked into our office the other day, John Thomas Price--Jack Price to most of us. Tall, erect--he stands 6' 2"--clear-eyed and brisk, he looked fit enough to handle the toughest fire that ever smoked up the countryside.

Jack was born at Orillia, Ontario, in 1866. He came to British Columbia in 1885, and resided here until 1932. Associated with the Nelson Forest District during his long term of service, he joined the Ranger staff in 1913 and took his superannuation in 1931, going back East to live in 1932.

Three-score years and ten plus would hold no terrors for us if we knew we would be as hale and hearty as Jack Price, when we reach that mile post.

We hoped to secure a picture for the News Letter, but he slipped away on us. Perhaps we will be able to publish one at some later date.

FROM THE DISTRICTS.....

Since the inception of the War Savings Certificates, the Kamloops office has endeavored to follow the Payroll Plan, with the result that members of the staff now hold Certificates which will pay them $3,725.00 at maturity..... Much of this amount represents subscriptions by the permanent staff, of whom 80% contribute through the payroll plan. It has been customary to send out circulars with each appointment, inviting temporary employees to purchase under the Plan, but pointing out that it is entirely up to the individual whether he contributes or not. Several members of the seasonal staff have elected to do so, and while the total of the contributions is not abnormal, we believe the results are such that we need not be ashamed of our effort.

A canvass of those not contributing under the Payroll Plan leads us to believe that all members of this District's staff are buying Certificates, one way or another. The campaign among the staff continues quietly, but consistently, and the wishes of those who prefer to make their purchases privately are respected.

Since the last issue of the News Letter, the staff of the Kamloops district has been depleted by the enlistment of Acting Ranger L. A. Chase, who roamed that part of the Cariboo lying between the Fraser River and the Coast Range, known as the Chilcotin Range District. Lou was only on the territory for a few months, but during that time he made many friends and did an efficient job for the Branch. The "House for Rent" sign is again hanging in the window at Alexis Creek, where he made his headquarters.....Milt Johnson, for some years Assistant Ranger at Kelowna has also enlisted; he selected the Forestry Corps for his activities.....Vince Reed, dispatcher at Salmon Arm in 1941 is another whose services we will have to get along without for 1942. He has gone into the Air Force.....Keary de Beck, who joined the service last summer as Grazing Assistant, and Wilf Pendray, who has been with the Branch in the Kamloops district for the past two years in a similar capacity, are both waiting their call, the former will go to the Air Force, and the latter probably the Navy.....Many others are getting itchy feet and we expect there will be several others, both temporary and permanent, who will be drawing the King's shillin' before the next issue of the News Letter goes to press.

Members of the Kamloops headquarters staff have been boasting about their ten pin bowling team for some time. Admittedly, they are good and managed to feature in the Kamloops city playoff. We understand they were "nosed" out this year, but do not intend to suffer a similar fate next year.

HARRY BAKER, our amiable Chief Clerk at Kamloops, writes us.... "It is quite a winter. The ground is bare and you have to crane your neck to look high enough to see snow. Some very good skating .....etc." Somehow our most treasured recollections of Harry are not connected with winter at all. They deal, instead, with the comfortable warmth of summer on the sandpiled pasture the good people of Kamloops use for a golf course.

The following letter was received from Honorary Fire Warden Ivens. He displays a spirit that is ideal among our unpaid, volunteer Forest Officers. With the increasing shortage of fire fighting material, we will find ourselves more and more dependent on men like Mr. Ivens for reliable, intelligent assistance in coping with emergency fire situations.

Dear Sir:

I enclose my authority and badge as the year 1941 closes. I am glad to report that in spite of low humidity on several occasions that only one small fire which was put out and that I accidentally found out later occurred in my district (local).

If during this crisis thru which the nation is passing I can be of any assistance (30 years of backwoods experience) I shall be only too pleased to co-operate with the Forest Branch to the best of my ability.

Many thanks for the subscription to "Forest and Outdoors."

Yours,
JOSEPH IVENS.

RANGER ROY EDEN, Kelowna, has a habit of getting along with the people in his district. He takes every opportunity to let individuals know that their problems are appreciated. The following letter from Roy to his Honorary Fire Wardens is plain spoken and merits attention. We are interested to know how some of you other Forest Officers expressed your appreciation to your volunteer staff.....

Here's the body of Roy's letter..... "At this particular time of the year I am glad to take the opportunity of extending to you and your family my best wishes; and on behalf of the Forest Service to thank you for your co-operation during the past fire season.

"We had no serious losses to our timber stands from fire, thanks to a very favorable summer with a good spread of rainfall, but while our staff would seem large enough in a year like 1941, we have seen plenty of seasons when we need all the help we can get to keep the fires down.

"Our timber supply continues to be of increasing importance and more so now we are at war. It is up to all of us who have to stay at home to do everything we can next summer in order that all fires will be controlled while they are small. Quick fast action with sufficient help applied to a forest fire has saved many a conflagration in this country during the dry periods.

"I have enclosed one of our 1942 calendars."

Yours truly,
R. B. W. Eden, Ranger.

Kenny McCannel writes us from Nelson as follows: "An interesting phase of ultra protection was experimented with at New Denver last summer. Lookouts with battery equipped radios call in only on schedule, or special calls and cannot remain on stand-by indefinitely, but for special contact when the Mt. Idaho lookout is required a mirror is flashed from Ranger Palethorpe's office window to the lookout, which is 3 1/2 miles away and 5600 feet above the office. In dull weather a dark tarpaulin is hung out the window and shows up very clearly against the white wall. A check of the efficiency of this method of asking the lookoutman to call in on his radio resulted in a reply within 25 to 30 seconds after a few seconds flash with a mirror.

"You already have details of our staff enlistments and we are checking these, but I might add that Nelson District is 100% as regards War Savings deductions and Red Cross subscriptions from monthly payrolls. And what's more that's not the only way they are 100% either." (At-a-boy, Ken.)

NEWS FROM PRINCE RUPERT.....

Acting Ranger J. Robinson left Ocean Falls on December 15th to join the R.C.A.F. at Vancouver .....Ranger C. L. Botham, Hazelton, joined the R.C.A.F. at Edmonton on January 6th. Now P/O #12, S.F.T.S., R.C.A.F., Brandon..... Ranger G. W. Minns left to join the Forestry Corps on January 27th. We understand he is to be stationed at Valcartier.....Junior Clerk, Alan Leighton, left to join the R.C.A.F. at Toronto on January 19th.....Miss A.M. Blain was married on December 27th at Nanaimo.....

The following replacements have been made. G. M. Abernathy is Acting Ranger at Ocean Falls, replacing J. Robinson.....L. C. Chamberlin is acting Ranger at Prince Rupert, replacing Minns.... L. G. Taft, who has successively been Patrolman and Acting Ranger at Terrace and Cedarvale since 1929 is Acting Ranger at Hazelton, replacing Ranger Botham. Miss Kay Shrubsall has joined our staff as stenographer, replacing Miss Blain. We have not been able to find anyone locally to replace Alan Leighton as yet.

A 7 1/2 lb. son was born to Ranger and Mrs. C. L. Gibson at Smithers on January 13th. (The News Letter extends congratulations and best wishes for the whole staff.)

VANCOUVER DISTRICT NOTES

There has been real activity in the District during the winter months along the lines of launch reconstruction and building construction. Now that the Fraser River Launch Repair Station has really got into its stride, its value is being proved in the class of work it is turning out, and a number of major jobs that have been completed. These latter included complete rebuilding of the Ranger launch "Hemlock," introducing for the first time on our boats the use of special 3-ply fir weatherboard in construction of upper works. Extensive renovation of the protection launch "Chestnut" has also been completed in which plywood was similarly used. In addition, routine overhaul of most of the other Ranger launches has been carried out. At the present time the Prince Rupert launch "Lillian D" is in for a change of engine and renovation.

The launch "Nesika" at Port Hardy did her bit in the war, being on Naval Service for 10 days in December.

Our fleet suffered a blow in the wrecking of the launch "Cherry," which was crushed by a crib of poles breaking away during flood water at Campbell River in November. While the "Cherry" was salvaged, her rejuvenation will practically amount to building a new launch.

Other Districts may be interested in the Pump Repair Shop at the Fraser River Station, which is now incorporated in the station. Machines and equipment for the shop are almost impossible to obtain, due to the war. The overhaul work is in charge of Dan Stevens. Other work completed in this District since last fall includes "4-car" garages at Langford and Duncan, a new boathouse at Powell Lake, and a new float at Port Hardy, all constructed by members of the temporary field staff and creditable jobs done.

PERSONAL NOTES;

Doug Sims, Export Clerk, Vancouver office, and Lloyd Collett of the Fraser River Station, were recent additions to the R.C.A.F. We wish them the very best of luck. All members of the staff are hoping that Ranger Jack McNeill, Victoria, will soon be back and fully recovered from the illness that necessitated three months sick leave. Miss Dorothy Phillips, stenographer, Vancouver Office, has recently left us to accept other employment. We were sorry to see her go and wish her every success in her new ventures. We regret having to announce that Jack Young, Assistant Ranger at Agassiz, is seriously ill in Vancouver Hospital.

RECENT VISITORS TO VICTORIA include J. B. Scott, Q.C.I. Ranger; Mrs. W. Wilson from Burns Lake; Mrs. J. Frost, Vanderhoof; J. W. McCluskey, Ranger from Vernon; and Jack Price, whose visit is covered in another section of the News Letter.....

The above map was drawn by Chester Lyons, our parks engineer, and will be used by the Provincial Travel Bureau in connection with some of their folders. We will use the map in our park planning work.....We think Ches did a very fine job of drawing and deserves a word or two of congratulation.