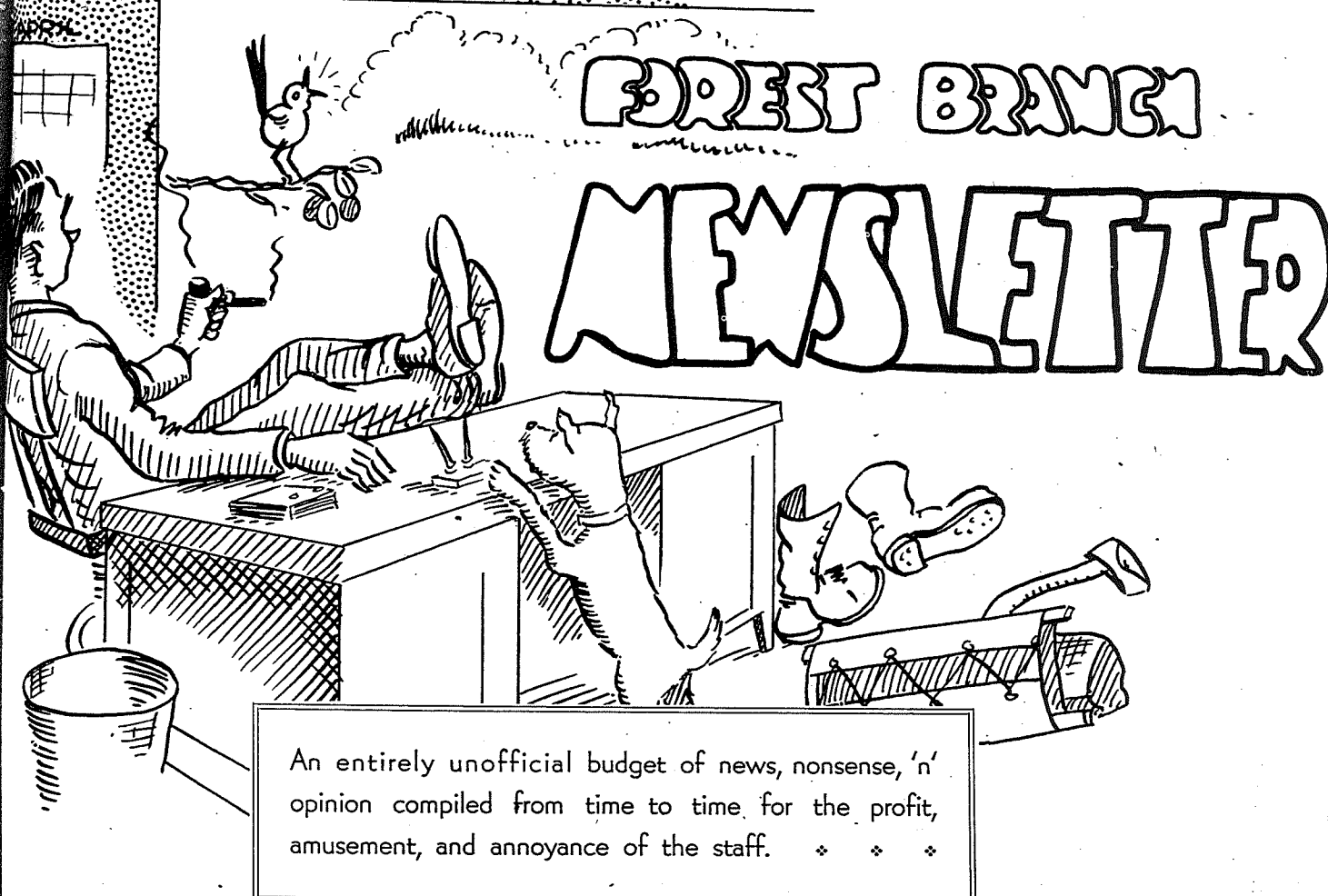




THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER WAS EDITED BY THE VANCOUVER DISTRICT.

Many are the signs of spring; the birds have returned, our gardener friends walk hunched over to ease their spade-weary backs, the kids do daily battle along our street with chestnut buds, and every Forest Officer who can find an excuse is out in the field soaking up the first spring sunshine.....and the protection staff is keeping an apprehensive eye on the Prince George District, watching for the first sign of the early spring fires which sometimes harass the northerners. As one F. O. observed, "Spring is a lovely season, if only it weren't followed almost at once by the Fire Season."

---VANCOUVER DISTRICT RANGER MEETING---

The Vancouver Forest District held their Ranger Meeting on March 13th to 16th, inclusive, and by all reports it was the best meeting ever held in that district. Under the able chairmanship of District Forester, Charlie Haddon, the business of the meeting progressed in a very instructive and interesting manner.

Supervisors, Rangers, and Assistant Rangers who were on the strength at that time, were in attendance, augmented by Operation, Management, and Economics Officers from the Victoria Office.

Four full days of discussion proved too short to cover the various problems before the meeting, so interesting and informative were the subjects dealt with.

As a departure from previous practice the past number of years an effort was made to conduct the meeting mainly through the efforts of the Ranger Staff. This was done by having written papers delivered by the Rangers and in turn written discussion papers by other Rangers before calling for an open discussion from the floor of the meeting.

By such practice the field staff presented their ideas and thoughts entirely free of influence by other speakers. The result was that many practical and pertinent points were brought out, giving an unbiased view of the man in the field whose responsibilities are so closely allied with actual practice and under whose direct administration the many problems must be conducted.

In addition to the various papers delivered by Forest Officers we were extremely fortunate in having talks from George Hopping and Doctor Prebble, of the Dominion Entomological Branch, as well as an extremely informative and educational talk from Mr. Paul Brun, meteorologist of the Dominion Weather Service.

Mr. Hopping dealt with the co-operative effort of insect collection, augmenting his talk with lantern slides. Doctor Prebble dealt with the infestations now prevalent in our Coast forests, particularly in Vancouver Island, which have been of particular concern the last few years to both foresters and industry alike.

Mr. Brun's talk was indeed very instructive, clearly setting out the basic principles and methods involved in weather forecasting, which is so closely related to our problem of forest closures and fire research.

Following the consideration of various resolutions emanating from the subjects discussed the business phase of the meeting was brought to a close by the Chairman, wherein he remarked on the interest shown in the proceedings throughout and congratulated the field staff on their contribution to the high plane on which the proceedings of the meeting had been conducted.



Miss Dorothy Trapp.

An event of considerable interest and possibly rather unique in a Ranger's Meeting was the presentation of the Twenty-five Year Service Badge to Miss Dorothy Trapp, of the District Office staff, by the Chief Forester. Miss Trapp arrived well protected and fortified by other feminine members of the office, and certainly none could blame her in a gathering of some 60 males, some of whom we understand are as yet unattached.

Climaxing an altogether successful business meeting, and of course as usual one of the features of any Ranger Meeting, was the wind-up banquet in the York Room of the Georgia Hotel. Every effort was made to welcome congenially everyone before entering the banquet room, and appreciative remarks were soon to be heard on all sides.

Altogether 89 forest officers and guests were seated in the banquet room, the proceedings being ably conducted throughout by the District Forester. Our guests included: Commissioner T. W. Parsons, B. C. Police; Game Commissioner, F. Butler; and Government Agent, A. S. Tyrer.

Principal speakers were Chief Forester C. D. Orchard and Capt. W. (Bill) Hall, M. C., R.C.E., ex Victoria Air Survey Section Forest Economics Division.

Mr. Orchard gave us an interesting picture of Forest Service activities past, present, and future, in his usual intimate and interesting manner, subsequently presenting the following men with their twenty-five year service badges and scrolls:

G. H. Birkenhead - Office Staff	F. O'Grady - Scaling Staff
C. E. Henderson - Office Staff	F. Paterson - Scaling Staff
P. Sweatman - Ranger Staff	A. H. Waddington - Fire Inspector
W. Black - Ranger Staff	T. A. Simmons - Victoria Office Staff.

Following these presentations Assistant Chief Forester, George P. Melrose, made a similar presentation to the Chief honouring his twenty-fifth year of service.

Capt. Bill Hall gave us an absorbing description of the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of the British 8th Army in North Africa and it was indeed pleasant to see that he still retains his old sense of humour and this coupled with his infectious grin so familiar to his former associates highlighted a very interesting address.

To many of our readers who knew Bill, it is quite possible you have lost touch with his ramblings, so with due apologies to him we offer the following:--

He joined the Royal Engineers in 1940 and after a short period in England was sent to the Cairo H.Q. of the 8th Army and later served with Corps and Divisional H.Q. throughout the desert campaign, where his expert knowledge of mapping from air photos was undoubtedly an appreciable factor in the success of General Montgomery's final drive over vast areas of practically unknown country.

He later transferred to the R.C.E. and was in on the invasions of Sicily and Italy with the Canadians. He lost a foot in the latter campaign, but only after winning the Military Cross.

In spite of his past experiences Bill will be back in action by the time he reads this and from what he tells us hopes to continue in the Service for a limited period when hostilities cease in Europe.

Other highlights of the evening's proceedings were the usual community singing under the capable guidance of Art Stringer of our Victoria Office, and vocal selections by Art and two members of the Vancouver Office Staff-- Miss Nina King and Mr. Larry Cuthbertson.

The final verdict--unanimous--"the finest Ranger Meeting the Vancouver District has yet held."

FOREST BRANCH BECOMES FOREST SERVICE

For the benefit of our overseas associates, and as a matter of record, the following changes in departmental organization and transfers of personnel are reported.

By virtue of amendments to the "Constitution Act," the "Department of Lands Act" and the "Forest Act" at the last session of the Legislature, the Department of Lands becomes the Department of Lands and Forests, with two Deputy Ministers, one for forests and one for the remaining branches of the Department. The former Forest Branch of the Department of Lands is now officially and legally the Forest Service of the Department of Lands and Forests. These amendments, in effect, raise the Forest Service to the status of a Department.

The Forest Service retains the office of Chief Forester, but this position is merged with that of Deputy Minister in the one appointment. For purposes of routine administration, and probably a large part of our extra-departmental contacts, the title "Chief Forester" will be used, the title "Deputy Minister" being reserved to satisfy legal requirements and other occasions as may prove desirable.

G. P. Melrose, for some years Assistant Chief Forester, becomes Assistant Deputy Minister of Lands.

C. C. Ternan, Assistant District Forester at Vancouver, is promoted to the position of Assistant Chief Forester.

K. C. McCannel, Assistant District Forester at Nelson, transfers to Vancouver as Assistant District Forester there.

M. W. Gormely, Management Office, Vancouver, proceeds to Nelson as Assistant District Forester.

R. D. Greggor, District Forester at Prince George, transfers to the Coast to take charge of the proposed new Ranger School, and J. A. Pedley from Vancouver will join him as his Assistant.

C. F. Holmes, Supervisor at Nanaimo, will transfer to Vancouver to act from there, replacing Pedley.

E. W. Bassett, Assistant Forester in Operation at Victoria, moves to Prince George as District Forester.

RANGER SCHOOL

The proposed new Ranger School, which will be under the direction of R. D. Greggor, has already been reported in the daily press and has aroused much curiosity and, we are afraid, some unwarranted hopes of the wholesale training and employment of Rangers.

The Forest Service, ever since its inception in 1912, has always had such a volume of work to struggle with, and the Province and the Industry have developed so fast, that we have chronically been groping our way, with insufficient training and experience all round, into new and unexplored fields. Training in all branches of the Service has been an outstanding need, and more particularly in the Ranger grade.

Now, after long years, we see the possibility of establishing a Ranger School; not as a backhanded criticism of the performance of the Ranger Staff in years gone by, but as delayed recognition of the right of the Ranger Staff to some instruction in their duties and an opportunity to study and prepare themselves to carry out their jobs with a minimum of worry and nervous strain as to how they should be performed.

We are unable to foresee for the present just how this school may develop, but for the present personnel will be confined to existing staff. The present proposal, subject to change, is a student body of about 20 men, divided equally between Rangers and Assistant Rangers. The school will probably be organized at the Coast and opened in September or October, to continue for such period as proves on further study to be necessary or desirable, but probably for some period between four and eight months. It is intended that the curriculum shall be confined exclusively to Ranger activities, plus as much general forestry and engineering as may prove to be necessary to give the student a complete understanding of the work in which he is occupied.

No further detail can be reported at the present time, but full information will be made available to the staff as far in advance of the opening of the school as possible.

For the benefit of enquirers, you will note from the foregoing that it is obvious that there is no intention of, and there will be no facilities for, or possibility of, accepting as students inexperienced candidates for appointment to the Forest Service field staff, at least until such time, three or four, or five years hence, as we have given existing staff an opportunity to take advantage of the training to be afforded by this school. It is obvious, too, that until further Ranger positions are provided for in the Service, there will be no possibility of training and employing any large number of experienced candidates.

MAJOR O. M. ROXBY WRITES FROM GERMANY:

"....I had the honour to be the first of the C. F. C. in the famous Reichswald (spelling not guaranteed) Forest 3 days ago. It is 12,000 acres in extent and split into squares of about 100 acres, and each square is of a different age group and most of separate species....about 2/3 of the forest is shattered by shell-fire. I had a nice stand of spruce picked out for our first operation, but decided against it when I found about fifty dead huns to bury, so moved to a cleaner stand of jack-pine. Mines are the chief danger, as the detectors don't show these new box mines, in which there is no metal....."

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS TO THE DAY

John Jardine received his 25-year pin at the recent Prince George Ranger Meeting. In his acceptance speech, he pointed out that it was almost 25 years to the hour since he came to work for the Branch. Incidentally, John's pin will probably be the last one bearing the legend Forest Branch, Department of Lands, as the new ones will read British Columbia Forest Service, in keeping with our new name.

VANCOUVER DISTRICT RANGER MEETING

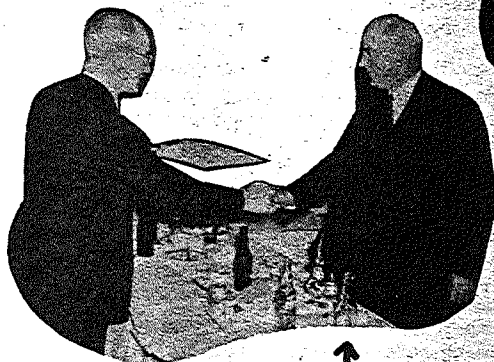


TWENTY-FIVE
YEAR PINS
WERE PRE-
SENTED TO
9 MEMBERS
OF THE SERVICE



DISTRICT FORESTER C. J.
HADDON ADDRESSING THE
RANGERS AT THE BANQUET

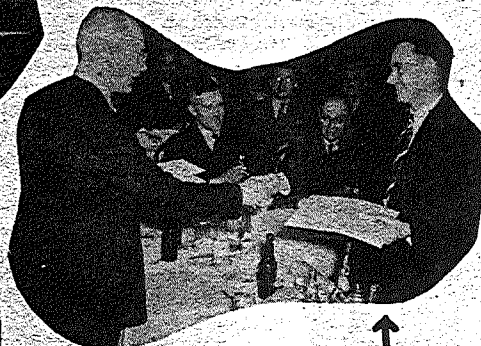
ART STRINGER LEADS
THE SINGING—



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F. PATERSON



A. WADDINGTON



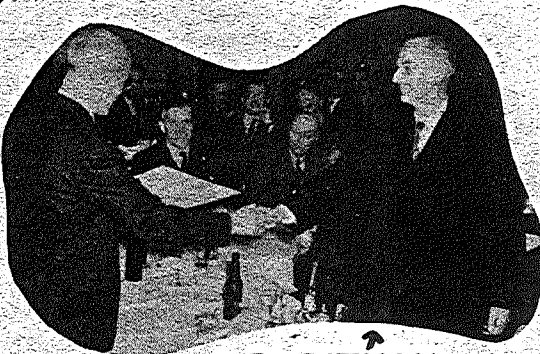
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E. HENDERSON



GEO. MELROSE
MAKES THE PRE-
SENTATION TO THE
CHIEF



↑
W. BLACK



↑
P. SWEATMAN



↑
G. BIRKENHEAD



↑
T. SIMMONS



↑
F. O'GRADY

NELSON RANGER MEETING

The Nelson District Ranger Meeting was held on March 26th, 27th, and 28th. Among those who attended all or some of the sessions were the Chief, C. D. Orchard; Mike Gregg, Sam Marling, Ian MacQueen from Victoria, and the following U. S. Foresters: Geo. Christensen and Al Wang, Colville, Washington; Al Spaulding and Roger Billings, Sandpoint, Idaho; and Herman Ficke of Libby, Montana. We also welcomed our new District Forester, Bob St. Clair.

A few abbreviated notes on the highlights may be of interest. During the past four years the work of the district has just about doubled while the staff has remained the same; this includes grazing, which Tom Brewer thinks is being sadly neglected. A resolution was passed recommending appointment of a full-time field specialist in grazing. Our old friends, scaling and slash disposal, came in for the usual amount of discussion. A resolution was passed advocating appointment of a full-time check scaler for the district. It was felt that all rangers could not be expected to check-scale, but they should see that records are kept properly and returns made as required. The consensus of opinion on the slash question was that we will never get anywhere with slash disposal in the future until we do it ourselves.

We were told that in all probability more radios would be available this year. A suggestion was made that the canvas bags for portable radios should be made a shade larger.

Nelson district is very keen on Suppression Crews, and we only wish that we had one in each ranger district. Putting them to work on trails, etc., prior to the fire season is good training in itself. Work should be available for stand-by periods. Construction or improvement work at ranger headquarters could profitably be done in most districts.

Ian MacQueen, whom we are glad to see with us again after three years, in the Air Force, discussed co-ordinated lookout networks and transportation systems, and weather reporting in relation to fire control. According to Ian's analysis, if we can catch our fire within ten hours of its start, we won't have to spend more than \$50.00. Four hours out of this ten is expended in detecting the fire and organizing a fire-crew, the other six in hoofing it to the scene. It follows, then, that if we can organize our roads and trails in such a way that we can get to a fire in six hours or less we will keep the cost per fire under \$50.00. We should be able to do a lot better than that.

Points brought out in regard to weather were, among others, that a short period of very low humidity does not dry out inflammable material so much as a longer period of slightly higher humidity. Also, wind sometimes retards drying by reducing temperature. Another thing which we all knew about but have never heard discussed scientifically is "temperature inversion," the band of higher temperature which occurs at high levels on the mountains at night, particularly in the fall. We always thought the lookoutman had a cold job but perhaps he is warmer than we are in the valley. Maybe, too, temperature inversion has something to do with the profusion of wild flowers on the mountain tops.

From Herman Ficke, U. S. Forest Service, Libby, Montana, we heard all about the "smoke-jumpers," the forest service parachutists who work out of Missoula, Montana. These boys can jump fires even in rough terrain and on windy days.

Incidentally, Ian MacQueen is not optimistic about the use of helicopters for forest service work at present. They cost too much—\$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 each, and their ceiling is only 5,600 feet. No good for taking men to mountain-top fires.

We were fortunate in having the Chief with us for the final day of the meeting, and he treated us to one of his extempore discourses on this, that and the other. He outlined the growth of the Forest Service and said that when we consider that out of the thirty-three years of our existence, we had been handicapped for some seventeen years during two wars and a depression, the stage at which we have arrived in 1945 is fairly creditable. Dick, as he will always be known in the Nelson District, gave some interesting highlights on the proceedings of the Sloan Commission. An outstanding feature was that most witnesses thought the forests should have greater protection from fire and that the Forest Service personnel should be increased and have better equipment. Although the Forest Service has more opportunities to get "in touch" with the public than any other department, there was no criticism of the personal conduct or attitude of any forest officer.

The meeting wound up with a bumper banquet unique in the history of the Nelson District. About 80 people attended. The ladies were there—all the stenographers and many of the rangers' wives. And to judge by their appreciation of some of the after-dinner stories, our ladies have just as robust a sense of humour as their men-folk.

The climax of the affair was the presentation by the Chief of Twenty-five Year Service Buttons and Scrolls to District Forester Bob Allen, Assistant Forester Sawyer Hope, and Ranger George Schupe, and the farewell presentation to Bob Allen. On behalf of his many friends in the Forest Service throughout the province, the Chief presented Bob with a suitably engraved watch and a wallet that wasn't empty, and the equally popular Mrs. Allen with a hand-bag. The watch and chain hit the spot with Bob because he had lost his old one in a fire some years ago, and had since been weighed down by a Massey-Harris.

Al Spaulding presented Bob with a hunting coat on behalf of his many friends in the U. S. Forest Service. When Bob put his hand in the pocket of the coat he drew out a—yes, you've guessed it, but it wasn't full. Al Spaulding referred humourously to duck and goose hunting expeditions he had taken part in at Bob's farm near Creston, when many a shell was fired at the birds but few birds knocked down—and those that were knocked down had strangely few pellets in them. Perhaps the new coat will serve as a mascot. Few of us knew of Bob Allen's capabilities as an after dinner speaker, but he did excel himself as he has always done in the pinches. We will miss him in the Service.

Having made a presentation to the oldest and retiring member of the Service, the Chief now made a present to the youngest member, who was also retired, Glen Shelley McCannel, two months old. The gift took the form of a pair of those little garments known, we believe, as "soakers."

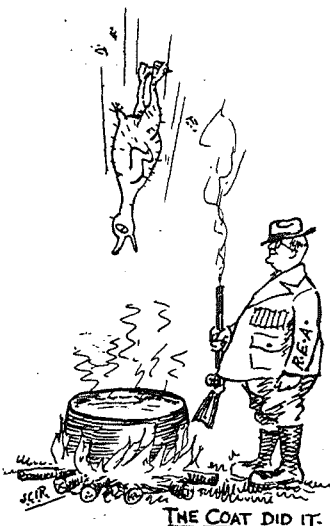
Later in the evening the guests were treated to the latest technicolour motion picture, taken by the Forest Service Parks Section—Tweedsmuir Park. After seeing this movie, some of us will be trying to wangle a transfer to the Parks Section, where life seems to be one long picnic. The photography was a good job.

Finally, "Auld Lang Syne" was sung, to the accompaniment of Dick Orchard on his faithful tin whistle.

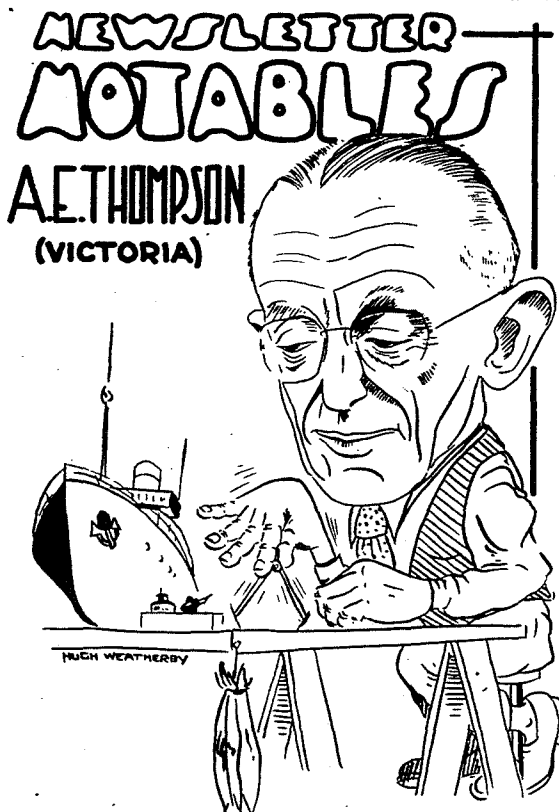
BOB ALLEN RETIRES

In this issue we take the opportunity to pay tribute to R. E. Allen, District Forester at Nelson, who retired on March 31st this year. His successor is an old friend, R. C. St. Clair.

Robert Emmett Allen was born in Nevada, 67 or 68 years ago, he is not sure which. Part of his formal education was received at a Roman Catholic Mission near Colville, Washington, an old Hudson's Bay post. Later, he crossed the line into Canada, and in doing so changed his nationality, religion, politics and horse. When a youth and temporarily broke he got a job washing dishes in a hotel at New Denver, in the Slokan country, but his father kicked him out and told him he would drown him if he couldn't get a better job than that. He has been washing dishes



for Mrs. Allen ever since. With his father he packed and handled a mail line in the Slocan Valley. He worked as a public works road foreman and had Sid Leary, afterwards Minister of Public Works, and Charlie Haddon in his gang. Bob Allen's first appointment with the Forest Service was on May 1st, 1911 as Patrolman. In 1912 he worked as divisional fire guard at Revelstoke, along with Charlie Haddon. In March, 1913 he received his permanent appointment as District Forester at Hazelton. In December 1919 he resigned to go into the lumber business with Olaf Hansen, since Federal M.P. for Skeena. He couldn't forget his old love though, and rejoined the Forest Service in September 1926 as District Forester at Prince Rupert. On April 1st, 1930 Bob was transferred to the same position at Kamloops, and on January 1st, 1932, to Nelson. He has seen communications grow from pack trains to aeroplanes, from telephones to radios, from trails to highways, and his salary from \$4.00 a day to "not enough." He started his career in this district (the Slocan) and finished here, and he rightly thinks that it is one of the most beautiful parts of the Province, if not of the continent. We wish Bob many more years in which to enjoy it.



THE SERVICE IN THE SERVICES

K. A. MCKENZIE (Vancouver), with the R.C.A. in Italy reports a sequel to the story of the "Itie" logging operation mentioned in the August issue of the "Newsletter" "A few days after I had written a sort of disturbance broke out up on the hill, so went up to see what was wrong. It seems that the Itie equivalent of the forest Branch, supported by the local constable, had moved in and arrested the works of them. It appears that it was the old story all over again, cutting on Government lands. They forgot one important thing and that was to put seizure notices on the piles of sticks around the woods. We knew a place in the neighbouring village where such stuff was worth money—a dirty trick it's true, but then a soldier is never rich and at that time the vino was pretty expensive." McKenzie encloses an "Itie" picture of himself.



K. A. McKenzie.

IAN CAMERON (Kamloops) is still stationed at Nassau in the Bahamas, but says he hasn't spent a great deal of time there. "Transport Command is doing its best to live up to the recruiting posters and make us world travellers. I have made several trips to Cairo, stopped at Khartoum, Rabat, Casablanca, and nearly all of the North African cities that were in the news during the African campaign.....Kano, a city in Nigeria, is one of the most interesting places on the route. It is one of the largest native cities in Africa, although no one seems to know just what the population actually is at present. It is very old and completely surrounded by a huge mud wall. The wall encloses several square miles and all the houses are made of sun-dried mud bricks plastered over with a sort of mud plaster. We spent practically a whole day exploring the city on bicycles and enjoyed it very much except for the smell. The biggest disappointment was when we were refused entrance to the Emir's palace because his harem were sunning themselves in the courtyard."

ARCHIE McNEIL (Vancouver, Scaling) reports he is getting ahead in the Army slowly but surely. He is now a Corporal. He was in Belgium at time of writing and expecting to be in Holland any day. He wonders why Vancouver District stenographers are off to join the Services no sooner than they're in the office.

C. W. MIZON (Kamloops) is now "back in good old B. C." I came back from the East Coast in November and sure was glad to get back." He is stationed at Tofino and has been promoted to Sergeant.

L. A. "LOU" CHASE (Kamloops) writes from Holland..... "This country may be O.K. for the Dutch, but it is too wet for a person from the 'Dry Belt,' where, if I remember correctly, the sun shines all the time.....Passed HUNTLEY CAMPBELL, who went to Merritt when I left, with his head out of a Sherman a couple of days ago."

F/O. Donald E. STEPHENES, R.C.A.F., formerly Dispatcher, Alberni, is reported "missing in action."

Things have certainly been happening to FRED CROUCH (Economics, Victoria) during the last few months. In December he graduated from R.A.F. Officers' School as a Pilot Officer. "About that time," he says, "I decided to get married, so took some leave and spent it taking care of the necessary arrangements. As this was a very important step and I realized I should be in good shape for it, I then went to the hospital to get rid of my sinus trouble. After being out of hospital a week I was married in a little church just out of London. Mrs. Crouch is also in the R.C.A.F., but joined up over here, having lived here with her parents for the past 10 years. We went to North Wales and I had a lot of fun taking kodachromes of Irene amongst what the Welsh call their "mountains." Am now back on the job with my Eyemo taking material for the R.C.A.F. and N.F.B."

"A. E. T."

Our genial Chief Draughtsman, Albert Edward Thompson, named after our illustrious King Edward VII, born in Hull, Yorkshire, England, the County of broad acres, puddings, and warm hearts, and a resident of British Columbia for the past thirty-two years, was formerly in the Land Registry Office at Nelson, coming to Victoria and the Forest Branch in 1920.

Upon the retirement of Mr. W. L. Thomas he assumed the mantle of Chief Draughtsman, and for the past four years has wielded his kindly influence over the Draughting Room.

May his Shadow never grow less, and his tribes increase.



CREDIT—"THE MAPLE LEAF"

GARTH COLBECK (Vancouver) is back in action again, this time in Germany, after recovering from his wounds received during the advance on Falaise. He says: "Thank you for the very welcome 'smokes' which I am receiving regularly. As you will have seen by the papers, we have been a bit busy lately. The night of the big announced night push, I got the job of leading tank in one of the three columns and got blown up on a mine but came out O.K. and went on in one of my Cpl's. tanks. I was very lucky through the whole show and have nothing worse than a small bit of shrapnel in the corner of my mouth."



Lieut. Archie Byers.

Lieut. ARCHIE BYERS (Vancouver), son of Bill Byers, Supervisor of Scalpers, who has been appointed to the command of a motor torpedo boat, has been engaged in naval operations overseas for the past 15 months. During the invasion of France he served in the English Channel and on the French Coast and latterly in the North Sea, and on the Netherlands coast. Prior to going overseas he commanded a Fairmile sub-chaser for 18 months on the Atlantic Coast.

Wedding bells rang for Lieut. DON DYSON (Economics, Victoria), and Dolores Stein on December 29th at Seattle, Washington. Congratulations!

We have received a post-card from G. H. FEWTELL (Kamloops), prisoner of war in Germany, which reads: "Just a few lines to let you know I am still around, had a bad leg as a result of baling out, am in convalescent home at present--manage to keep busy and pass the time by cards, etc. Rather a funny existence. Best to the F. B. Staff."

LARRY LYTTLE (Vancouver, Scaling), previously reported missing, is now a prisoner of war in Germany. His address is as follows:

Flying Officer A. L. Lyttle,
Canadian Prisoner of War No. 8565,
STALAG LUFT No. 3,
Germany.

A. B. "ANDY" ANDERSON (Victoria, Economics) writes from Holland....."You might be interested to know I cruised and supervised the cutting and hauling of 25,000 trees for corduroy roads. That job lasted a month and was just one more of those things that Engineers must do. I also cut about 100 - 50' piles, and in this part of the world that is something. However, that is a far cry from my army occupation specialty, bridging--and I get a hell of a lot of that, I can assure you."

C. L. BOTHAM (Prince Rupert) reports his recent posting to Prince Rupert, which is very good for his purposes, i.e. getting home to Smithers for 48's.

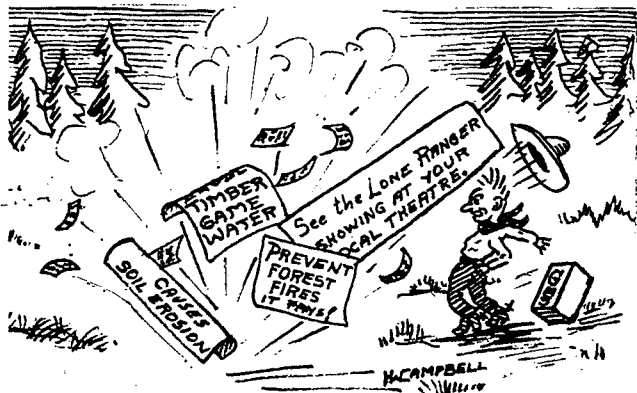
HARRY BARWELL (Kamloops) reported from India a month or so ago that he was expecting to be repatriated any day. We hope he will be walking in on us soon.

It was good to see BILL HALL back (Economics, Victoria), looking very fit. Bill is the first Canadian chosen for an administrative post in the Allies' post-war scheme to control Germany's timber resources. He has left for England, after a month's leave in Canada, where he will complete special studies to prepare to go to Germany after hostilities cease. He will then organize production in Germany of forest products, using German labour. These products will be allocated to Allied countries having claims against Germany.

Cigarette cards are acknowledged from ARTHUR MACLEOD (Vancouver), with the Navy in Newfoundland; RALPH FLYNN (Nelson), R.C.A.F. Overseas; J. C. WRIGHT (Kamloops), with the Provost Corps in Italy; ALF BAMFORD (Victoria, Economics) and R. G. BULLEN (Vancouver), both somewhere in Holland; D. J. "DODO" MacKAY (Victoria, Accounts), now transferred to the Signal Corps; SYD BENWELL (Victoria); JACK ESELMONT (Nelson); DON GILLISS (Vancouver), who says his "Newsletter" arrived in record time--21 days; L. A. WILLINGTON (Prince George) cutting "poles, piles and big squares" with the Forestry Corps Overseas; C. R. LEE (Kamloops); R. E. CRELLIN (Nelson); G. R. W. "Dick" NIXON (Victoria, Economics), with No. 10 Coy., Canadian Forestry Corps; AXEL KINNEAR (Victoria, Economics); LORNE SWANNELL (Prince George), writing from an ex-German dugout somewhere in Germany; ART KIRK, somewhere in Germany.

We received a very interesting letter from HUNTLEY CAMPBELL (Kamloops) from the "land of dykes and mud," where "one wouldn't have to spit (pardon the word) on the 'Jeep-sticks' to get a reading." He says "Upon returning, the ex-smokechasing vets should be able to come forth with some new ideas for organization, dispatch and equipment, to say nothing of their training in being able to swap a tin of bully beef and a couple of pairs of worn-out socks for a bottle of cognac. They should also be adept at rigging up anti-personnel mines and booby traps for the wiley range-burner, the same to be scattered around some promising stand of reproduction or mayhap along the trail leading to a favourite pot-hole, which the F. B. er considers his personal source of mallards. The charge wouldn't necessarily have to be lethal, but could contain leaflets, which have proved capable of penetrating even the square heads of our Aryan friends up the road."

J. D. CREIGHTON (Vancouver) sends special regards to the Kamloops and Vancouver Districts from Trinidad, before moving on again to other places. After the weird life in Trinidad, he says "Even Jack McCluskey's rattlesnake stories wouldn't bother me any more--at least not much. Wait until I tell him about the anaconda and boa constrictors, the fer-de-dance, coral snakes, tarantulas as big as your hand, scorpions, the 'red howler,' and alligators."



Canadian Forestry Corps men, felling timber deep in the Ardennes one night last December, swapped axes for guns when von Rundstedt launched his great offensive. The newspaper account tells how four companies of the Forestry Corps were putting away their axes when the warning came that the German attack was expected. Major O. V. MAUDE-ROXBY (Kamloops), the area sub-commander, doubled the guards, threw out pickets and sent patrols to nearby bridges and Laroche and Ortheville. Maude-Roxby himself says "Those were certainly a hectic few days when we had to drop our axes and become front line infantry against Tiger tanks and German grenadiers in armoured troop carriers!" Outside of Canadian parachutists, the foresters were the only Canadian troops at that time reported to have taken part in helping stem the German thrust.

We were glad to welcome NORMAN WHARF (Victoria, Accounts) home on his repatriation from a German prison camp. When his plane was shot down on an operational flight last May, one of the aircrew managed to bale out before the ship broke in half and its parts went crashing to the ground. Through some freak of fate, Norman, an Air-Gunner, who was in the after-section of the broken aircraft, managed to live through the catastrophe.

Back on the job with the Service, after receiving their discharges, are: KEARY DeBECK and WILF PENDRAY, of the Grazing Dept. at Kamloops; CY OLDHAM, IAN MacQUEEN, MICKEY POGUE and J. S. STOKES, all of Victoria.

Recent arrivals overseas.....

A. E. HESKETH (Nelson), Sgmn., K-40521, No. 1 C.S.R.U., Canadian Army Overseas.
W. V. HICKS (Victoria), Cpl., K-45589, No. 2.C.I.T.R., Canadian Army Overseas.
A. E. RHODES (Victoria), Gnr., K-66533, No. 2 C.A.R.U., Canadian Army Overseas.



VANCOUVER "OLD GIRLS"---WHO HASTEN TO EXPLAIN---"WE AIN'T SO OLD!"

We have been asked to do a "Manie Maloney" for this issue of the Bulletin.

About forty-five of us enjoyed a dinner at the "Bon Ton" on the evening of February 6th in honour of Miss Dorothy Trapp, which marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of her entrance into the B. C. Dorest Service, the first girl in the Vancouver office to have attained this majority.

Mr. Gormley made the address of welcome and good wishes.

On behalf of the staff, Miss A. Bruce presented Dorothy with a corsage, while to Mr. Jackson Thompson went the honour of formally welcoming her into the Twenty-Five Year Club.

A letter from Gloria Holden, R.C.A.F. (W.D.), reports her now in Ottawa. Her Easter vacation was "Gloriously" spent in New York.

The office had visits recently from three of their former members who are now in the matron's ranks. Mrs. N. Gatenby, Mrs. L. Gourley and Mrs. J. Carbutt of Kamloops.

Wren Susan Dobson, now stationed at Stataconda, Halifax, spent her leave in the office. We were so glad to welcome her, and take this opportunity to wish her Bon Voyage and the best of everything during her service with the Navy. Lip stick moustaches were shamelessly displayed by most of the "Old Boys" after her arrival. Yes, the Navy breezed in--firmly anchored with a shot from cupid's bow. Such queer, also nice things happen and come out of the Board Room--supposedly a closed precinct to the "young uns."

Birthdays come and go, and corsages also--to the redheads. Guess who?

The stork is fast approaching with a bundle of loveliness for a couple who are ex-members of our staff.

The Daddy is in the R.C.A.F.?

Miss J. M. Smith, of the drafting department, wishes to notify the rangers that she is not used to receiving memos addressed to Mr. Smith, or J. M. Smith, Esq.,--she is a femme.

Our explosion. You all know about the explosion of the "Greenhill Park," but do you know that two members completed their morning duties before investigating. Discipline or routine works sometimes. Not one girl of our twenty-one fainted, screamed, or stampeded. Calmly we gathered at the east end of the office and inquired where we should go. This was necessary, as chivalry being quite dead--the men were seeking their own refuge, with the exception of three old stand-bys--Bill Byers, Arthur Waddington, and Frank Fisher.

A three-day ranger's meeting took place in March, during which time twenty-five year pins and scrolls were presented by Mr. Orchard to several members, including Miss D. Trapp.

An invitation was issued by our Chief Clerk, thusly: "Miss Trapp is being presented with her pin at 2 p.m. We want some of you 'old girls' to be present, just the old ones." Not knowing if it meant in service or in years, we chose to think the former, and prepared ourselves to take the meeting by storm. As one "old girl" said, "I shall go home and put on my best lip stick and do the occasion due honour." We jostled for the mirrors, got our hats at the correct angle, make-up just right, etc., and proceeded to the meeting. Our entrance was graciously acknowledged by the Rangers en masse. We looked them over, and they looked us over, but terror reigned supreme--no camaraderie occurred. This, even though Mike was told we were there to pull a strip tease. Mike said, "not for any one over fifty-five." Dear tactful Mike didn't think us the "Too Old Ones."

Mr. Orchard, in a befitting speech, eulogizing Dorothy's attributes and merits during her twenty-five years of service in the Vancouver Office, presented the scroll and pin. Dorothy replied graciously, and assured Mr. Orchard of her further loyalty to the Service.

By the language of the eyes, one raised in query by our delegation, and one raised in assent by the chairman, the signal was given for our departure. We rose, accompanied by a general upheaval of the meeting, and solemnly made our exit. As one girl put it, she felt like the jury filing out.

In the "good old days," such gatherings were the raison d'etre for a bit of conviviality, but rationing now being the order of the day, we duly, with dignity, becoming our years "of service," repaired to the Marine Building Coffee Shop, and partook of soft drinks and coffee. Oh, for those days of "once upon a time."

This is our reaction to a Ranger's Meeting. We would be glad to learn the Ranger's reaction to the "Old Girls."

We are grateful to all the girls of the staff for the gleanings in this contribution.

S C R A T C H E R S

We regret the necessity for the next two paragraphs--Field Staff only to read--all others pass on to next item.

We note a tendency on the part of a few officers to use their Forest Service badges as match scratchers. There are various other places to scratch matches. The Chief, believe it or not, carries a big cent for that express purpose, and offers to supply a duplicate, gratis, to any badge scratcher who will apply. He says a 50-cent piece works a little better, but that if scratchers want half-dollars they will have to supply their own. Then there is always the seat of the pants which is usually handy and, from the mechanical point of view, highly satisfactory.

Whatever substitute is selected, it is strongly recommended that officers stop using their badges as match scratchers. The badge symbolizes the Forest Service and all it stands for. If in actual fact it means nothing more than a scratcher to the scratcher, then perhaps the Service would be just as well, or better, off to scratch the scratcher. Seriously, we think this matter of scratching arises out of pure thoughtlessness and will be discontinued now that the implications are brought to offenders' attention.

THE FIRE FIGHTERS' TEN COMMANDMENTS--by T. A. Simmons

1. Start for a reported fire at once, take enough men to finish the job quickly.
2. Fight fires in the early morning or afternoon - hold the line in the heat of the day.
3. If no wind, surround a fire by direct attack, i.e., dig in the edge of the fire.
4. If windy, construct trenches from the windward flank first, if on flat, and then pinch in; and back fire all fire lines.
5. If fire on side hill, pinch in toward crest of hill, if windy, first on windward side, if no wind, attack both flanks at once.
6. The time to put a fire out is when it is brought under control; keep your crew on a day or so longer to dig and put out "smoulders."
7. Every fire should have at least one man left on patrol when fire is extinguished, for a day or more, as indicated.
8. If a shower of rain falls when you are fighting a fire, redouble your efforts - that's the time to kill it.
9. Make sure who is responsible for fighting the fire, and if an individual or firm, make it clear to him or them.
10. Report infractions of the Act to the responsible Forest Officer in your District immediately.

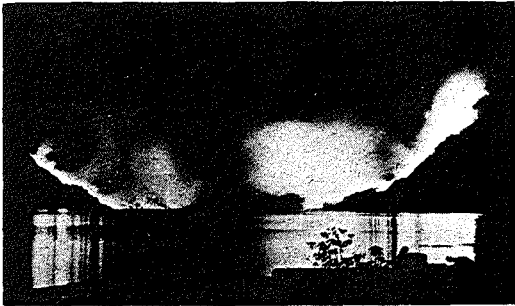
Editor's Note: While Tommy Simmons does not fight fires, he does handle all the fire reports that come to Head Office. From this experience and long observation of the reasons for fires getting away he has come to these Ten Commandments. No practical fire fighter could do better.

Ranger Applewaite says: "They are cutting timber so young in my district that it isn't even immature!"

ERIC GARMAN SUBMITS THIS!

In the Newsletter of January, 1945, you put forth the record of the late lamented Mineral (Wash.) Douglas fir, but there are stouter and taller old-timers still standing. In August, 1941, according to the Timberman of that date the park ranger in Olympic National Park, after careful measurement, says "the patriarch of all firs, measuring 17' 1" d.b.h., stands within the boundaries of the park" on the peninsula opposite Victoria. Height, 221 feet to a 48" top; clear length over 100 feet; site I; precipitation 120". At Ryderwood (Wash.) a Douglas fir tree was left standing because it measured 324 feet high, and was 11' 7" d.b.h. (Forest Log, November 1, 1933).

While we are at it perhaps we can blaze a trail to the biggest hemlock. To start with the tree measured by R. W. Hibberson (Timberman, November, 1944) on Kwakwakaikwak Island, Masset Inlet, is nominated. This tree, presumably still standing, was 101" diameter at five feet.



FOREST FIRE AT NIGHT--Vancouver Island.

This illustration shown as a frontispiece to the 1944 Forest Service Annual Report is on GREAT CENTRAL LAKE. Reported as the "SKIDDER" fire, this outbreak started June 8th 1944 from a Skidder Line clipping some rocks and throwing sparks into the slash area. Before being placed under control, the fire jumped the lake into some old logging slash. Using a small aperture and long time exposure, this photograph was taken by Mr. P. A. Fraser of the Timber Industries Service.

Ranger in our North Interior reports: "Some of the pine trees are badly scared at stump." (Ed.: How about the tops?)

BOUQUET FOR ANNUAL REPORT

We conceive that there are two major functions for official Government reports, such as our Forest Branch Annual Report:

1. These should constitute a correct statement of dust-dry statistics and facts for the information and reference of interested parties. It is as such valuable sources of reference that these reports are ordinarily used in our own offices.

2. Annual reports should tell the public in a readable, but unobtrusive way, what a Department is doing, something of the problems involved in the public business and how these problems are being attacked.

We have endeavoured to make the Forest Branch Annual Report meet these two primary requirements; and it is gratifying from time to time to learn that efforts in any line of endeavour are more or less successful and appreciated. We think, therefore, that we should quote the following extract from a letter recently received from a senior officer of the Forestry Commission in Great Britain.

"I have read the Report of the Forest Branch for 1943 and I feel that I must write and congratulate you on such an interesting publication. Usually, as you know, Government Forest Department reports are very much of the 'dry as dust' category and ours in this country are no exception. I was therefore delighted to see that you are breaking away from this tradition and making your annual report attractive both as regards the written matter and the excellent photographs that are reproduced. I feel certain it is a step in the right direction. I see a good many such reports from all over the world but yours is about the only one I find sufficiently attractive to read."

PRINCE GEORGE RANGER MEETING

A successful Ranger Meeting was held at Prince George on April 5th, 6th, and 7th. Ed. Bassett and Sam Marling were up from Victoria. At the opening session Ed was introduced as the new District Forester for the Fort George District. He replaces Doug Gregor whom we are all sorry to see leave. We understand Doug is to organize a ranger school, (Victoria please confirm as no official advice has been received here yet) and we wish him every success. During his seven years as D. F. he worked hard to develop the Fort George District and has been noted for his enthusiasm regarding the potentialties of the North Country.

One feature of our Ranger Dinner was the presentation of the 26-Year Button to John Jardine, our Chief Clerk. John is retiring at the end of April. He will be greatly missed, but at the same time we are glad he is going to have a well earned rest, and we wish him many years of contentment.

As is usual the dinner was followed by stories and accounts of experiences in bygone days. Everyone was in good form--particularly the old timers. It was hard for us younger fellows to realize just what devils some of these apparently respectable old boys were in their younger days. This prompts us to bring forth a suggestion.-- Why not circularize the staff and get them to put down in writing their stories (true and otherwise). These Forest Service legends are most interesting and it would be a shame to lose them. Let's start a little booklet in loose-leaf form, entitled "Legends of the British Columbia Forest Service." As stories are submitted they could be printed (periodically) and sent out to all holders of the booklet.

G. A. Kenney joined our staff in February as Operations Clerk. "Kenney" has taken to this job like a duck to water and after meeting all the boys at the Ranger Meeting is now quite at home.

About a year ago Messrs. Playfair and Ferguson installed a 50-watt transmitter at Prince George and also rigged up a remote control receiver which has done much to eliminate local interference. Possibly, these gentlemen could give a brief description of the remote control set-up for the benefit of other districts.

After some 24 years service, 17 of which were in the capacity of Ranger, Ray Sansom, "the oracle of McBride," resigned from the Service. Ray has gone into business at Jasper where we wish him every success. When any Forest Service personnel is passing through Jasper they are sure of a warm welcome at his establishment.

We don't know how McBride is going to get along without Ray. Besides being ranger he was: a village commissioner, Captain of the P.C.M.R's., chairman of the local ration board, church warden, unofficial undertaker, member of the school board, etc. But we are going to miss Ray a lot too. He was one of those good steadfast rangers who ably represented the Service with a minimum of assistance and supervision from the District Office. Also we are going to miss him in another way--he won't have as many chances to take our money at poker.

We are sorry to report that Dave Michaud, who was patrolman at Quesnel in 1944, was killed in a car accident in February. That was Dave's first season with us, but he gave a good account of himself and we will miss him this year.

Clarke McBride, Timber Sale Silviculturalist of Management Office, spent a couple of weeks with us in March. He plans on coming back later on to do some marking in spruce.

Finlay McKinnon was up here as Victoria examiner at the assistant ranger exams.

Victoria Office edits the next edition. Send all contributions to the Chief Forester. Dead line JUNE 30th, 1945.