

NEWS LETTER

No. 63

VICTORIA, B. C.

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

NEWSLETTER

NELSON RANGER MEETING

By J. C. Ingram Rogers

Nelson Forest District held a very successful ranger meeting in Nelson on April, 11 and 12, when some fifty Rangers and Assistant Rangers were present. All the boys from District Headquarters were there, and Victoria was represented by E. B. Prowd and R. R. Douglas.

Sam Marling outlined field organization for the coming year, which includes the creation of a new Ranger District with headquarters at Elko, and the establishment of two new lookouts. An air patrol observer, an Assistant Forester assigned to Grazing, and a spare Ranger, will be added to the staff.

Ross Douglas gave an interesting outline of research work, which has been done at the Coast, in temperature and humidity inversion--that periodic condition in summer when, throughout a certain altitude belt on hillsides, the night temperature remains high and the humidity low, thus creating a dangerous fire-hazard which is not apparent from instrument readings in the valley. Special inversion studies are to be made in the Nelson District this summer from data obtained at a number of selected lookouts.

Pre-organization for fire control came in for a good deal of discussion, and the value of comprehensive and detailed pre-organization charts was emphasized, particularly in view of the number of green men employed this year. The importance of educating the public and securing, by personal contact, the co-operation of logging operators, was also stressed. In protection advertising in the press, it was felt that the public should be made conscious, not only of its responsibility towards fire prevention, but also towards actual fire-fighting. Some Rangers find it of value to organize fire crews at the onset of a period of extreme hazard, for instance when a lightning storm is brewing, and dispatch them to the scene of probable fire occurrence, in order to take action the moment a fire breaks out.

Fire-fighters' wages were discussed, and various proposals to improve checking of hours of work were mooted. Some Rangers felt that suppression of fires by volunteer crews should be rewarded by bonus pay when the fires are extinguished by volunteer efforts alone.

Suppression Crews, which will be under the direct orders of the Ranger in whose District they are working, will be 12-man crews; this size facilitates splitting, one half standing by in camp while the other half does improvement work. Stand-by work in camp will probably consist of making road and trail-signs, etc.

The Management section of the meeting began with a paper by Sam Marling on Silvicultural Requirements on Timber Sales. Sam stressed the importance of giving serious thought to silvicultural requirements. Silviculture had been neglected in the past, mainly because of lack of funds and of technical personnel. A discussion of diameter limits and the marking of trees for cutting took place. Some interesting remarks were made by Messrs. Ficke and Fox, of the U. S. Forest Service. Across the line, marking, rather than cutting to diameter limits, is the method most widely used. Crown vigour class, according to Keen's system, governs the marking. Jackpine in the Northern States has become a valuable pole species, owing to the cutting out of pole timber in the Southern States.

Tom Brewer discoursed on Grazing, pointing out that it now has attained the proportions of big business in the Nelson District and should be given the attention it merits.

The slash-disposal problem, like the poor, is always with us, and a discussion of slash-disposal crews took place. There was some divergence of opinion on the size the crews should be, and the best way in which to employ them.

C. D. Grove-White reviewed Christmas tree activities, stating that 1,165,000 trees had been cut last season.

The meeting wound up appropriately with a banquet at which the guests included our old friends Bob Allen, retired District Forester, and Bill Holmgren, retired Forester, both of whom are now active in private forest industry. Another guest was Tom Clarke, a former Assistant District Forester in this District, who has established himself as a Forest Engineer in Nelson.

Following the banquet, a pleasant duty was performed by Mr. Prowd on behalf of the Chief, when he presented Twenty-five year service certificates and badges to Sam Marling, District Forester, and to Sid Simpson, Chief Clerk.

After active military service against the Bolsheviks in North Russia at the close of the First World War, Sam Marling, a native of Victoria, joined the B. C. Forest Service at Kamloops in 1922. Since then he has served in every Forest District in the Province, including two separate periods of service in both Nelson and Prince George. He was appointed District Forester at Nelson late in 1946. Sam is well-known as a keen gardener and as a bulb-culturist of renown.

Sid Simpson was born and educated in Scotland and, after several years of active service in France in the First World War, joined the Forest Branch at Cranbrook as a clerk. He served there when our present Chief Forester was District Forester, and when, in 1925, the Cranbrook Forest District was amalgamated with the Nelson District to form the Southern Interior, Sid became Supervisor's Clerk at Cranbrook. In 1932 he was promoted to Chief Clerk at Nelson, a position he has held ever since.

Mr. Prowd also expounded the legal intricacies of the new Forest Act.

Several students spoke briefly about the Ranger School and all were unanimous in their praise of the school and the work it is doing.

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Community singing was enjoyed under the energetic leadership of Jack Coles, and the meeting broke up in a spirit of mutual fellowship and good will.

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NELSON DISTRICT

The "Law" is Above Us!

In order to try to find seating space and, incidentally, air space for increased and still increasing staff, arrangements were made several months ago for the Forest Service here to take over the entire basement in the Courthouse. On March 4 the big move was made, and, consequently the Forest Service now has the honour of occupying the entire basement of the Courthouse here in Nelson. It has been found, since moving down, that there was no air circulating or, in other words, the air was dead, (and still is), and there were also rather bad draughts along the floors even when all windows were closed. However, we had a visit recently from the Provincial Architect and arrangements have been made for some sort of air conditioning which we hope will be installed soon! When the warm weather arrives, it may help a little as we may then be able to open a window to let the warm air in without causing a hurricane across the floors!

Incidentally, the offices are all equipped with Fluorescent Lighting, which is quite an improvement on our old antiquated lighting.

Taking over these new quarters was, of course, "an occasion", as it were, and was duly celebrated by all the staff and their good ladies, and a jolly time was had by all! Needless to say, we had various comments and opinions expressed regarding our new quarters, some favourable and some not so favourable (depending who was listening), but the general consensus of opinion boiled down to this:-

It probably was the best arrangement which could be made under the circumstances, as we couldn't wait for new construction with shortage of building material and skilled labour but, it seems to be generally felt that these quarters are only temporary and that a new building should be put up. The Nelson Ranger and his Assistants should have other quarters, as they are at present accommodated in a sort of passage-way (so say the Ranger and his Assistants) and it is not very satisfactory. However, perhaps when material and skilled labour become more plentiful, the Forest Service will be given accommodation more fitting and more appropriate to an ever expanding branch of the Government Service. (Ed.--plug).

Here is one that I think is really good. I have heard, and actually seen in print, all sorts of fantastic filing designations on letters from Operators and our own Field Staff, but this one is about the best. It reads as follows:-

"R. Confusion. Shipping Permits".

I could write reams on this but, on second thought, this might not be the most opportune time so will let it go as is.

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PRINCE RUPERT DISTRICT

Celebration followed party in the "back room" of the Rupert office since the last edition of the "Newsletter".

After nearly 1/3 of a century in "Rainy" Rupert and over 2/3 of that time with the Service, "Pop" Davies left for the retiring city of Victoria, (However, we beg to advise that "Pop" is still very serviceable and certainly wasn't washed out!) On February 13, the staff gathered for the presentation of a beautifully engraved mantel clock from the office and District. We'll miss "Pop". He was always ready to help, and always could.

On February 15, our new Chief, Bill Murray, officially took the helm. The whole staff is right behind you, Bill--the best of luck!

The following week Stan Hepher arrived to make two presentations of 25-year pins. Jack Scott, our Queen Charlotte Ranger and Ike Martin, our North Coast Ranger, were the recipients. There are very few trees on the coast these boys haven't seen. 25 years is a long time in any man's life and the Service certainly hopes to benefit from their good work for a long time yet. The presentation was bolstered by a celebration, and the glasses Jack presented to the office last Christmas came in for a lot of wear.

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10th of March saw Ernie Wilding return from sick-leave none the worse for wear. But, as he watched the work pile up, he nearly went back to the hospital.

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We heard Ranger Gibson, of Smithers, on the air the other day, and have received a memo from Ranger Campbell at Ocean Falls. Glad to have these boys back on the job. We wonder what effect the Ranger School has had.

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Ollie Antilla has been transferred from Southbank to take Don Smith's place in the District Office. Don has been appointed to relieve "Ike" Martin on the "White Cloud". "Ike" Martin has been appointed to relieve Bill Murray as draughtsman, who has been sent to relieve "Pop" Davies as Chief Clerk. "Pop" Davies has been-----and so on into the night.

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Who dat?

"Who dat?"

"Who dat?"

"Who dat dat says 'who dat' when I say who dat?"

An old song but a good one we feel, when viewed in the light of recent events. The proverbial old "lid" was pried off initially by Ken McCannel leaving Vancouver to take command of our brand new Parks Division. Marc Gormely quickly came down out of the Nelson hills to take over the Assistant D.F.'s job, Vancouver, passing Ross Douglas on the way, as the latter rushed eastward to become Assistant D. F., Nelson. By way of completing the confusion, Gerry McKee headed south towards the vacancy created by Ross in the Operations Office, Victoria, thusly putting L. F. Swannell on the "throne" in Fort George and elevating A. H. Dixon to Assistant D. F. in that District. So when someone walks into your office and starts fumbling through files or something, you're sure to hear that old "who dat?"

Therefore, exercising the unchallenged prerogative of journalism, the Newsletter wishes to welcome everybody to everywhere for everybody, wherever they may be!
WHEW!!

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Parks Patter

The phone----- The junior editor of the Newsletter again! This time he just about drew a blank, for with Spring in the air, the entire Parks Section is on a mass exodus after a valiant attempt to balance the budget for the new fiscal year. Despite the increase in Parks funds, we find that after providing for a much-needed "Cat" and truck, we are back in "dreamland" once again with its "we hope", "if's" and "perhaps next year?"

Manning Park Ranger, Bob Boyd, still sorrowing over the fire loss of 700 acres of fine Park land last year, is returning alone to do battle again this year. His stand-by crew of two fine dogs will at least provide moral support when Bob is wondering which one of five ways to go after a lightning storm. During part of the summer, Joe St. Pierre and Davie Davidson will visit him to help clear and fence a pasture, build a stable, tool-shed, cat trails, bridge, and start a Ranger Station.

Mickey Trew and Parks Ranger Ole Johanson start the harrowing job of surveying and allocating fifty new cabin sites in Mt. Seymour Park. There is still six feet of snow on the ground up there which, of course, makes for easy travelling! Ole, supervising approximately 100 cabins under construction, will have more than his time taken up with this one phase of his many duties. A very small amount of work will be attempted on much-needed ski-runs and trails. Work on the Administration Building will be concentrated on erecting the three flue chimney, which will stand 47 feet high!

Chester Lyons and Don MacMurchie are on their way to Wells Gray Park to finish a road survey and make preliminary estimates on the cost of a 4-mile road to Dawson Falls. Every attempt will be made to properly christen the new "cat" on this project!

Mike Pope will be supervising the Vancouver Island Parks and trying to hold things together until a proper renovating crew can be financed. During the winter, Joe St. Pierre has completed 19 rustic tables Parks and finer tables cannot be found!

Well, that's the picture of things for a few weeks but, by the time of the next Newsletter, there will undoubtedly be some "hot" news on latest developments.

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Another New Division.

Things are really crackin' these days, what with people shooting all over the Province taking over new jobs et cetera, but now, to top it all, we have a brand new Parks Division, full-fledged and rarin' to go under the experienced eye of K. C. "Ken" McCannel, ex Assistant District Forester Vancouver. Congrats Ken and welcome back to Victoria!

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Off to London.

With bags all packed, tooth-brush in hand, and masses of paraphernalia and literature already shipped ahead, the Chief is off to "Olde Jolly" to attend the British Empire Forestry Conference in London. Unofficial reports say that the Chief won't be back until August!

Hmmmmmm. What's that one about "-----when the cat's away-----"?

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Good Luck Jack Bier!

We of the Victoria Office are very sorry indeed to see Dr. John E. Bier, Officer-in-Charge of the Dominion Laboratory of Forest Pathology in this city, leave to take up his new duties at Toronto. Outside of the fact that we are losing a good friend and a terrific bowler, we are glad to see Jack get this opportunity to enter a bigger field where his undoubted "grey matter" will be given full scope. Dr. D. C. Buckland, as acting Officer-in-Charge, has taken over the administrative reins of the Victoria "Lab."

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A Steno's Farewell

When I entered the "FOREST SERVICE," I was really a "babe in the wood"--
And, to my knowledge, the terminology didn't sound quite as it should.
But I trust my ignorance didn't show in my talk,
When I thought "lopping" was a lazy man's walk!

"Booming" to me, meant a drum and a kid,
And "slashing" sounded like what "Jack, the Ripper" did;
A "cruise" is not just a trip on a boat, now I know,
And "cold deck" not a card game for an Eskimo!

To my ears, "high-lead" was a term quite nice--
Could mean, the Big Shots were getting sound advice.
I know my boss would have been sure to cuss,
If I'd asked him to forgive those who "trespassed" against us;

An "easement for a logging road right-of-way"
Could be praise for a logger, for his hard work each day.
And I hate to think of my chances for life
If I'd said that a "scaler" used a fisherman's knife.

"Particulars" and "Clearances" were so much hodge-podge,
And the Foresters I knew all belonged to a Lodge; (I.O.O.F.)
While the only Ranger whom I could name
Was the Lone one (with a horse, Silver, both of radio fame)!

Although, with you folks, I had such a short stay,
My knowledge of Forests was enriched each day.
And, while much of the above, is purely in fun,
I appreciated the patience of everyone.
I doubt if I'd correctly chop down a tree,
But I hope you'll remember, that silly gal, Bea.

The above "Pome" was written by Bea Norman, a former stenographer in the
Victoria Management Office. We feel that she learnt a great deal in the four short months
we enjoyed her company. So, thanks Bea, wherever you may be!

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HATCHED AND MATCHED

Walls--To Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Walls (nee Bernice Hull) a SON, Warren Thomas, at the
Royal Jubilee Hospital, on Thursday, April 17, 1947.

Johnson--To Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Johnson, a DAUGHTER, Karen Doreen, at Prince George
recently.

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On April 3, Alan Rhodes of the Forest Accounts Office, Victoria, was married
at St. Martin's-in-the-Field, to Miss Edythe Frayne. Prior to his marriage, Alan was pre-
sented, by Mr. St. Clair on behalf of the staff, with a mantel clock and a silver cream
and sugar set. The newlyweds spent a brief honeymoon in Vancouver.

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On Easter Monday afternoon, Mary D. "Mollie" Mitchell of the Management
Office, Victoria, was married at the Glad Tidings Tabernacle to Mr. Stanley A. W. Lawrence.
Mr. St. Clair, on behalf of the staff, presented Mollie with a beautiful tri-lite, prior
to her marriage. The Lawrences journeyed to Portland, Oregon, for their honeymoon.

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On the night of Friday, April 25, J. R. "Ralph" Johnston, Forester in Charge
of the Fire Control Section, Victoria, was married at St. Mary's Church, Oak Bay, to Miss
Joan Thompson. Ralph was the recipient of a beautiful carving set presented by Mr. C. D.
Orchard on behalf of the staff.

Ian MacQueen, well-known throughout the Service and Ralph's predecessor in
the Fire Control business, was best man. After a brief honeymoon the Johnstons will re-
side in Victoria.

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NEW BOWLING CHAMPS

On the night of April 2, Jamie Crisfield and her "Four Fiendish Flingers"
came out of a terrific three-way play-off battle with the runner-up teams captained by
Florence Jenner and Pat Pick, to be crowned 1946-47 Champions of the Lands and Forests
Bowling League.

Congratulations are most certainly due to Peter Bell, Bill White, Chester
Lyons, Hugh Sendey and Jamie, because they really had to bowl to win as shown by their
total score of 2634 pins! That is a lot of pins!

The presentation of cups and prizes was made at the Bowling Banquet and
Dance, held on the night of April 30.

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Welcome Mat.

In Victoria we shove out the old Mat to welcome Mrs. Wendy Merluk to the Fire Control Office, Geoffrey Holyhead to Accounts and George Warrack to Economics. We hope you all enjoy your stay in our happy family.

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Shift.

After twenty-four years in the Forest Accounts, Jim Underwood, the old stand-by, has been transferred to the Surveyor General's Department. Bill Higgins has taken over where Jim left off in Accounts.

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BILL BYERS RETIRES

On the evening of April 14, some eighty friends of W. (Bill) Byers, Supervisor of Sealing for Vancouver District, congregated on the mezzanine and in the York Room of the Georgia Hotel to convoy him into retirement after 29 years in the employ of the Forest Service.

Charlie Haddon, Vancouver District Forester, centred the head table and served as Master of Ceremonies. Art Stringer (Operations Victoria) delighted the group with a generous repertoire of songs and Kenny McCannel did a masterly job in leading a general sing-song. Personally, we think Kenny was too good for the quality of his choir, although we got a big kick out of the rendition of "School Days" by the Assistant Dean of the Ranger School with minor assistance on the "Umptidee-Umptidee" from the Dean.

The eulogies showered upon Bill and Mrs. Byers by representatives from all walks of the Service would have turned the heads of anyone less equable but, as was to be expected, were accepted graciously by both and replied to most adequately and inspiringly by Bill. To our way of thinking, the best of them all was the following literary effort which culminated Miss Drummond's remarks on the Sealing Staff.

- 1928 -- Warning--Storm--A Hurricane
Roaring, ranting and chill
The Staff
Watching, waiting for a thrill
A form emerging, "Old Bill"
- 1938 -- Warning--Storm--A High Wind
Gusty, lusty and shrill
The Staff
High pressured working fit to kill,
A form emerging, "Old Bill"
- 1947 -- Warning--Storm--A Chinook
Calm, balmy and still
The Staff
Sad, pensive, spirits at nil,
A form emerging--"Dear Bill"



Note "--authentic antique piece--" under Bill's hand.

Mr. and Mrs. Byers each received a travelling bag from his friends and associates in the Service, and Bill also received a mantel radio to soothe his nerves when he begins to miss his daily skirmishes with the logging fraternity. A special gift, in the form of an authentic antique piece from pioneer days, was presented to Bill by Charlie Holmes in an impassioned appeal for more and better grades of "oil".

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Twenty-five Year Pins to Vancouver District Officers.

On the occasion of the dinner tendered to W. (Bill) Byers on his retirement from the Service, 25-year pins and the accompanying scrolls were presented to five members of the Vancouver Forest District who entered the service in 1922. The presentation was made by Chief Forester, C. D. Orchard. The five recipients were:

Doug. Taylor
Albert Herd
Bert Antell

G. G. Armytage
Bob Murray

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School Stag.

The second class at the Ranger School having completed the first three months of their course on March 31, attended the evening of April 1st a farewell stag. The evening commenced with a turkey dinner produced by Jarvis' masterly hand and was still going strong at 10:45 P.M. when this reporter flowed hurriedly on to New Westminster to return to Victoria. Arrangements for the evening's entertainment were under the chairmanship of Carman Gibson and music for the occasion was provided by Assistant Dean Pedley and students Ginnever and Killough. Vocalizing was a bit ragged around the edges



Mrs. Byers about to receive gift suitcase.

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but made up in volume what it lacked in melody. "Red" MacKenzie kept things moving with quiz games and cribbage contests. It was unquestionably a thoroughly successful show and should have left the boys looking forward to the second semester in September.

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FORT GEORGE DISTRICT

Ranger Reshuffle:

Early in the year, R. B. Cranston moved from Birch Island, Kamloops District, to take over the Ranger job at Fort St. John. In that country, Rangers travel in pairs, or so we are told, and, therefore, we feel that he and Ranger Cy French, working out of Pouce Coupe, will make a very attractive couple!

Incidentally, Cy French is due for a move shortly to Prince George where he will take over from "Rusty" Campbell in the North District. "Rusty" is then going even further north to take charge of the Rocky Mountain Trench Ranger District.

We expect to see Ranger Barbour, formerly of Cranbrook, when he assumes his position at Pouce Coupe. He will probably arrive just in time to witness some silly settler put a match to one corner of the Peace River Block!

The old hand in the Peace River, Irwin Johnson, has decided that it is too hot up there and is moving to Quesnel after his "holiday" at the Ranger School. He takes over the vacancy created when Ranger Walter Thomas left for greener fields in industry.

We welcome Floyd Nelson, formerly Ranger at Williams Lake, as Supervisor at Prince George.

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We learn with regret of the illness of Sam Marling, District Forester at Nelson. Sam received his twenty-five year pin only a few weeks ago as reported in a previous article in this Newsletter. We wish Sam a prompt recovery.

As a result of Sam's illness some of the moves forecast on earlier pages (which had already been printed) may be deferred for the time being.

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DOUGLAS SCOTT SMITH

1922 - 1947

The report of the death of D. S. (Doug) Smith, of the Site Classification section (Economics Division), by drowning, at San Rafael, California, on Monday, April 21, came as a shock to his friends in the Service. Doug, a brilliant student, started with the Service in 1944, in the Vancouver District. Service in the air force interrupted his studies at U.B.C. and it was not until Christmas, 1946, that he graduated with Honours in Botany. He was working at the University of California towards his Master's Degree in Botany (Forestry) and had just been awarded a Fellowship during the coming year at Duke University, N. C. With R. H. (Dick) Spillsbury, his chief on Site Classification, Doug is co-author of a Service Technical Bulletin to be published this year. We will miss friendly presence around the office and extend sincere sympathy to his bereaved family.