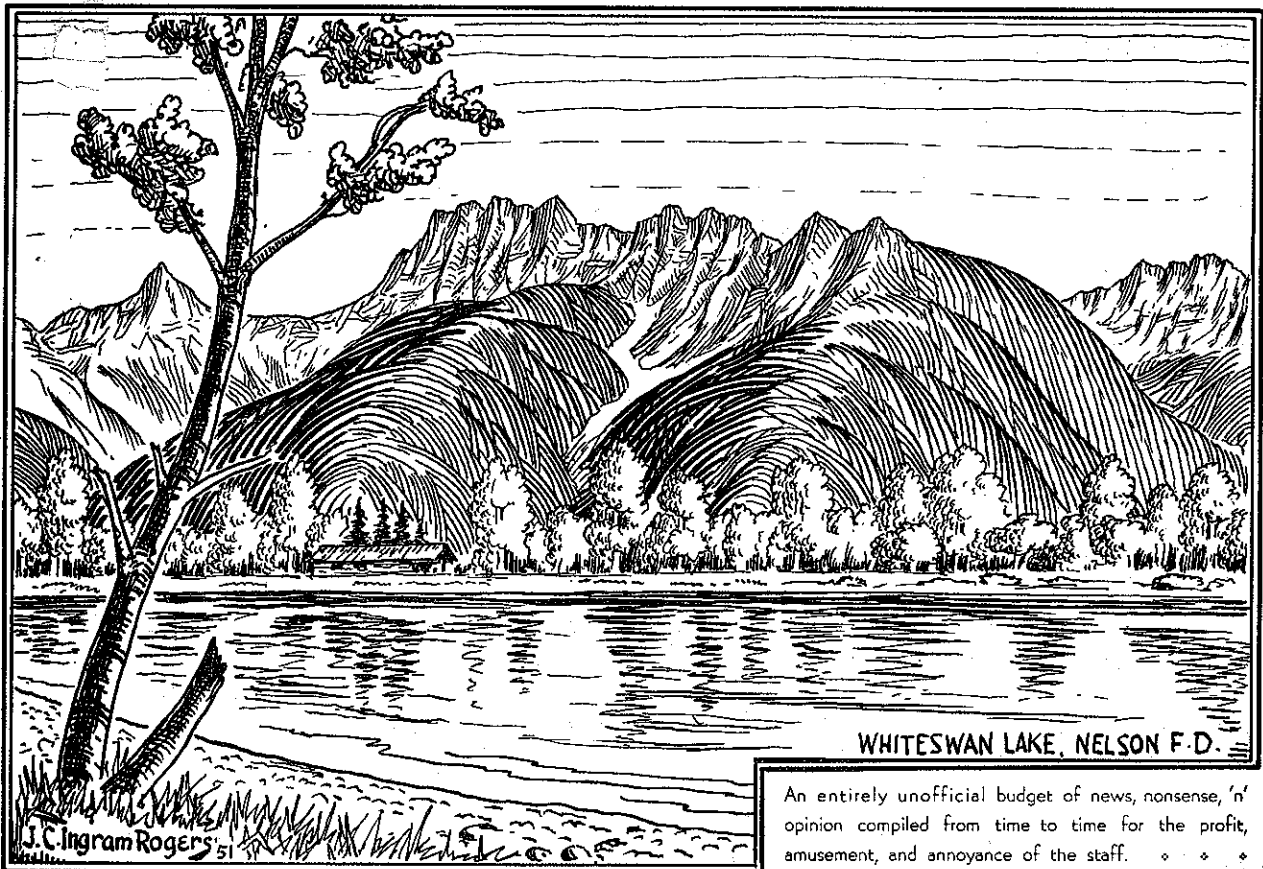


FOREST SERVICE NEWSLETTER



WHITESWAN LAKE, NELSON F.D.

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

No. 100

VICTORIA, B.C.

NOVEMBER, 1951.

HIGH-CLASS FIRE CREW

(So that the actual facts can be saved for posterity, the Newsletter asked Mechanical Superintendent Bill Spouse if he would write out a few words about a certain fire in Sooke District, Vancouver Island, upon which we feel was employed the highest class fire crew of all time.)

Dear Dave:- Regarding that portion of the famous or infamous "Fern" fire which came into my place at East Sooke on August 21, the excitement, as far as I was concerned, started when Ass't Ranger Dick Rainey phoned me while I was visiting Harold McWilliams to say that Constable Mathieson of the R.C.M.P. requested my immediate presence at Sooke, "as my place was on fire."

This caused great excitement in the Spouse clan (we have laboured for years out there) and as we had planned to go out to the place on Wednesday, August 22, the house was stacked with food, dishes, and so forth. Beds were made up and I had left a new outboard motor in one of the buildings.

Naturally we wanted to know if the buildings had gone, but could obtain no information from Dick. With 15 acres of valuable trees and a house, my main concern at the time was the new outboard motor while my wife was primarily worried about the silverware. In retrospect it all seems rather funny to us now.

Percy Young and Harold McWilliams offered to come along and help and later on two other friends also came out to the place, to do what they could. Our place is a long, narrow strip, 260 feet wide and a half-mile deep.

On arrival at 10:45 P.M., we explored the fire-area first as it was midway between the East Sooke road and the waterfront on which my summer "shack" is located. The fire was burning over about 4 acres at the time and the road to the house had been crossed by the flames, making the road temporarily impassable due to fallen trees. After checking the burning area we inspected the waterfront section and found it untouched. We therefore returned to the fire and after working on hot spots for a time left Harold McWilliams working on the line while Percy Young and I went hunting for the Assistant Ranger or some other Forest Officer to see if they would consider letting us have a pump. We learned that the Ranger (Jack Greenhouse) was on the other side of a road-block caused by the falling snags, but later on, after many detours, we were finally able to contact him and were issued a Paramount Cub pumper and 2,000 feet of hose. (Dick Rainey wanted to know if I thought I could run a Cub!). At approximately 4 A.M., we hit the fire with water. Naturally our nozzle man was Percy Young (2 i/c Operation Division) while yours truly manned the pump with Harold McWilliams (Forester-in-Charge Reforestation) as general supervisor. Percy worked very vigorously and, as the area being worked darkened due to the flames being extinguished, he began hitting the odd tree with the water stream, finally drenching himself from head to foot.

After a time he had occasion to lick his lips and wondered why he was perspiring so profusely. It was only after his glasses salted up that he realized that we were using salt water on the fire.

According to Percy Young, salt water is a much better fluid to use on fire than fresh water and he proposes to ship it to the Interior in future for use on the fires in the Kamloops and Nelson Districts. Hope we can invent a corrosion-proof pump if he does.

The fire crews hit the burn at daybreak and after that the job was "in the bag".

Final result - about 6 acres burned over - some merchantable fire-killed - balance O.K.

2.

High-Class Fire Crew (continued)

The loggers have now discovered my little patch of timber and it is possible that "Ye Olde Tree Farme" may soon be renamed "Ye Olde Stumpe Ranche".

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KAMLOOPS DISTRICT

Matched

Gordon Bregoliss, our Operation Clerk, and Bridget Schikowski, were married in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, on September 26, 1951. After the reception, the bride and groom left for a honeymoon trip through the States and Vancouver Island. On "Breg's" return to the office, Mr. W.C. Phillips presented him with a torchiere lamp on behalf of the staff. Our best wishes to you "Breg" and "Bea".

*** **

Hatched

Mr. T.R. Broadland, Parks Officer, announced the birth of a SON, David Allen, on October 9, 1951.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ken Petersen (Ken is our Ranger at Williams Lake) upon the arrival of a SON, Norman Edward, on October 5, 1951.

Through the haze of cigar smoke we wish to announce the arrival of the fourth SON, Peter, to Mr. Art Kirk, our Fire Inspector, and Mrs. Kirk, on October 26, 1951. (Six more, Art, and you'll have a Suppression Crew).

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Our sympathies to John Pinder-Moss, who has been on the sick list since August 21. Hope we see you back with us soon, Pinder.

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A big welcome to Vera Crane, transferred from Nelson District to Kamloops on October 1. We hope you like it here as well as you did in Nelson, Vera.

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Ranger Perrin Retires

On Friday evening, October 19, eighteen Forest Officers assembled in the Club Room of the Incola Hotel, Penticton, to honour Charlie Perrin on the occasion of his retirement from the Service.



Charlie Perrin

Dr. C.D. Orchard, Chief Forester, and Col. A.E. Parlow, District Forester, were on hand for the occasion.

After a congenial gathering around the punch bowl, a delicious turkey dinner was enjoyed amid much banter, songs, and reminiscences.

Col. Parlow rose to wish Charlie well on behalf of all members of the Kamloops District staff and to congratulate him on thirty-two years of conscientious service in the public interest.

At the conclusion of the dinner the Chief Forester presented Charlie with a handsome Gladstone travelling bag and leather shaving kit on behalf of the staff. The Chief congratulated Charlie on a fine record and traced the growth of the Forest Service since the early days to its present position of esteem in the public eye, which esteem, he said, has largely been won by the good work done by the Rangers and Field Staff who are continually in contact with the public, both as business-men and enforcement officers.

Charlie Perrin was born in Manchester, England, in 1886 and came to Canada in 1907. After several years of logging, bush work, and beating a pre-emption into shape, plus a stint in the Army, he joined the Forest Service at Vernon in July, 1919, as a Patrolman under Ranger Jack McCluskey. He was paid \$4.00 per day, allowed \$1.00 per day for saddle-horse and pack horses, which he provided, and no additional expenses allowed except horse-shoeing.

Charlie became Assistant Ranger at Kelowna in 1920 and, in 1927, he was appointed Ranger at Penticton, where he has been until his retirement.

Charlie has seen the Service grow and expand from saddle-horse days to the present, and has some wonderful memories and experiences to look back upon. His many friends throughout the Service wish him good luck and good health in his well-earned retirement.

*** **

A Busy Time

Ours has been a busy little burgh lately what with an Employees' Convention coupled with a Teachers' ditto, and to cap it all a visit from Royalty on October 19! This latter detail, of course, made Kamloops the mecca of all and sundry who could get

A Busy Time (continued)

away from the chores for a few hours. We don't know the census-man's tally on this occasion, but the population was given credit for a 20,000 jump. Even if half that number were nearer correct our population doubled itself in a few hours.

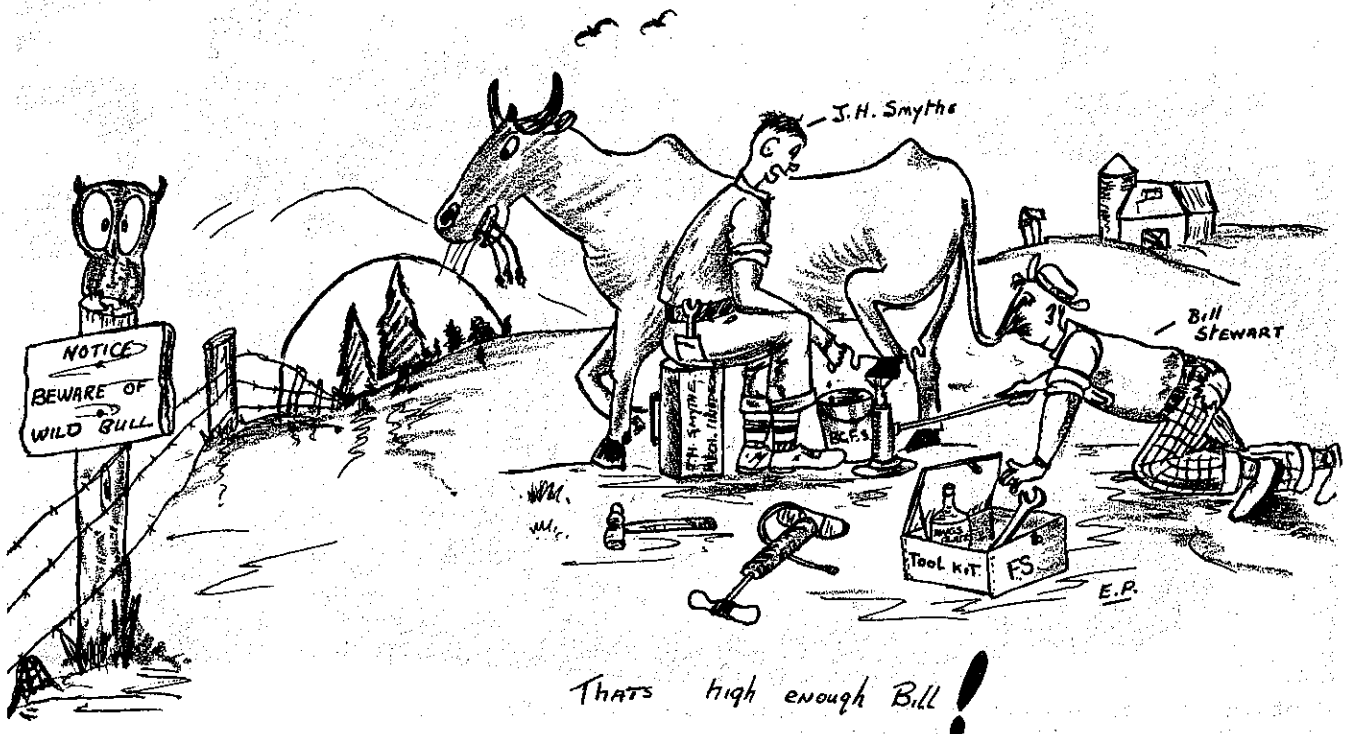
Their Royal Highnesses spent over an hour with us, and the kiddies had a memorable time in Riverside Park at the reception. Adding to the colour of the occasion were the Mounties, who were out in full ceremonial dress. In addition, Indian Chief Leonard and his squaw were there, feathers and all!

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The office requisitioned a rubber stamp for J.H. Smythe Mech. Insp. and we received this:

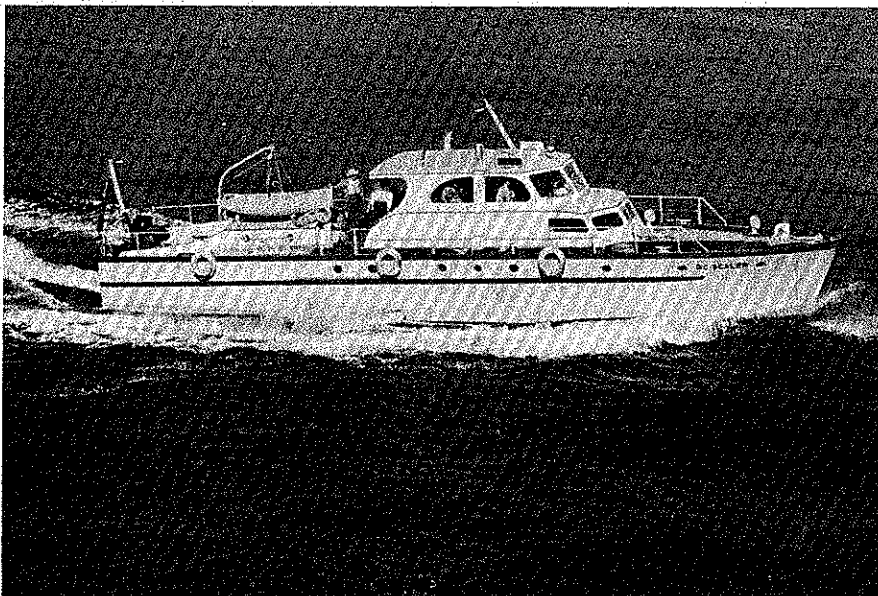
J. H. Smythe

Below is the picture story of same. MILK INSPECTOR



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VANCOUVER DISTRICT



The conversion of the "B.C. Scaler" is not complete and when opportunity permits this Fall or Winter the aft trunk cabin will be enlarged. The large bullet-proof, self-sealing gas tanks, which now take up most of the space in the cabin, will be removed and smaller tanks installed below floor level. Seats and tables, "restaurant style", will be built in the new cabin, as it has been found that this type of "booth accommodation" is the most suitable for the purpose for which this launch is used.

The "home port" of the vessel is at Fisherman's Cove, just north of Point Atkinson, from which port

it runs to the various booming grounds in Howe Sound. These are, Halkett Bay, Long Bay, Centre Bay, West Bay, Andy's Bay, Steamboat Rock, Cotton Bay, Shelter Bay, Anvil Island, and a few smaller tie-up grounds in the vicinity of Woolridge Island and the north end of Gambier Island.

Vancouver District (continued)



Captain and scalers aboard the new boat, "B.C. Scaler":

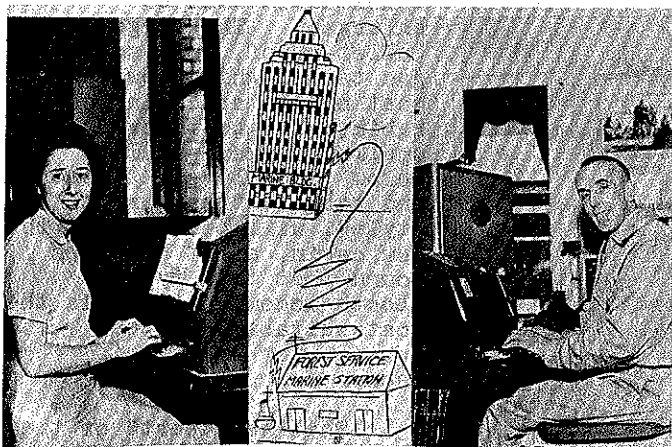
Front row - R.G. Nicol, A.G. MacDonald.

Second Row - C.L. Armstrong, Supervisor of Scalers; J.W. Alcock, G.L. Marriott, R.P. Robertson, F.B. Luck.

Third Row - J.N. McLeod, Captain; L.R. Craig, J.P. Leary, D.C. Weeks, Senior Scaler W.C. Deans, R.K. Miller.

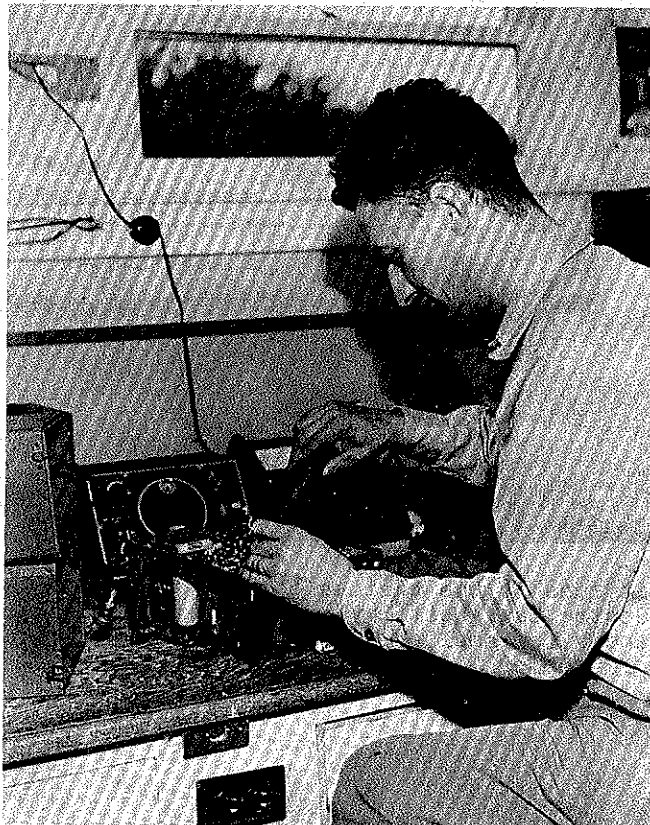
Fourth Row - A.J. LaFortune, G.W. Reynolds, G.D. Fox, Senior Scaler E.R. Townley, B.R. Flumerfelt, G.B. Shott, G.P. Monteith.

Since this photograph of the scalers was taken, Captain McLeod has left the Service. The launch is now in charge of Charlie Plant, who for many years was skipper - engineer on the "B.C. Forester."



For those who have wondered what that Scot with the rich accent on the radio looks like, we present the above picture of Alec Ferguson who not only handles the radio but also the new teletype machine at the Marine Station. Joan Goodhew is shown at the other machine in the Marine Building.

Right Frank Goertzen soldering radio chassis.



All photos in Vancouver District by Stan Phillips.

Vancouver District (continued)A Complicated Business

Dear Sir,

Writing you a few lines to ask you about the Timber Sale at Raza Island.

I like to get the claim also the Old Timber Sale at Redonda Island Jack Hanson is going take over, my son is going to take the Timber Sale the one I had at Redonda Island so if some body after the Timber Sale at Raza Island I put dollar more, I rais another dollar more, so if its O.K. send me the forms on your answer by next boat

En Early Reply will greatly oblige

Yours truly,

... ..

PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

By C.P. Lyons.



The famous philosopher Pluto Socradees (Greek) once made the profound statement, "It's the little wheels wot turns the big wheels, and the little wheels are always going a damned sight faster." This in itself should be sufficient reason for the complete elimination of the big wheels from the mechanisms of Government. However, this intriguing possibility was discussed with the oily wizards of the Nut & Bolt Division who pointed out that without these cumbersome restraining devices, the little wheels might "rev up" to such a pitch that Utopia would be upon us well before Christmas.

Rather than get involved with advanced mechanics or coping with Utopia so soon, we only intend to plot the twisting course of some of these "little wheels" during the past summer.

The "What-do-you-suppose-is-on-the-other-side-of-that-mountain?" Section is composed of Bob Ahrens, George Wood, Gordon Macnab and ably supported by Dennis Podmore in the office. In

their new suburban carryall they reeled like some drunken green ox over the length and breadth of B.C. Roadside attractions of both stationary and mobile varities were studied with equal zest in an endeavour to fully appraise the natural recreational resources of the areas. After completing the usual backlog of examinations, the explorers visited the Peace River, Chilcotin, and Hart Highway regions. Here the best sites were noted

and reserved for future recreational use of the populations building up in these districts. By pure chance a misguided moose crossed paths with them and is now spending the winter in Victoria as a guest of the Oak Bay Lockers.



In exploratory mood also were the team of Ray Lowrey and Bill Hepper who

thrilled the far north with news of their spectacular shipwreck and mid-nite swim in Lakelse Lake. At first there was some suspicion that it was in the nature of a publicity stunt to focus attention on the fact that they worked 20 hours of the day. The boys swear they were dumped by a horny old crocodile that was on its way to Lakelse Hot Springs to spend the winter.



Despite such perils, they managed to lay out a good number of home and commercial sites in the Crooked River and Babine Forests. Roadside inspections here and there and mountain lake examinations in the Nelson District finished out the season. Bill Hepper, staunch soul, stayed on at Prince Rupert to act as Recreational Officer for the District. Ray somehow found his way back to Victoria and is trying to accustom himself to

Parks and Recreation Division (continued)

wearing shoes again and finding a parking space each morning.



The "I-can-see-it-all-now" Section, replete with advanced theories and survey stakes, has stumbled hither and yon in zealous endeavours to make plans to end all plans. Don Macmurchie, Lloyd Brooks, and Wally Rolls, in single or double harness, have worked on Manning, Mt. Seymour, Cultus Lake, Stamp Falls and Miracle Beach Parks. Mike Pope* and Kaj Howe* have ably administered to special landscaping projects in Manning and Mt. Seymour Parks. (* Advt: See these two experts when planting your pansies next Spring.)

Somewhere in this intricate mechanism of turning wheels were "Mac" McGowan and "Chuck" Velay. With movements at times as delicate as hair springs and then in bursts of frenzy like a broken mainspring, they passed in and out of the scene. Mac was resident engineer on construction activity in Manning Park and Chuck handled the engineering on the Silver Star Road and the ski-tow installation at Mt. Seymour.

With the completion of the field season, these nomadic wheels are being re-assembled in their winter case, adjusted, oiled and should, with frequent windings, produce some timely findings before spring.

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FORT GEORGE DISTRICT

For the third year in a row, W.N. (Rusty) Campbell of the Public Relations & Education Division, is travelling the back roads and trails through this District to take the word and picture of resources-conservation to the school children of this part of the Province. During the winter this can be mighty cold work.

We've sometimes wondered how Rusty kept going without freezing solid. Now we think we know. The following two letters, picked at random from Rusty's "fan mail", are enough, we think, to keep anybody warm.

Dear Mr. Campbell,

Thank you for coming to show us the movie pictures.

The one about the three bears was the one I liked best. I was very excited when I saw them go in the kitchen. If it was my mother she would be mad.

We see bears around here but none of them are as cute and funny as Alec is. I hope you come and show us another movie picture soon.

Yours truly,
Tommy.

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Dear Mr. Campbell,

Tommy wrote a letter to you, so I am also sending to tell you how much everyone here enjoyed the pictures and your talk which, thank goodness, was not a "lecture".

Don't be long before coming again as it seems the only excitement here.

Yours truly,

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A recent advertisement in the Prince George Citizen read as follows:

"Young man, 28, with own home in Prince George, would like to meet lady between 22 and 28. Write Citizen, Box 118."

Except for the box number this is a perfect description of Mr. Claude Heggie of our office, although the rest of us in the office are a little puzzled as to why, with Claude's charm, he should need to advertise. Surely the man does not lack self-confidence.

... ..

MATCHED

On October 31, Mr. R.G. McKee, Forester-in-Charge of Operation, Victoria, presented Don Siegler with a set of Revere Ware (frying-pan and two saucepans) on the occasion of Don's marriage to Miss Elaine M. Sharpe.

After a brief honeymoon in the United States, Mr. & Mrs. Siegler returned to Victoria where they will reside.

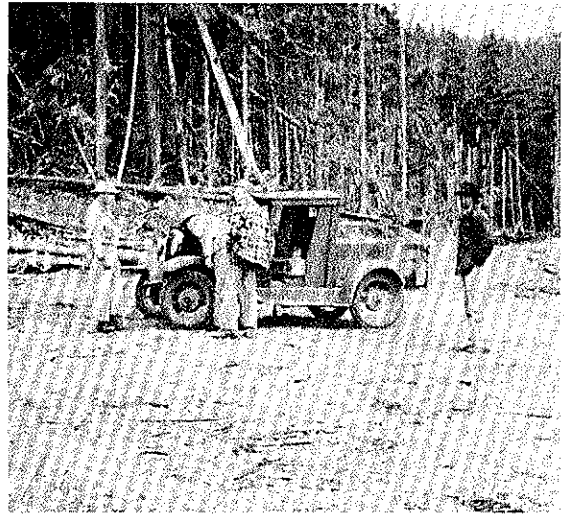
HATCHED

To David R. and Audrey Monk on Friday, November 9, a SON, George Charles Benning Monk, 9 lbs.

... ..

NEEDED - A MECHANICAL INSPECTOR

It has been rumoured abroad that District Forester Marc Gormely of Prince Rupert would like few things better than to have a Mechanical Inspector attached to his District for all purposes. Herewith is pictorial proof pointing up the need as it became manifest to the sharp eyes of the Newsletter on October 6 on the west side of Kanim Lake.



Picture No. 1 shows, from left to right, Cedric Telford, Chief Forester, Columbia Cellulose; W.G. (Wally) Hughes, Forest Management Licence Forester; S.H. (Sahib) Mahalaha, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Jabalpur, India; Marc Gormely, District Forester, Prince Rupert; at the wheel - Bev. Boulton, Prince Rupert Silviculturalist; and the centre of all the attention - "The Kanim Kannonball".

Picture No. 2 shows the same scene on the shore of Kanim Lake with the principals of the "cast" slightly re-arranged.

(Editor's Note: Silviculturalist Boulton finally got the "Kannonball" going after Chief Forester Telford suggested he might turn on the gas-cock under the dash-board).

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THE MASTHEAD STORY

On this issue we are again very pleased to use a pen-and-ink sketch by John Rogers of Nelson. This time it is of the very beautiful Whiteswan Lake, situated East of Canal Flats in the Nelson Forest District.

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A CENTURY

Just as a point of interest, we mention that with this issue, the Newsletter is 100 issues and over 16 years old. As successor to the old "Root And Branch" No. 1 Edition of the Forest Branch Newsletter, consisting of two mimeographed sheets, appeared on May 27, 1935. We don't know what the original circulation was but today we distribute approximately 1,100 copies of each edition with some of them going to Forestry Colleges and individuals half-way around the world.

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