



The First Paper-makers—Wasps.

FOREST BRANCH NEWS LETTER

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

No. 20

Victoria, B.C., October 18, 1937.

08581



Matching coins

Red letter days turn up occasionally for most of us, and for some whole communities.--George Melrose gets a particularly good movie shot, Kenny McCannel gets hold of a particularly uproarious story, the Chief sticks some uninitiated bird for a dinner matching coins, Fred Mulholland finds someone who will really argue with him--and Burns Lake and the Young Ranger Bands entertain His Excellency the Governor-General. The Young Rangers even initiate His Excellency into their Order.



The other guy enjoys his dinner.

The Young Rangers have figured in these pages before and you should be fairly well acquainted with them. Walter Wilson (Burns Lake) has made such an excellent job of reporting their activities on the occasion of the Governor-General's visit that we think it would be a mistake to try to condense it. Wilson's account follows verbatim.



INITIATION OF LORD TWEEDSMUIR, GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA INTO THE YOUNG RANGERS' BAND AND OPENING OF CABIN LODGE ON ISLAND.

Burns Lake, B.C.

August 14, 1937.

In the beginning. . . . A fire broke out near Palling, endangering valuable timber. Several lads from neighbouring homesteads picked up axe and shovel, made their way with all haste to the spot and had the fire well under control when the Forest Ranger arrived. Mr. W.C. Saunders of Palling was inspired by their action to form the boys and girls of that district into a "Young Ranger Band." Their motto became: "These are our Forests to defend against the fires of thoughtless men." A ritual was drawn up and the organization made a secret one somewhat on the lines of a "Lodge." This appealed to the youngsters who jealously guard their secrets revealing them to those only who are initiated. It was a splendid idea. To educate the young people to be forest conscious is in line with our school talks and is the solution of the forest fire problem. Everything possible has been done by the Forest Branch to further this movement. There has not been any merchantable timber burned in the

Burns Lake Ranger District in seven years, since the Young Ranger Band became established. Young Ranger Bands have been formed from Smithers to McBride.

In Burns Lake it was realized that we needed some outward symbol to impress the public and draw their co-operation. A mile from the village is a small island one acre in extent. At that time it was a veritable picture of the aftermath of a forest fire. Heavy windfall and burned logs were piled high in every direction, choking the young growth with which nature endeavours to cover up her scars. The idea was conceived of clearing this island and building a cabin on it for a lodge room, planting trees and flowers and making it the thing of beauty nature intended it to be.

On a certain fine day a boatload of happy, earnest young people landed on the only available spot where one could put foot on the soil of this jungle. With difficulty they clambered to the top to a bare rock which overlooks one of the most beautiful lake views imaginable. They formally claimed possession and began the work of clearing a trail, first of all, from the landing to the top. Week after week, weather permitting, they were taken down the lake by motor boat and the good work continued. In the winter the boys cut logs two miles further down the lake and with the help of interested grownups these were skidded out and loaded on a sleigh. The forestry truck was then hitched on in place of a team, the load pushed until under way, and then it was all aboard as the truck took up the slack and headed for the island. Here two Palling Young Rangers had brought their team and the logs were hauled to the high point of the island where they were piled ready for peeling. In this latter work the girls joined and it was a common question: Have you peeled your log yet? Honorary members were eager to be able to say, "I peeled a log for the cabin."

When summer came again more clearing went on, the picnics and bonfires in the evenings adding to the zest. At last the foundations of the cabin were laid. Skilled men were hired who built cement and rock piers on which the walls began to rise. Voluntary help was also given, the Young Rangers doing what they could. Money was raised in various ways by the youngsters to help pay expenses. The now-completed cabin stands firmly on secure foundations as we hope stand also the ideals of the Young Rangers.

One day Canon Hinchliffe, then Minister of Lands, paid a visit to Burns Lake. According to an account in the "Province" he was kidnapped and taken by boat to a lonely desert island where he was blindfolded, and put through many severe tests, after which he took the oath of the Young Rangers. So impressed was he with the ceremony and the serious way in which it was carried out, that, as he took my arm down the trail to the landing, he said: "As long as I live I shall never forget this ceremony." He asked if there was anything he could do to help the Young Rangers. I suggested that the Young Rangers should be given the rights of possession to the island. The result was that the island was created a provincial park and became the property of the Young Ranger Bands for as long as they are a live organization.

With renewed zest the work was continued. Today the little acre is a beauty spot where people go frequently for picnics and where the Young Rangers hold their meetings and initiations whenever weather permits. The Forest Branch has backed the movement and given every encouragement to those who have taken charge of Young Ranger Bands and helped to keep the youngsters interested in the work. Boys and girls are admitted to membership; men and women to honorary membership.

The Honourable A. Wells Gray, Minister of Lands, was initiated into the Band in May. In his speech to the Young Rangers he said he hoped they would have the privilege of initiating the Governor-General

of Canada during his visit to Tweedsmuir Park in the summer. This was taken up and Lord Tweedsmuir expressed his willingness to be initiated and to open the Lodge. It was planned that the initiation ceremony should be carried out on the island. Finishing touches were put to the cabin, space was cleared for the ceremony, boat landings made suitable for the occasion and every possible detail planned. As the big day drew near the weather broke and many a prayer was sent up for a fine day on Saturday, August 14th, the Day.

Although our Young Rangers know their ritual fairly well, it was necessary to rehearse constantly to attain perfection. We wanted to have as many Young Rangers as possible take part in the actual ceremony, and word was sent out to all Bands to try to send delegates. The Forest Branch arranged transportation for those who could come. A camp was set up on the lakeshore and Patrolman R.G. Minger took charge of the kitchen. The first contingent, from McBride, arrived on Thursday night, accompanied by their Honorary Chief, the Rev. E. Reader. Ranger J. Frost of Vanderhoof brought his contingent on Friday, and Ranger I. Martin of Smithers arrived also on that day. Heavy rains continued, and on Friday the Community Hall was prepared as an alternative.

The acting Officers were chosen from the Burns Lake, McBride and Palling Bands and Friday was spent in rehearsing these youngsters in the final arrangements. Many important visitors were already on the scene and all who expressed a wish to join were initiated as Honorary Members. In most cases the candidate was addressed as "Your Excellency" for practice. One and all entered into the spirit of the moment and thanks are due those who took such an interest in the work. Mr. R.S. Steele of Fraser Lake repeated the oath with such beautiful diction that the Officer whose duty it was to administer it remarked upon this and tried to copy him.

It was not, however, all work and no play. Mr. Thomas Trapp of New Westminster expressed his willingness to be given the "works." The McBride Officers, who had come prepared to fill in wherever necessary, were given the privilege of initiating Mr. Trapp. In front of a fair gathering of Young Rangers and Honorary Members, he was pounced upon, stripped of shoes and socks, blindfolded and put through many terrifying experiences while walking over a floor strewn with hard, hard beans. He bore up splendidly under the strain and even paid for the experience with a handsome donation for the purpose of buying a memento for each of the officers taking part in the initiation of the Governor-General.

Saturday dawned without any ray of hope for a fine day. By 8.00 a.m. all Directors and Officers were at the hall. Young Rangers were arriving every few minutes. The train bearing the august party was five hours late. Word was given out that all proceedings would be postponed until the afternoon, 3.45 p.m. being the time set for the arrival at the hall. At 3.00 p.m. Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir stepped off the train with their attendants and were greeted by the civic dignitaries. The local ex-service men were then presented. They then walked to the hospital, the rain having mercifully ceased for a brief moment. At 3.30 p.m. the Governor-General mounted the steps of the hall accompanied by the Rev. F. Bushfield, who introduced me in order that I might present the Young Ranger Chiefs who were lined up waiting to conduct Their Excellencies to their seats. The great moment had now arrived, doors were locked and a hush descended on the assembly as Chief Willis Trousdell of the Burns Lake Band announced: "We will open our meeting by singing, O, Canada." It was sung with intense feeling. The atmosphere was vibrant. The Lord's Prayer followed and the initiation ceremony began.

"Your Excellency, is it your desire to become an Honorary Member of our Band?"

In a clear voice the answer came, "It is."

"Honourable Pine Tree, remove the candidate." The Chief Ranger had spoken in a calm voice that could be heard clearly all over the hall. Not a sign of hesitancy or nervousness.

At the command, Irene Taylor, fourteen-year-old Inner Guard, stepped forward, placed her hand on His Excellency's arm and led him the length of the hall to a private room at the end. A smile crept over the faces of some of his party as they saw him pass so meekly by.

In the pause that followed not a sound was heard. At last a knock from the inner room answered by the Inner Guard, who, stepping forward to the altar at the centre of the hall, gave the Young Ranger salute and said in a clear voice:

"Honourable Fir Tree, there is a stranger at the border of our forest who wishes to enter."

The ceremony continued, the stranger was led to the altar and the Young Rangers' oath was administered.

"I swear that I will never set a fire in the forest without taking adequate precautions for safety, nor will I allow anyone else to do so if it is in my power to prevent it, and I will see that any fire so kindled is completely extinguished before I leave.

I will ever be on guard for the forests and ever ready to go to their protection if it is in my power to do so, and I pledge myself, as one who values honour and truth, to keep this solemn vow."

Then followed: "As the trees were, you will now be laid low".... His Excellency sank to his knees while the Outer Guard solemnly intoned: "These are our forests to defend against the fires of thoughtless men."

The Inner Guard then raised him with the words: "Fear not, Brother, in the sacred trust of our order, YOU LIVE, and we now raise you by the hand of fellowship, believing that you will be faithful to our Band, our trust, and all that we stand for."

The candidate was then taken to the Chief Ranger on whose desk lay a burnt log.

"Look, that poor charred, burned stick is all that is left of a beautiful tree which took over a hundred years to grow into its beauty.....Is it any wonder we demand such a solemn oath?"

He was finally led to the anteroom by the Officers where the secrets of the Band and the password were given.

On his return His Excellency signed the record and was led this time to a seat at the right hand of the Chief Ranger who then introduced him to all members of the Band:

"Young Rangers, I present to you His Excellency, Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada, who is now one of us. "

At this point, Chief Ranger Donald MacDonell of McBride came forward and welcomed His Excellency, pinning on him a Young Ranger Badge.

Chief Ranger Ferne Jensen of the Burns Lake Band then stepped forward and said: "It is the desire of all the Young Rangers present that an Honorary Membership be conferred upon Lady Tweedsmuir. Your Excellency, are you willing to accept this Honorary Membership?" Her Excellency agreed. "I have much pleasure in decorating you with this symbol of membership in our Band and we give you the hand of fellowship and welcome you to our forests." She was then presented with a bouquet of flowers.

In speaking, Lady Tweedsmuir said: "I am glad to be admitted to your Band because I love trees and hate to think of them being destroyed."

Another visiting Ranger then read a short history of the Bands and of the island and cabin, a copy of which she presented to Lord Tweedsmuir.

The Chief Ranger now resigned his chair to His Excellency who, in a few apt words, expressed his pleasure at being admitted to the Young Ranger Band, and his appreciation of the work they are doing in protecting the forests. He then declared the island and cabin formally open. Handing back the gavel to the Chief Ranger he resumed his former place.

Mr. W.C. Saunders, founder of the Band, pronounced His Excellency Grand Honorary Chief Ranger of the British Columbia Young Ranger Bands. All Young Rangers present stood and gave the Grand Salute.

In closing the Chief Ranger asked everyone to give the Young Ranger salute, explaining that it represents the uplifted branches of a tree by raising the hands above the head. All repeated the Young Rangers' Motto:

"These are our forests to defend
Against the fires of thoughtless men."

The ceremony concluded by singing "God save the King."

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF YOUNG RANGER BANDS.

There being now so many Young Ranger Bands, with reasonable expectation of more being formed, it seemed necessary to have a governing body that would regulate all matters of importance, inaugurate new Bands, keep the Bands in line and arrange interchange of ideas between Bands. A meeting of Young Ranger Chiefs was called before they dispersed after the Young Ranger ceremony and an Executive Council was formed. This consists of W.C. Saunders, as Executive Chief Ranger; Rev. E. Reader as Asst. Executive Chief and Chaplain; Mrs. W. Wilson, Executive Secretary Treasurer. Other Executive Officers consist of one elected Chief Ranger, boy and (or) girl from each District to be known as District Executive Ranger. This council will meet once a year after a yearly District meeting.

Others initiated at the time of the Governor-General's visit:

M.M. Connelly, M.L.A.	Mrs. M.M. Connelly	E.F. Kenney, M.L.A.
Louis Le Bourdais, M.L.A.	Col. W.J.H. Holmes	Mrs. J.K. Frost
Mr. & Mrs. R.S. Steele	Miss P.J. Smith	Miss M.F. Eyre
Rev. F. Bushfield	Dr. S.G. MacEwan	H.J. Sullivan, K.C.
Thos. P. Trapp, Esq.	I.W. Smith, Esq.	A.M. Ruddy, Esq.
E.T. Bennett, Esq.		

Everyone expressed appreciation of the manner in which the Young Rangers conducted the initiation of the Governor-General and also of the objectives of the Band as shown by this initiation ceremony. The Governor-General's party at Intata Lake seems to have been very enthusiastic, the Young Ranger salute being given on every possible occasion. When Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir left the camp, those who had been initiated formed a guard of honour to the plane and gave the Young Ranger salute.



Radio experimentation and practice this year have been proving most satisfactory. Three lookouts have been equipped with sets and we have yet to hear of a failure, while tests from proposed lookouts and on the Interior lakes have been almost entirely successful. It would seem that we may look forward with confidence to expanding use of radio for all forms of forest communications.

Radio, of course, is an old story in the Vancouver District. It has been used there for communication between the District office and the up-Coast stations and launches for upwards of fifteen years. Some of our men in the Interior have experimented with radio for years, notably Lowry, the

pioneer, Marling, and Ott. Lowry, we believe, had the first system where he used to talk between office at McBride and home. Later, when transferred to Pouce Coupe, he and Marling developed a working set that kept Prince George connected direct with that outlying place. Marling developed the first lookout set that operated between Prince George and Pilot Mountain with success. Ott has built short-wave sets that work perfectly between Nakusp and Saddle Mountain.

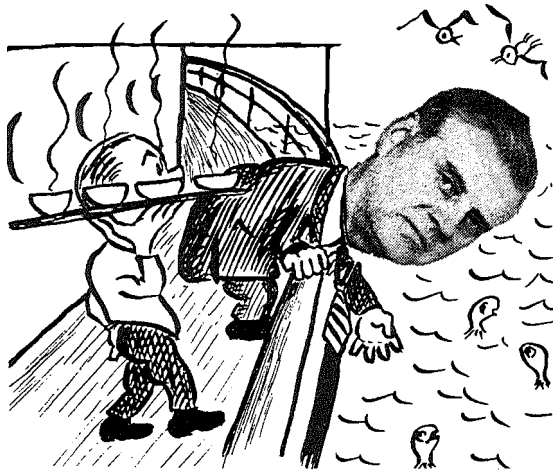
For some years the U.S. Forest Service has been developing radio for their communication services and within the past two or three years have reached the point where it has become a successful and important part of their organization. Since their conditions for some distance south of the line are very similar to ours, it was logical to look into their system and set-up. Consequently Playfair was sent to Portland for a couple of weeks to study their sets and methods. the SPF portable set of the U.S. Forest Service was recommended for our lookouts and for experimental use and ten of them were bought.

When these sets arrived Playfair installed one pair to operate from Mt. Shepherd on Texada Island to Sechelt. He then went to the Kamloops District and put in a pair between Baldy Mt., close to the International Boundary, and Penticton. These worked satisfactorily in spite of local interference. Contact was also made with the U.S. system of lookouts through their radio system, and we now get better co-operation from them.

Tests were made between Dome Mt., in the Prince George District, and Dome Creek which proved that satisfactory service could be maintained on this proposed lookout. However, as no provision was made for a lookoutman the set was put on Pilot Mt., replacing Marling's old set. It has been giving excellent service.

After setting up the established lookouts Playfair has been making experimental tests all over the Interior. One interesting set-up was at Arrowhead where a four-way conversation was carried on between that point, Nakusp, Penticton and Baldy Mt.

Results so far indicate many possible uses for radio in general administration as well as protection, but in the latter connection it is successful for lookouts and most promising along other lines. We are looking forward to Playfair's final report.



An interesting and instructive trip around Vancouver Island aboard the Vancouver headquarters launch "P.Z. Caverhill" in company with District Forester St. Clair was made by E.B. Prowd early in August. The trip took them up the West Coast and down the inside waters, visiting all major operations in the various inlets. All signs point to an era of extensive logging activity on the rim of the Pacific. Port Renfrew, Nitinat, Alberni, Esperanza, Kyuquot, and Quatsino are all humming with activity and present the problem of extended field staff to cope with the supervision required.

The new mill of the Nootka Wood Products Company on Esperanza Inlet is nearing completion. Interesting features are the producer-gas power plant (1,200 H.P.) generating electricity for individual machine motors, and installation of

Swedish gang saws. Capacity is estimated at 175 M. per shift.

The Port Alice plant of the B.C. Pulp & Paper Company has plans to double present output of bleached sulphite pulp.

On the inside waters one is impressed with the number of small operations cleaning up the remnants of prior logging in the fir belt. This feature is even more pronounced in the fir stands of Vancouver Island, particularly the lower Cowichan Valley.

To those who view rounding Cape Scott in a small boat with some trepidation it may be recorded that "Bob" St. Clair performed the feat of shaving en route, which speaks for itself. The navigation of Skipper "Spike" Alexander through the rock-strewn channels of the West Coast would leave nothing to be desired in the mind of the most timid landlubber.



FRANK PYM (Supervisor, Cranbrook). Born in Cheshire, England. At the tender age of 12 was sent to school in France, and after two years' intensive study of the French language became extremely proficient in swearing in that expressive tongue. On returning to England continued education at Sherborne School and Birmingham University. The studies at the latter seat of learning lasted one year and were rather more outside the lecture room than in it, and hardly of an academic nature.

Served apprenticeship in the railway shops of the L.N.W. at Crewe, leaving there to work as draughtsman in the firm of Henry Simon Manchester, makers of flour-milling machinery.

Got itchy feet and came to Canada in 1908. Chainman, rodman, transitman C.P.R. Maintenance of way. In 1911 homesteaded, and with the help of 4 oxen, 1 Swede, 1 Norwegian, 1 German and a Chinese cook endeavoured to earn a livelihood from the East Kootenay gravel. In 1912 joined the

C.P.R. Forest Service as transitman, etc., also fire ranger and packer, the last job necessitating a stern check on a tendency to refer to the "long-faced" friend of man in some of the less elegant terms of the packers' patois. In 1917 joined the B.C. Forest Service. In the formative period a pronounced extrovert, now entering the sere and yellow leaf a confirmed introvert.

Hobbies: Model-making when he has the time, and indulging in a Scottish sport known as "tasting" when he has the price and the company proves congenial.



This Ranger and Patrol business is a heck of a life. If you're not full of wood ticks, or one of Pym's long-faced friends isn't walking on your feet a bread pudding has to explode in your face. According to the "Forest Log" (Oregon State Board of Forestry), one Alfred Hastings, lookout on Cedar Butte "suffered severe facial burns when a bread pudding backfired on him. Hastings placed the pudding in a tightly-covered can in the oven. Later when the oven was opened the lid blew off, throwing part of the boiling pudding into his face."

We are asked to correct our recent story that the C.P.R. boat "Princess Royal" was burned on an F.B. permit. Like Mark Twain's death, our report is said to be somewhat exaggerated. We are told now it was the old "Charmer" that was burned.

"Gil" finishes his notes on printing with this letter. These two instalments look simple enough but we have a notion, nevertheless, that they represent a few kilos of midnight juice.

So far as we can judge from incomplete reports the 1937 fire season was one of the most favourable in the history of the Branch. The Fund should show a substantial credit balance on the current year's operations and fire occurrence, damage, and costs are all well below the average.

The usual correspondence courses will be available again this year. Subjects are listed below. The rules should be common knowledge by now--one man, one course, application to be made to the District Forester. The course on the Forest Act is being revised and brought up to date and the first few lessons may be delayed a little on that account. The other courses are all complete and ready for use. No other announcement will be made of these courses this year. If you want to take advantage of one of them send your application promptly to the District office.

Surveying	Forest Act	Phone-line construction	Scaling	Operation	Management
Arithmetic	Typewriting	Stumpage appraisals	Grazing		

Bill Lowry (Pouce Coupe) is in Victoria undergoing treatment for eye trouble.

Walton Sharpe (Hazelton) recently resigned after some seventeen years with the Service.

The various field parties are drifting back to Victoria with the close of the summer field season. Jerry Andrews is in. McBride is expected daily; also McMullen and McBean. The Y.M.F.T.P. has folded up and Kenny McCannel, et al, are busy putting it away to hibernate for the winter. We hope it will wake up strong and full of pep next spring.

Meet Mr. Wadsworth and Mr. Bowtham, who in real (I did not say reel) life are Waddington and Botham. Maybe an alias is necessary or at least useful in the north, for we cannot doubt the accuracy of the Press.

(From a newspaper clipping)--MOVING PICTURE SHOW ENJOYED AT KITZEGUKLA.

"KITZEGUKLA, Sept. 28--On Tuesday night the inhabitants were given a very pleasant surprise when Mr. Wadsworth, assisted by Mr. Bowtham of the forestry department, gave a moving picture show. About seven films were displayed covering such subjects as the wool industry in British Columbia, the Coronation of George VI and Queen Elizabeth; as well as a comic. There were, of course, pictures dealing with fire prevention. Everybody was delighted with the entertainment. Hope was expressed Mr. Wadsworth will soon pay another visit."

Incidentally this clipping raises a disquieting thought. Are we really getting forest protection across in our publicity work, lectures, pictures, advertising, etc., or are we displaying "such subjects as the Wool industry" but throwing in "of course pictures dealing with fire prevention"? We hasten to add that this thought is no criticism of "Mr. Wadsworth." It is a matter of general policy on which we would be glad to have some comments.

Young Men's Camps - (Kamloops)

We were sorry we were unable to get permits to shoot game for some of the camps when the cooler weather came but fortunately one of the boys in an outlying camp had to shoot a bear in SELF DEFENCE and the subsequent meals were very much enjoyed.

Speaking of bears, the education of a certain Ranger Assistant in the ways of the wilds has progressed rapidly. While he was out with a Patrolman a bear attempted to make himself at home round their camp. They endeavoured to drive him away by throwing rocks at him but he only climbed a tree. They thought it would be a good lesson to bruin to cut the tree down and so give him a good scare. The Patrolman, a man of the woods and wise in the ways of the wilds, suggested he should take a long pole and keep the bear up while the Ranger Assistant cut down the tree. This worked fine for the start, then after bruin had made several attempts to climb down, only to be prodded back up, he advertised in no uncertain terms to the enthusiastic wielder of the axe that the frontal attack is not the only method of defence employed by his kind, and after the sadder and wiser Ranger Assistant, who is noted for his mild expressions and lack of strong language, had spent much time in the cold waters of Downie Creek attempting to rid himself and his clothes of the result, he was heard to remark, "He was the most aggravating bear I have ever met."

We are sorry the camps have closed as we shall miss the quartet in K2--the feeling of harmony was always great, the rendering being only a little off-key.

The shower baths provided at some of the camps were voted a great success. At one of them the foreman remarked, "Here I've been on my ranch for 20 years and never had a bath."

After the changes in personnel at K4 the boys, who until then had been very apathetic regarding sports, took on a new lease of life, even to challenging the local ball champions to a game. Probably if we can start this earlier next year we can get some keen rivalry.

Some of the mighty in the land have condescended to partake of our humble fare in the various camps and have expressed themselves as very well pleased with it and the condition in which the camps were kept. One camp was outstanding in table decoration provided by the foreman. His gladioli especially drew many favourable comments and were the envy of all who saw them.

Fishing was good at Hyas Lake and if we could use the road we built we would be well away.

It's a good thing cooks quit once in a while as it shows what talent we have amongst the boys in that line which would not otherwise find expression.

For some time there has been a controversy regarding the amount of work done by the personnel in the District Offices and Ranger Offices. Until recently we have not been able to get any data on this. Now, however, we have direct evidence in the way J. Wood has fattened up since being in the District Office. Joss says he will soon have to go back to the Ranger Office so he can get down to normal.

We are all very sorry to hear of the loss by death last year of our genial District Forester, Mr. Haddon. In fact it came as a sad surprise to all of us. The one who seems to get the most kick out of it is Charlie himself.

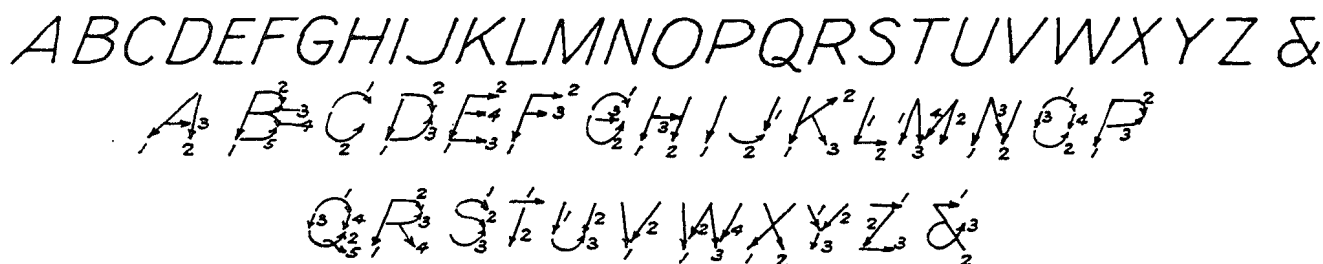
We know our information on this subject must be correct as Mrs. Haddon has received a very sympathetic letter from a firm of tombstone dealers, tendering their regrets at the sad passing of Mr. Haddon, and trusting they may have the honour of erecting a suitable memorial over his remains.

Extract from List of Publications Received in the Forest Branch
Library, August 23 to October 4, 1937.

- .1412 On Wind Strength and Wind Protection in Forests - J. Schubert.
Trans. No. 57 - from German.
- .25 Afforestation of the Coast and Dunes of Flanders - P. Bortier -
Trans. No. 58 - from the French.
- .7182 Summary of Stand and Increment - Alberta.
- .01 International Bibliography for Forestry - 1936 - U.S. of America.
- .31 Principles of Forest-Fire Detection on the National Forests of
Northern California - S.B. Shaw & E.I. Kotok.
- .0 The Role of the Forest in Raising the Yield of Farmland - Prof. G.N.
Vyssotsky - Translated from the Russian.
- .2525 Measuring Soil Moisture Content in the Forest Nursery -
J.H. Stoeckeler.
- .1413 Comparison of Various Chemical Quick Tests on Different Soils - M.S.
Anderson & W.M. Noble.
- .31 Rating Forest Fire Danger.
- .05 Fire Control Notes - Sept., 1937.
- .03 Poison Ivy.
Plants Responsible for Hay Fever.
Forest Research in France.
- .31 Relation of Byram Haze Meter Reading to Safe Visibility Distance of a
Small Smoke.
Forecasting Weather and Forest-Fire Hazard from Local Observations.
- .05 Monthly List of Publications - U.S. Dept. of Agriculture - Aug. 1937.

A PRIMER - continued

Before delineating a few simple rules for the construction of "Vertical Letters", as promised in the July 12th issue of the News Letter, it may be advisable to insert here the inclined upper-case (capitals) alphabet:



It will be noted that the construction strokes for the formation of upper-case letters is, in general, the same as for lower-case; a slight increase in their number, i.e., a subdivision being advised. This is recommended as an offset to any tendency toward muscular cramp.

SEDULOUSLY AVOID ANY TENDENCY TOWARD MUSCULAR CRAMP - DON'T TRY TO OVER-REACH.

VERTICAL LETTERS

"I just can't make vertical letters."

How many times have we heard this remark? Strange, but true, many competent draughtsmen find difficulty in forming vertical letters.

For years I found it practically impossible. Try as I would I could not get the desired uniformity necessary to give the balanced appearance so vital to good printing. My output of would-be vertical letters closely resembled a modernistic caricaturist's conception of the 11 o'clock Saturday night exodus from a waterfront throat-ease parlor. Eventually, by the cut and try method, I solved my difficulty thus; diagrammatically:

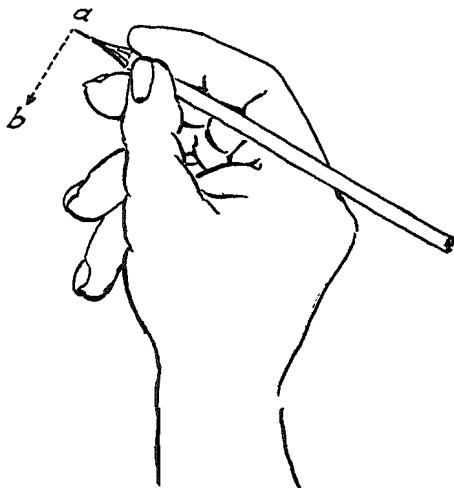


FIG. 1A

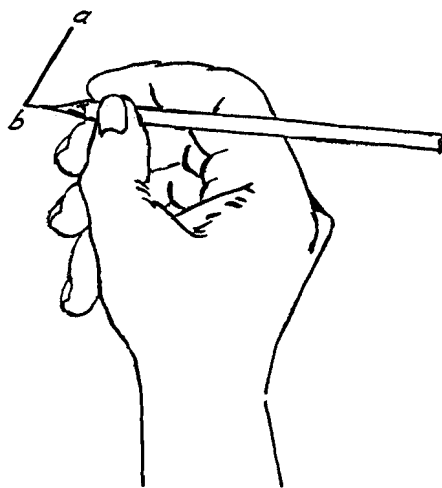


FIG. 1B

In Fig. 1A please note the relaxed position of the hand; it is at rest. The pencil lies easily just in front of the first knuckle-joint of the second finger and is held from slipping by just a slight pressure from the cushion of the thumb and first finger; as is now taught in our public schools (MacLean's System).

In lettering, however, the forearm, heel of hand, the third and fourth fingers are relatively anchored, i.e., held comfortably (not rigidly) on the table. Practically all up and down movement is done from the first and second joints of the first and second fingers and all three thumb joints. Any appreciable movement (up and down) of the balance of the hand upsets the gauge (height) of the letters and, unless the student is well advanced, the tendency to waver and vary in pitch (incline) is almost bound to occur.

When placing the hand in position for lettering, do so by locating point of pencil at or about the top of the stroke, Fig. 1A, the point lying on or directly over (a); now, with forearm, etc., as described in the foregoing paragraph, draw the course a-b, the hand will now be in position shown in Fig. 1B, i.e., the length of course a-b is terminated when the second finger contact the third, the end of the anchor. The maximum length of a-b is governed by the distance from the pencil point to the grip (the point where the pencil is held by fingers and thumb). For general lettering I suggest the grip should be about 1 inch from the point; this will give a safe maximum length of stroke of from 1"-1½", depending upon the agility of the student. In this phase it is difficult to set a fixed rule but I'm reasonably certain practice will bear out my contention with the majority.

Figures 1A and 1B are shown by making an inclined stroke. "When do we get our vertical strokes?" Just hold everything a moment or so longer, we'll get there presently.

As we have digressed--ten minutes off for a smoke, i.e., if the BOSS is out--let's amuse ourselves by making the odd comment as to the position of the sheet on the table and the relation of the forearm to the sheet. In doing so I'm fully aware that I'm leaving myself open to severe criticism from the orthodox school. That's O.K. by me. I've associated with foresters and their ilk so long that I've developed a case of chronic hardboileditis. Results are usually what count and be damned to the method of obtaining them.

By consulting any illustrated text-book on the subject you will find the sheet thumb-tacked to and parallel with the board. That is perfectly in order when the majority of the lines are either horizontal or vertical. We are mapping. Our lines are running every which way, our lettering likewise, hence, unless we are ex-professional contortionists, we're up against it if we try to twist our bodies into the hundred and one positions necessary to conform to good MAPPING LETTERING, CONTOURS, etc. Therefore, why not discard our thumbtacks whenever possible, place our sheet this way or that in place of trying to imitate a spectacular billiard player?

If you agree with me, then I'd say, place your sheet in such a position as would permit you to write--not print--comfortably, just as if you were going to write a letter or other manuscript. Assuming that you are right-handed, by doing so it will be found that the sheet will be some 30 degrees to the left; the forearm now lies comfortably and naturally more or less parallel to its centerline.

Now try your inclined letters and see how readily they fall in place. Sure! Nothing to it.

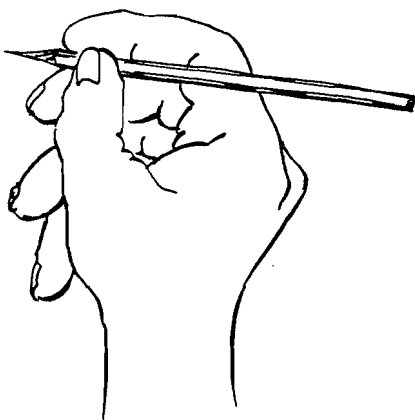
"But you haven't shown us how to make vertical letters easily."

That's right! I haven't well--here you are. Let us assume that you are practicing inclined letters on a sheet held in the position as described in the foregoing comment. Without moving the position of your lettering hand or arm--other than to raise it sufficiently to permit of rotating the sheet--rotate the sheet until it is more or less parallel with the board, i.e., 30 degrees, more or less, to the right. Now try making your strokes as before. They come very nearly being perpendicular, do they not?

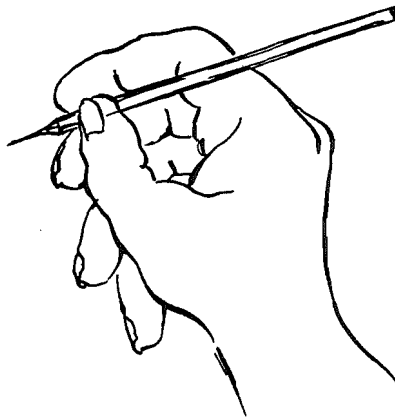
In cases where the sheet cannot be rotated, try shifting the mean centerline of your forearm, etc., using the heel of the hand as a pivot, an angle left equivalent to the angle of inclination of your inclined letters (See Fig. 2). It may help too to hold the pencil slightly more perpendicular, i.e., the top more to the left and from you and at the same time rotate the hand slightly to the left, bringing it flatter to the board.

"Aw hell! Is that all there is to it?"

Sorry to disappoint you friends; that's the works. From there on it's up to you. Go to it. PRACTISE!



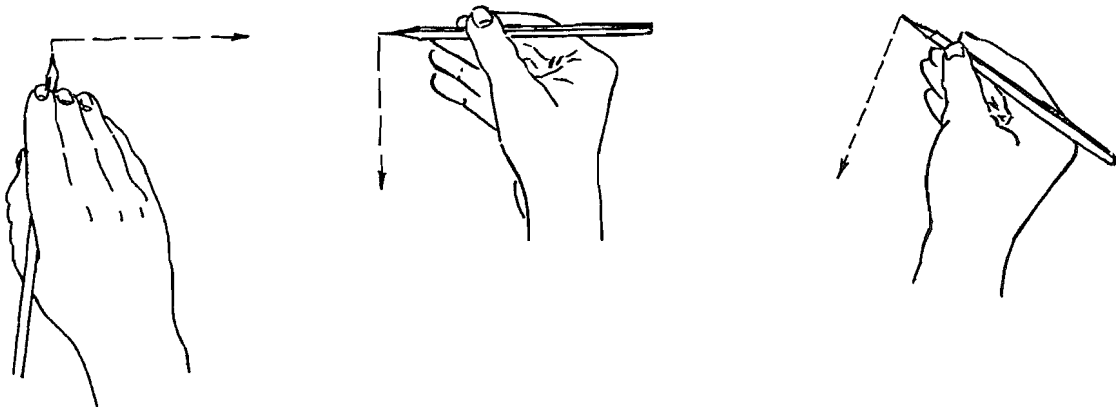
BEFORE SHIFTING



AFTER SHIFTING

FIG 2

Before bidding you a final farewell I'm giving you three positions which are self-explanatory. They may be of interest to some of you. In all three cases the forearm, wrist, etc., are RIGID and, as a unit, moved in the direction indicated by the arrows.



INDEFINITE LINES

In conclusion I refer you to Fig. 1(a) of the July 12th News Letter--there you have the basic strokes for your vertical letters. Any supplementary strokes you can easily adapt from those given in the inclined letters text.

Should you wish to go farther in this field, i.e., to more elaborate letters, I cannot recommend any text in particular; there are so many. I might suggest that a close watch be kept on popular advertising matter (Saturday Evening Post, for example), as the major portion of the better-class advertisements are hand work. Movie titles and sub-titles make good subjects for study--they suggest the endless adaptations to which letter may be subjected; but remember this:

YOU'LL NEVER MASTER EMBELLISHED LETTERS UNTIL YOU HAVE TAUGHT THE SIMPLE ONES TO
JUMP THROUGH THE HOOP AT YOUR BIDDING.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU.

"Gil"
