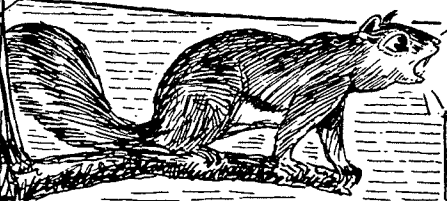


THE FOREST BRANCH NEWSLETTER



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

NO. 54.

VICTORIA, B. C., October 25, 1944.

08581.

When you are asked, as we were, to look after the next Newsletter you will realize why our good old head office in Victoria gets a headache when they find a lot of "Readers who write not." We have assembled what we believe are interesting articles but they are nearly all from our own Nelson Forest District. Apparently, and we hope we are wrong, the other Forest Districts are saving their data for their own issues. We hereby promise and swear to henceforth keep current news items rolling to the Newsletter every issue. We hope you find items of interest in this issue. News of those in uniform, both where they are and how they are, is always interesting.

As this appears primarily a Nelson Forest District Newsletter, through no fault of our own, we are going to give you a few pointers on this same fine District.

The District covers the south eastern portion of the Province, bordering Alberta or the Rocky Mountain National Parks from about midway between Banff and Jasper south to the U. S. Border and then west along the 49th to within a few miles of the Okanagan River. Our eleven Ranger headquarters are the following, and don't let anyone tell you they aren't about twice as big as they should be, and we are talking about work involved, not only acreage;—Golden, Invermere, Fernie, Cranbrook, Creston, Kaslo, Nelson, New Denver, Nakusp, Rossland and Grand Forks.

Our problems here are similar in most respects to other Districts. We could boast about certain phases of our work but sure enough some other District would slap us down for something else, so we will merely mention that since Pearl Harbour we have fallen heir to an appreciable number of Japanese, so add this to our Doukhobor problem and you really have something. Each of the above groups appear more in the logging camps and mills each month, so coupled with their ability to raise large families the problems of this District can be seen to be on the increase rather than decrease.

We have just finished reading "Burning an Empire"; we got it from the Forest Branch Library in Victoria, and one thought is outstanding in this history of the large forest fires on the North American Continent during the past 100 or more years, and that is that the largest and worst fires generally seem to have been rampant during September and October. We thought the curtain fell on the serious fires shortly after Labour Day, but I guess we were wrong. With the kind of September weather we have been having up to the time this is written, and knowing how fires can run in twenty minutes these days, we are still very much on our toes here.

We hope this Newsletter will prove an incentive for other Districts to show us up and our only apology is that we have not received more news items from these same Districts so that their boys in uniform would be better posted.

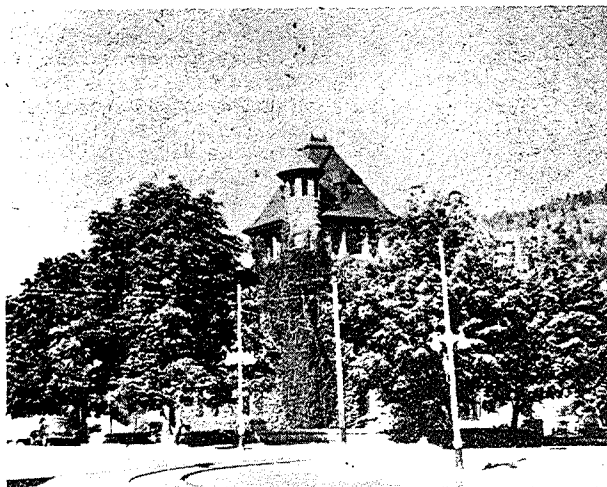
We would like you to note that our own John Rogers designed the heading and did the cartooning for this issue.

Court House, Nelson

As we said above, we are proud of our Nelson Forest District and so are including a picture of the Court House, Nelson, where the District staff make headquarters. Granted there are a number of trees in the way but that's the way we like it.



Ranger Meeting, Nelson Forest District, early April 1944.



Court House, Nelson.

Left to Right: Ranger James A. MacDonald, Creston; Assistant District Forester K. C. McCannel, Acting Ranger G. T. Robinson, Kaslo; Assistant Forester S. E. Marling, Victoria; Acting Ranger J. H. A. Applewhaite, Invermere; Chief Clerk S. S. Simpson, Ranger H. C. Nichols, Rossland; Ranger G. C. Palethorpe, New Denver; Assistant Forester W. C. Phillips, Ranger G. T. Schupe, Nelson; Acting Ranger H. J. Holmberg, Grand Forks; Fire Inspector P. Young, District Forester R. E. Allen, Assistant Forester W. Holmgren, Ranger R. Cameron, Fernie; Acting Ranger L. S. Ott, Nakusp; Supervisor F. H. Pym, Cranbrook; Assistant Forester L. S. Hope, Ranger H. J. Coles, Golden; Supervisor T. W. Brewer.

We had a letter the other day from one of the boys asking as to the possibilities of employment after the war, for, having been in uniform for several years and having found the lady of his choice he was thinking of the future and presumably wanted a few words of encouragement prior to making the final leap from single blessedness. No doubt many others in uniform at the present time are wondering the same and the following is only the expressed opinion of one member of the Service and, therefore, it carries no weight as regards promises.

Forestry in all its phases will offer a wonderful opportunity for employment after the war and British Columbia is very fortunate in this respect. We all day-dream a bit as regards what we will do when the war is over and the following notes are meant merely to encourage those in the Services who will be returning to us, and we

hope soon, and to point out some angles of forestry which show possibilities of development after the war. Of course such development hinges on the funds available to undertake it. Enough said about that.

Canada has been asked to provide most of the material for Britain's immediate postwar emergency housing programme, calling for five hundred thousand homes. Robot damage in London alone will likely increase the figure. This, plus the probable demand for lumber in the Pacific and in the U. S. as well as our own Canada, should indicate a possibility of sustained production which means employment not only in logging camps and mills but in dependent industries. Indications are that further manufacture of lumber prior to export will be undertaken in the Province than was the case prior to the war.

The Rangers have much more work to do than one man can possibly undertake. Supervision of methods of cutting and resultant slash disposal may require further Forest Branch personnel. Improvement and construction of Forest Branch roads and trails will require immediate attention. Many suitable primary lookout sites have been selected but not manned to date due to lack of personnel and funds. Aerial photography for all forestry purposes will prove more important than ever. Parachutists will in all probability be used like the U. S. Forest Service are doing now, for quick fire suppression work. Helicopters can be used to advantage under many circumstances, especially for building and possibly servicing isolated lookout locations. The principle of walkie-talkie radios could be used to advantage. Some mechanical equipment used in the Services and not available to us at the present time might be converted to our use. Indications are that tourist trade will be encouraged after the war and British Columbia should definitely benefit so that development of all established parks and scenic areas will be considered.

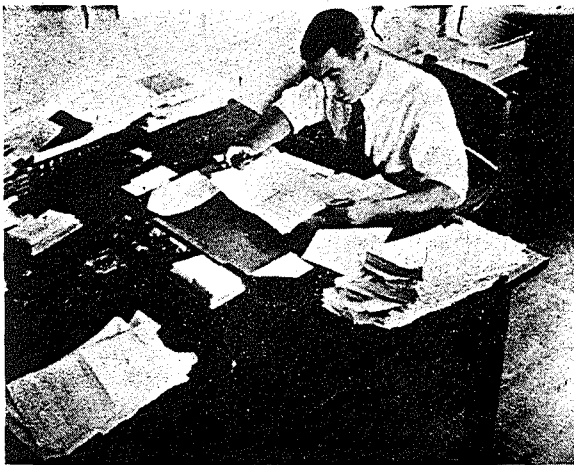
The Sloan Commission on Forestry, which is sitting at the present time, has been responsible for a marked increase in interest in Forestry matters throughout the Province. We are looking for important and far reaching recommendations from this Commission.

Many in the Services will wish to continue with their studies and it is probable that university courses in forestry will appeal to an appreciable number.

Voluminous reports have been compiled embodying details of post-war work which can be undertaken in this Province and forestry is prominent in these reports.

Yes, we know there will be lots of work for those employed by the Forest Service before the war and believe there will be openings for many more.

In connection with the recent award of the Victoria Cross, in Italy, to Major J. K. Mahony of New Westminster he did not hesitate to state that his accomplishment was by no means a one man show and he singled out our own Lieutenant ROSS R. DOUGLAS as one man who "made the action possible if any man did." The following is a further quotation from Major Mahony referring solely to Ross Douglas. "Did you know that in addition to giving his platoon terrific leadership he knocked out one self-propelled gun and personally accounted for three machine gun positions, one after the other--just like that. Yes, he is just one of the fellows who won the battle."



Lieutenant Ross Douglas

Previous dispatches had disclosed that in the Melfa River Battle, Ross Douglas led his platoon against four houses that the enemy was occupying and succeeded in eliminating the strong point, killing some Germans and taking the others prisoners.

Ross Douglas, after graduating from University, worked in the Economics Division, in the Vancouver District as Ranger and in the Nelson and Kamloops Districts as Assistant Forester. Knowing Ross, the praise given to him is well warranted and we wish him the very best of luck.

You have probably seen the picture of Ross Douglas in the local papers, so we are using this one taken at his desk in Nelson about five or six years ago.

Marking their twenty-five years with the B. C. Forest Service William Byers, Supervisor of Scalpers, and Jackson Thompson, Export Inspector, were guests at a luncheon held by the Vancouver District Forester's staff at the Hotel Georgia, July 5th. Silver twenty-five year service badges were presented them by Chief Forester, C. D. Orchard, who expressed his appreciation of their long and loyal service. He also stated his pleasure in being able to present the thirty-first of these badges to members of an organization but thirty-two years old and that he felt the number of such employees was good evidence of the loyalty of the staff to the Service.

Born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, Bill Byers first came to B. C. in 1905. He served overseas with the 15th Batt. C.E.F. (the 48th Highlanders) from 1915 to 1918. On his return he joined the Forest Service as Assistant at Sechart, Comox and Port Alice. He was appointed Supervisor at Nanaimo in 1925 where he remained until he came to Vancouver as Supervisor of Scalpers in 1928. His badge number is thirty-one.

"Jack" Thompson, a native of Belfast, Ireland, came to B. C. in 1910 and first worked with the Forest Service as Ranger at Tete Jaune Cache in 1915, before enlisting in the Royal Canadian Engineers. He served overseas with this unit and the Canadian Railway Troops until 1919. Rejoining the Service in that year he was attached to the Victoria office until 1921, was Ranger at Vancouver from 1922 to 1924 and was made Supervisor at Thurston Bay in 1925. In 1927 he came to the Vancouver office as Export Inspector. His badge is number twenty-nine.

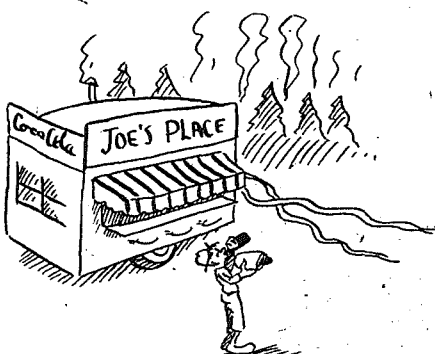
Nelson's Mobile Kitchen

We all realize the unavoidable wastage of food on a fire line but there are items of food which could be better conserved, and more important still, better served, if facilities for preparing them were available. With this in mind, and fully realizing that "when the war was over" we might have many mobile kitchens available for our use, our Grand Forks Ranger District received the go ahead signal from the Chief to see what they could do as regards building a mobile kitchen.



There are many plans available for mobile kitchens, varying from elaborate ones used in the army, or for the army, to road-side restaurants and combination kitchens and sleeping quarters or light lunch counters.

This kitchen is intended primarily for use on a roadside fire. The kitchen will be towed to the fire by any of the units at headquarters and will be ready to serve meals immediately it arrives there. Granted we will probably still have our difficulties in obtaining good cooks but this should be an inducement to get better ones.



An important secondary use for this unit will be with small mobile improvement crews which are either working along, improving or building truck trails. A small crew working with a tractor unit could make good use of this set-up. The U. S. Forest Service have one that will accommodate seven sitting at a counter inside and it is not a lot bigger than this one.

The following are details of the unit, specifications of which will be more complete when the unit is complete, for it has only been worked on in spare time by regular Forest Branch staff during the past two seasons.

Dimensions are 6' wide, 10' long with inside clearance of 6 1/2'. Studs are 1 3/4" x 3/4", and all corners are re-inforced with iron angle braces. Top ribs constructed from 3/4" x 1 3/4" material spaced one foot apart. This space is filled with one carton of gyproc wool for insulation. When this indoor photo was taken, the inside sheeting of 5/16" cottonwood veneer had been completed as well as the roof and the major portion of the outside.

The windows are from car doors and can be raised or lowered. The dish washing facilities with sink and water tank will be at the front end. The gasoline hotplate will be on the left side with canopy to convey vapours out the window.

The right side is the serving side, the upper portion of which opens up to form a shade from the sun, the lower part opening down to form an outside counter, 14" wide. This lower portion when open gives access to sections inside where plates, cups, cutlery, and such will be stored so that individuals can pick out their own dishes, place their plate on the counter just above and inside and after being served move along.

We expect to find flaws in it and criticism of it but it could pay for itself very easily as regards efficiency and it is a real credit to the Grand Forks Ranger and Assistant Rangers, for they have all had a hand in it.

The lookoutman's job is usually considered very lonely, especially in British Columbia where only trails are available as a means of access. Of course in the U. S. most lookouts are serviced by truck trails so that establishment of a family on a lookout there is by no means novel. Old Glory Lookout, elevation 7,800', is situated near Rossland. The nearest car road is a good five miles by trail but Wilfred Gibbard, lookoutman for the past seven seasons, is not a lonely lookoutman. His first year on the lookout was his honeymoon and he now has a fine little daughter who has completed her fourth summer on the lookout with her family. She was taken up to the lookout as a two month old baby on a pack board by her father. As usual water and fuel are a problem but Wilfred Gibbard overcame this by acquiring a horse which he keeps at the lookout during the season and is so able to make his return trips to the water hole, and fuel supply, regularly with little effort on his part other than hiking back while the horse takes the load. Mrs. Gibbard is a competent lookout while he is on these trips early each morning. Grazing near the top of the mountain is sufficient to keep the horse under normal conditions, but this is augmented with some hay and oats as required. A small stable, and it looks more like a root house, has been constructed for the horse for stormy weather. There are a number of other cases throughout the Province, some of them in this District, where families are living on lookouts but the manning of Old Glory is proof that efficiency and comfort can be combined on a lookout.

It is a good many years since we have seen a "Jumping Jack" as held by Darlene, so if you want a plan of it so you can make one for your own family, and no doubt you will play with it most of the time yourself, drop a note to the Nelson office and we will send you a copy of the diagram Wilfred Gibbard gave us.



Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Gibbard and daughter Darlene.

Grand Forks Warehouse

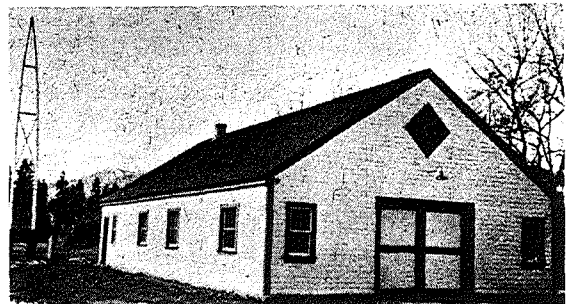
The Grand Forks warehouse looked pretty big when it was built, 30' x 60', with lots of room on the second floor, but we have still to find the Forest Branch warehouse that is big enough. Possibly we could all be classified with the pack rats for our habit of scrounging, or I guess salvaging is a better word, but we do seem to be able to use to advantage all our warehouses, and we are looking forward to the time when we can build new ones where they are sorely needed. Just another of those many post-war jobs.



There are many novel features in this warehouse. The method of keeping or storing tools, pumps et cetera so that they are readily accessible is good. A separate room is used for grinding tools so that a workman grinding can be left alone and all other tools and supplies will be out of reach. This must have been an innovation of the late wily George McParlon who, with his assistants, was responsible for this building which was put up solely with Forest Branch labour. Another feature of this warehouse is a neat combination kitchen, sleeping quarters, shower, et cetera which is surely useful during the major portion of the season when the warehouse is itself in use.

The hose drying mast warrants a second glance.

By the way this picture is just old enough to omit showing some attractive landscaping around the building. The lawns and cedar and spruce hedge are a real improvement. It had a fresh coat of paint this year too.



Wandering Watson or Lassoing a Loose Lookout

If you have not tried to plot the exact location of Watson Mountain lookout you will possibly not realize that it is located in the East Kootenay, near Canal Flats, where available maps are not the best and most certainly surveys are sufficiently ancient to warrant their accuracy being questioned. As this is pretty close to where explorer and geographer David Thompson camped with his Indian guides over one hundred and thirty years ago; possibly he had something to do with "Wandering Watson". John Applewhaite has submitted the following account of how attempts have been made to immobilize this itinerant mountain, which has only been established as a lookout for six years, but has been pushed around by as many or more Rangers and forest officers since.

First of all he recalls that Copper Lookout, near Nelson was originally located about half a mile off shore in the West Arm of Kootenay Lake. As this location was dangerous to navigation and to the health of lookoutmen it was moved to the top of a mountain to the satisfaction of the launch club. This statement has not been checked.

Watson Mountain displays the same unstable tendencies. This mountain was first put to use by Ranger Bob Little, now of Agassiz, who sneaked up on it early one morning and planted a lookout tent on top. Recognizing the touch of a master the mountain lay dormant for a season.

Ranger Barney Johnson, now Lt. Cmdr., in the R.C.N.V.R., then handled the moving mountain for some two years but, coming from Thurston Bay, he was well versed in tidal drifts and windage allowances and could always compensate for any apparent leeway.

Acting Ranger Harry Barbour, now of the Canadian Forestry Corps then acquired the rights to the peak and, being well known in the country, made an agreement with Watson that it stay between the Kootenay and Lussier Rivers. As this was good grazing country and there was plenty of water available, the mountain stayed close at hand.

Ranger Doug Ross, now in the Peace River, then took over the district and tried to picket the mountain on one spot. He used a staff compass and a few portable survey posts as defensive weapons but the mountain snarled softly and rolled over to the east and he only got it on one shoulder.

Acting Ranger Ralph Johnston then started on a new safari, armed with a corrected declination and a new map, and needed the peak from all the survey points that were near good water or patches of ripe strawberries. He chased the lookout around until he found it catching in the linen backing of his cut to fold map and then he left the mountain severely alone as he found it easier to navigate bombers for the R.C.A.F., than to plot the course that the mountain was following.

Messrs. Kinghorn and Prescott (Victoria's lookout specialists) climbed to the lookout but still didn't know where they were so left a pencil line to show where to go to get north if you went far enough.

Doug. Macdougall took some very fine pictures from Watson but found, after he had worked out his position that he had been standing on a cloud bank about four thousand feet straight up from Whitetail Creek.

Acting Ranger John Applewhaite then entered the ring and secured a temporary advantage by putting cross-hairs on the lookout man, Ole Dahl, and mounting his breakfast on a swivel table. While he was doing this his Assistant Rangers lay on their backs and waved shaving mirrors with their feet so that each survey post gleamed like a District Officer's car. John Applewhaite reports that he then drove an eight inch spike through the top of the peak to stop it falling into Kootenay River and then he walked down the trail backwards to make sure that the mountain didn't sneak out on him.

As a result of these scientific methods of locating a lookout, John Applewhaite now has sufficient accurate information collected so that he can place the exact location of Watson wherever anybody says it is and he believes the next move is up to Draughtsman John Rogers or Mount Watson.

***** SPECIAL TANKER

This is just one more of the Grand Forks gadgets that has proved successful under current conditions of small budgets. With only one tanker in the Forest District, and it has been assigned to the Cranbrook District, Grand Forks was not to be outdone so, in the customary Forest Branch manner of salvaging, they located an abandoned 270 gallon gasoline tank and fitted it up so that one of their regular fire pumps can be attached as a power unit for the suppression of roadside fires.

Designed to use both regular 1 1/2" liner hose and 1/2" rubber garden hose the unit is quite flexible. Two valves permit various combinations of hose including drawing water from the creek or from the tank, and ordinary gravity from the tank. The cooling water is conserved by running it back into the tank.

Filled hand tank pumps are carried at all times and can be refilled readily from this unit. The pump tool box is in the back of the tank. In all there is about one-half mile of 1 1/2" hose in pack sacks and boxes. Demountable steps complete the unit.

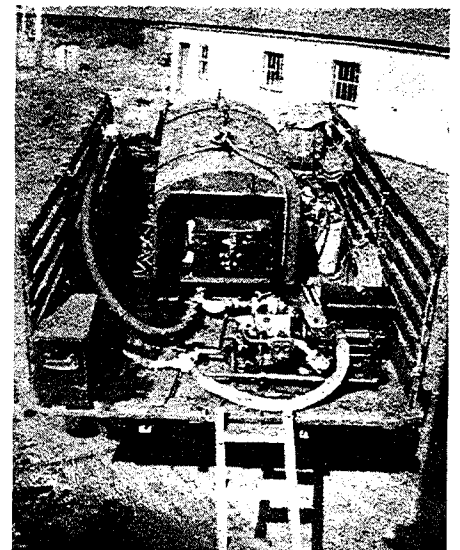
When the truck is needed for other work the empty tank has special straps on it which permit it being lifted by pulleys out of the truck, in the warehouse, but it can be made ready on short notice for use again.

As the railroad and southern trans-Canada highway pretty well parallel each other through the whole of the Ranger District this unit has been used to good advantage during the past two seasons on many railroad as well as highway fires.

Another idea along this line which we believe shows possibilities of development would be a trailer, consisting of a tank and power unit, which could be drawn by any unit in the District. In this way an expensive truck or car is not tied up solely for suppression work.

One of the Nelson Suppression Crews

From the last Newsletter we can see that the Kamloops District were enthusiastic over their Suppression Crews. We had four such crews in this District and likewise believe the young men we employed did a good job.



This picture of the suppression crew working in the vicinity of Nelson shows the foreman, a Nelson High School teacher, and his wife who was cook for the crew, and a good one too. Of the six young men, it is very probable that this summer's work will start 2 or 3 of them on a forestry career and they are the type of new blood any organization would like to have.

The Crew: J. Perrier, S. Fisher, D. McGinnis, A. Ramsden, K. Flynn, R. Coventry, Mrs. B. Crawford, daughter, Rochelle, and foreman Ben Crawford.

Railway fires were so prevalent in this Nelson Forest District this year that first thing we know we will be going back to the old speeder days when they were about the only means of transportation other than horse.

A letter from Ray Monesmith of Casey Mountain Lookout, vicinity of Fernie and Cranbrook, outlines how he obtains accurate readings of lightning strikes on dark rainy nights.

An eye bolt is used as a peep in the centre of his lookout cupola and horizontal and vertical grid lines are painted on the window panes. He states that although he is unable to see the topography of the country at all the reading of a lightning strike taken from the grid painted on the window is quite accurate. A flashlight is kept handy to illuminate figures when necessary. By referring to the lookout photographs he claims he can pretty well place the strike. Even distance is established by the time the thunder takes to travel. Ray Monesmith states that during 1943, which was a light year, he had sixty fires and that from one thunder storm alone eleven fires were reported from his lookout.

His son Raymond Monesmith, after having spent one year with a Fire Suppression Crew in the Nelson District is now in the Royal Canadian Navy on H.M.C.S. Avalon, with headquarters at St. Johns, Newfoundland.

The Newsletter received a story from Lookoutman F. W. Lindsay, Parrott Mountain, near Burns Lake, which is too long to quote but which certainly further substantiates the fact that either our lookoutmen, due to their vocation, become eloquent or else men of suppressed literary ability turn to lookouts for work which will permit their expressing themselves.

THEY PRACTICE what WE PREACH

- HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES -

A recent visitor from Mt. Seymour Park, near Vancouver, advises us that we should be proud of our 1944 crew in that area. Thinking to give the boys a treat he had laid in a good stack of "tailor made" cigarettes before leaving town. Judge of his surprise when, after having offered his wares to each and every member in turn, he was very politely thanked and told that they DID NOT SMOKE.

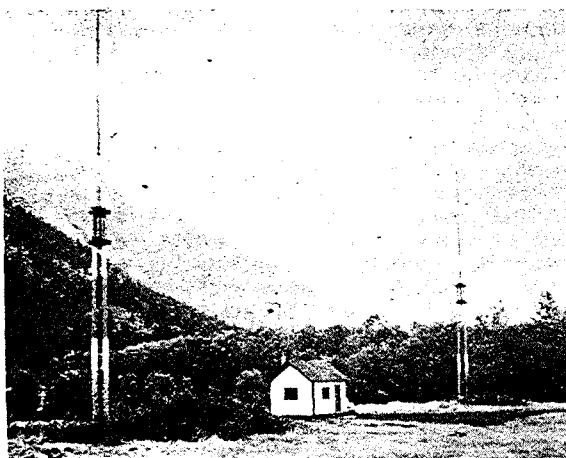
Heard over the radio the other day--no doubt from a newly appointed dispatcher. "We have four men burning with three fires on them."

Acting Ranger John Applewhaite of Invermere has thrown a fine challenge to the Mechanical Superintendent, and as we believe he will have difficulty solving it, we are placing it in the Newsletter with the hope of obtaining a solution. Those who know the Invermere District will realize that there are several hot springs in that locality, two of which have been highly developed as regards tourist and recreational use. One of these was burned down this spring and the Forest Service men were at the scene of the fire. John Applewhaite's problem--"how to make a water cooled pump run cool when you are getting the water from a hot spring of over 100°F.?"



No doubt as a sequence to the above, John Applewhaite submits the information that although he has had requests for Forest Branch pumps to be used during official tests for various purposes from watering cabbages to cleaning chicken houses still he was really surprised when a request came in to "sprinkle my mink". It appears that the little fellows dislike a low humidity as much as forest officers. John Applewhaite believes that if you have mink farmers in your district you must be prepared for the following plea:

Please Mr. Ranger, come sprinkle my mink.
The poor little fellows are needing a drink.
I've tried them on varnish and home-brew and ink
But their poor little eyes just water and blink.
If I don't spray them soon they'll be starting to stink
And my neighbors will then have me thrown in the klink.
You ran your pump last year for flooding a rink,
And I'll see that your hoses don't get in a kink.
Come on! Mr. Ranger, and be a good gink
And sprinkle my mink so they'll be in the pink.



As a good many of you have heard Nelson's VIGN on the air possibly you will like to see a picture of it. It is on C. P. R. property, just below the C. P. R. station on the West Arm of Kootenay Lake. A nice spot but awfully hot in the summer. We are fortunate in having someone like Ken McRory as our radio operator for everyone likes working with him both on and off the air. He doesn't know it but here's his picture.

On checking the average age of one Ranger District staff comprising a Ranger, two Assistant Rangers, one Lookoutman and one Dispatcher it was

found to be sixty years. This is quite an average when it is realized that the Lookoutman who is 71 is the only one in the seventies and the Dispatcher is the next oldest being 62 years of age. It rather indicates that the Forest Service is doing its best to get by with the older men available and young boys who comprise this years Suppression Crews. The influx of returned men after the war will appreciably reduce the average age of permanent and temporary personnel throughout the Service.



The following is appropriately sent for the September Newsletter by Acting Ranger R. C. Hewlett, Birch Island, Kamloops District.

WIND-UP

September comes, the season's nearly over,
And signs appear that Winter's on the way;
The mail brings Fire Inspector's Memos,
On how to drain and store the pumps away.

Dispatchers feel their days are nearly over,
And Lookoutmen can sense their soon recall;
Assistant Rangers also, and Patrolmen,
All see the end with fast approaching Fall.

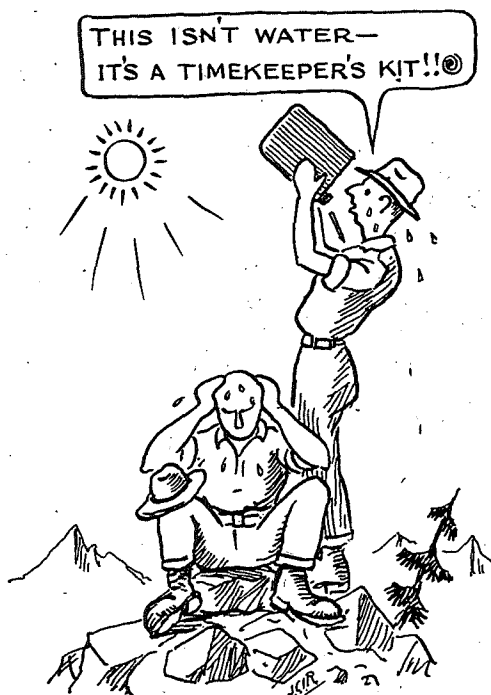
These boys have laboured hard for every pay-cheque;
They hope their honest efforts weren't in vain;
They'd like to know they've been appreciated;
And hope next season to be on again.

The office will be quiet soon without them,
When applications flow the basket o'er;
When Management is still requesting action
On Timber Sales expired months before.

The Ranger knows full well the most-deserving
Will merit something better in the Spring,
And hopes without reserve, (though to his sorrow)
They'll get the best the coming year can bring.

The Fire Report soon now will be dispensed with--
That little worry past--that battle won;
The Year's Report soon due for Operation;
And Management requesting theirs anon.

Reluctantly again we reach this mile-post,
With hopes that soon 'twill come to pass,
That when the faithful boys have worked a season,
They won't be forced to winter "on the grass".



George Schupe has made good use of leaky and discarded water bags as covers for time-keepers kits.

The Nelson office was very pleased to see Flying Officer R. R. (Bob) Flynn back home after having spent many flying hours over the Mediterranean where he was active as a bomber pilot at the time of the North African push. He left for the east and presumably overseas again, about the middle of September. While on current leave in Canada he was married in Dauphin, Manitoba. Bob was very definite in his appreciation of cigarettes sent to him and said they proved a life saver more than once.

OUR FAN MAIL FROM THE FORCES:

A note from E. J. HAMLING (Nelson).....
"I must say I enjoy the Newsletter very much, so please address the next to the above address." He is now stationed in Prince Rupert.

BILL MURRAY (Prince Rupert) writes from aboard H.M.C.S. "Prince Henry", with the Invasion Forces....."An idea struck me while I was reading the additions to the Honour Roll. Of course I have no idea of the magnitude of this venture--but it occurred to me that a complete Roll, with addresses, incorporated in one edition of the Newsletter would be invaluable to the lads over here. Who knows--we might be in the same part of the country as some of our former buddies; or in sister ships; or attached to adjoining squadrons--and not know until too late--we've missed them and moved elsewhere. But that's only a suggestion. Our Newsletter is 100% as is." (It would not be such a big job, Bill--we have about 160 on our Honour Roll--but by the time the Newsletter reaches you overseas a good many addresses would be out of date. And then the only addresses we have are "R.C.A.F. Overseas" or "Canadian Army Overseas" (except in the case of the Navy we have the ships), so you wouldn't actually know which part of the country the boys are in.

From Aldershot, Nova Scotia, we have a letter from N. TAIT McPHEDRAN (Vancouver). He says, "Thank you for sending the old Forest Branch Newsletter. It is just like a cool zephyr off the Georgia Straits to open the familiar envelope and start digesting the contents. It certainly is great to be reminded that there still are trees left in Canada after being so long in this part of the country where every sapling is a log. I am sorry to have to report that I have not yet seen any far countries or met anything wilder than our native Lookoutman after a tour of duty... I don't remember ever having seen Ranger District thirteen included in your chatter. Is there no news from a roaring spot like that is said to be. (How about it Ranger District thirteen?) I particularly enjoyed the extracts from the diary of Fred Peterson in last month's paper. All lookoutmen must be philosophers I believe."

H. G. M. COLBECK writes from somewhere in England, on his way to France. He is now a Lieutenant in the Canadian Armoured Corps. He says he "met Al Dixon and Dick Nixon and had a few very enjoyable evenings talking over old times at Port Hardy and way points. They are the only Forest Branch men I have met over here."

We have a letter from H. I. BARWELL (Kamloops) in India....."Many thanks for the Newsletter. I have already read every word of it twice and for two short periods I was able to forget all about the 'splendor of the tropics' and return to dear old B. C.Thank you for your kind enquiry re cigarettes or tobacco--cigarettes please. You couldn't at the same time send a nice Douglas fir could you? I'm sick of the sight of Bamboo."

G. H. FEWTRELL (Kamloops) enquires if we have the addresses of any of our fellows who are in Yorkshire. The only Forest Branch man we know to be in Yorkshire is A. J. KIRK, formerly Assistant Ranger at Vanderhoof in the Prince George District. His address is as follows: K-82471, Cadet Kirk, A. J., "B2 Battery, 123 O.C.T.U., R.A., Boulton Lines, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, England.

FEWTRELL had twenty trips in on his tour of "Ops" at time of writing...."I have actually thrived on operational flying, still weigh 180 odd and have even quit biting my fingernails (true confession).We work 35 days and then get 7 days leave, and the obvious thing to do on leave is to uncoil the nervous tension that sets in the nerves. In Raff language 'we do a low level on York or Leeds' and believe me it is usually darn low. Then off to a nice quiet rest for the remainder of the leave.I imagine when we get home again next spring (optimism) we will have to learn to speak Canadian again. I had a 'wizard' laugh in York sometime ago. Went into a Chinese laundry, wanted to get my battle dress cleaned. There were two Chinese boys about 7 and 9 years old. They were typical Chinese and one said in the broadest Yorkshire "Eeee, I dawn't know if we can do it'."

CECIL CAMERON (Vancouver) reports in from Newfoundland..... "In spite of the fact that I am isolated, I am still having fun." He says "I have heard of the new Forestry Station you have built at Chilliwack and would like to see it."

Vancouver district advises that Miss E. S. DOBSON, Stenographer, has enlisted in the W.R.C.N.S.

JACK ESELMONT (Nelson) writes from Scotland with the Canadian Forestry Corps. He reports Major MAUDE-ROXBY (Kamloops) is there with them.

We have a postcard from ALEX CORBETT (Kamloops) at Vernon, "hoping the boys have a very light fire season.... At present am out in the woods taking out timber for the Army."

A card from BILL HALL (Victoria)..... "Received another lot of 50's--many thanks. I'm still in hospital but expect to get out today (July 4) and go and do some work with GERRY ANDREWS. After such a long 'holiday' (7 months to-morrow) I'm not sure of my work capacity but will get used to the idea in time I expect."

ERIC BENNETT (Victoria) writes from Overseas....."Will you please convey my thanks to the right quarters for two lots of smokes which I haven't acknowledged. They seem to be coming more regularly now that transportation systems have settled down a bit after the pre-invasion rush. I owe thanks also for copies of the Newsletter. I was very interested to see that all the gang are over here now. I had ARCHIE'S (BYERS) address last time I was on leave but did not get a chance to look him up as I stayed in London only two days."

We are sorry to hear that ALAN SLATER (Vancouver) has been sick in the Station Hospital, St. Thomas, Ontario, since May. We hope that he will soon be off the sick list.

E. R. OFFIN (Nelson) arrived on the other side last April. He says, "When our postman handed me the familiar large envelope (containing the Newsletter, of course), one of my mates piped up, 'there's another bill from home'. Little did he know how glad I was to receive it. I found all the news very interesting, and particularly Fred Peterson's diary of Sept."

R. G. BULLEN (Vancouver) is with the Canadian Public Relations Services in France, where he says they're "either ankle deep in mud or dust". "Away from the Front, life is not bad at all except for the everlasting 'Stew', which is a monotonous diet for any man.The only good old B. C. product I've seen over here is the Mosquito Aircraft."

A letter from ALF BAMFORD (Victoria) acknowledges the cigarettes. "It is nice to know that we haven't been forgotten over here." I have been fortunate enough to get into a special line of work where I find a considerable number of foresters. Have run into quite a few from the east, but so far haven't been lucky enough to meet any from B. C. except Ax. Kinnear."

ROSS DOUGLAS (Kamloops) reports from Italy: "Your latest parcel of cigarettes has found me in hospital with a minor wound. I was wounded just after things had broken wide open and Jerry had begun to really run, so that the best of the fun I missed. But I expect to be out of hospital this week ready to go again."

"The most interesting part of the winter was working with various British units, and they are magnificent. In one I met a British friend of BILL HALL'S. Bill had been the air interpretation officer for that division, and had done such a good job that the general hadn't been happy with anyone since."

GEOFF MARPLES (Nelson) writes from India, where the temperature is 120° in the shade!!!

"Well here I am, a perfectly good sailor miles from the 'chuck', advises SYD BENWELL (Victoria) now stationed at H.M.C.S. "Star," Hamilton, Ontario. "I'm just hoping that my next appointment will be to a more active spot, preferably a Cruiser or Flat-top. On each of my quarterly visits to H. Q. I've put in my bid, thus far without results, so can only keep pestering and hope."

"The weather has been on and off quite hot and we all blossomed out on June 1st in tropical rig--shorts and sport shirts, half socks and white shoes and, of course, white cap tops. Darn cute, if I do say so myself. It's astounding the various types of legs that hide themselves within the confines of a pant leg."

DON STEPHENS (Vancouver) graduated on January 28th from Rivers, Manitoba, receiving his Wings and Commission as a Bomb-Aimer. He has now arrived safely in England and his address is J-40767, P/O. D. E. Stephens, R.C.A.F. Overseas.

GAY SEYMOUR (Prince George) is taking a course at the Canadian Driving and Maintenance School, Woodstock, Ontario. He encloses this snap with his letter.



Pte. G. A. Seymour

Prince Rupert office has had a letter from Draftsman WM. MURRAY, now on the H.M.C.S. "Prince David," in which he tells of being aboard during the invasion of the French coast.

Postcards received From GERRY ANDREWS, HARRY MAYSON, R. E. CRELLIN, LORNE SWANNELL, KEARY DeBECK, JACK ESELMONT, RUDY DAMSTROM, ALAN DIXON, "DODO" MacKAY, G. H. FEWTRELL, RALPH FLYNN, LARRY LITTLE.

Flight-Lieutenant W. E. "SONNY" WALKER has arrived home after more than three years overseas. He has made a mercy flight that has been given world-wide publicity. He has won the D.F.C. He has flown bombers in Britain, in North Africa and in the invasion of Sicily and Italy. He was interned for three months in Spanish Morocco. But as far as Walker is concerned, his flight across the Adriatic to carry blood plasma to Marshal Tito's gallant men was "just a little hop."

He was in North Africa before Tunis fell. He helped invade Sicily and then Italy, but "so did a lot of other chaps."

But the mercy flight story deserves a little more than that. Walker flew his Boston bomber from Foggia across the hazy, early morning Adriatic to a tiny island off the Yugoslav coast. He dropped the plasma by parachute.

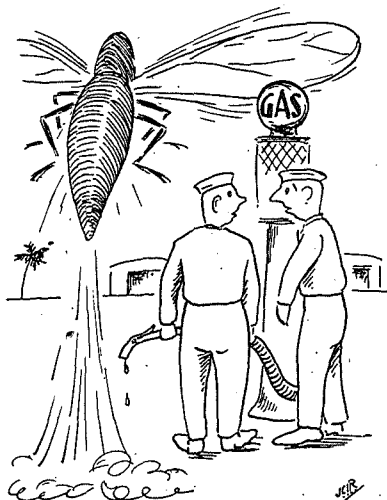
"They told me I got the D.F.C. in Ottawa," Walker said, "but they don't give any reason."

Flight-Lieutenant Walker is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Walker of Blubber Bay. Before his enlistment he was Patrolman at Duncan, Vancouver Island District.

W. E. Walker, Fl./Lieut.
Keary DeBeck, Flying Officer.
Ralph Flynn, Flying Officer.
Reed Crouch, Flight/Sgt.
Larry Lytle, Flying Officer.
D. A. Sims, Cpl.
G. J. Ballard, Cpl.
Rex Colmer, LAC.

One of the most dramatic fights in the war against harmful insects took place in Brazil in 1939-40. Anopheles gambiae, the most dangerous of the African malarial mosquitoes, emigrated to Brazil from West Africa, evidently by ship or aeroplane. It spread widely through Brazil and carried a highly fatal type of malaria. During 1938 and 1939, 14,000 people died of the disease. Under the direction of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Brazilian Government mustered an army of 2,000 doctors, technicians, inspectors, guards, and labourers, and within 19 months--in September 1940--the last gambiae was eliminated from South America. Fumigation posts were set up on all roads leading from the infested area. Breeding places were systematically eliminated or treated with larvicide. The region was mapped from the air so no pools or ponds would be overlooked. All automobiles, boats and aeroplanes leaving the area were disinfected. The cost? Two million dollars.

In the present war, entomologists are attached to the medical services of the armies fighting in the tropical and sub-tropical parts of the world, and are waging a relentless war on fever-carrying mosquitoes.



Some of these tropical skeets are pretty big, as witness the story told by an airman back from Guadalcanal. He said they had pumped a thousand gallons of high-octane gas into a mosquito before they noticed that it wasn't a Flying Fortress.

Since we live in the same world as mosquitoes, which are about as widely distributed as any other insect, let us see what kind of lives they lead. Like most insects, mosquitoes pass through four stages; egg, larva or wiggler, pupa and adult. These stages vary in length according to climate and living conditions. In the far North the eggs laid in the summer may not hatch until the following spring. In desert regions they may hatch in the pools after every rain storm. Eggs of desert mosquitoes have been known to hatch after having been dry for five years. In the wet tropical regions hatching is going on almost continuously.

Let us take the southern house mosquito as a representative citizen of the mosquito world. Mrs. Mosquito lays a clutch of 150 eggs on stagnant water. Rain barrels, empty tin cans, wherever a little water collects, are favourite sites. The eggs are glued together and float on their ends on a raft. The wigglers soon emerge from the eggs, and this is where man can step in and upset the balance of nature. The wigglers must have air and this they breathe through tubes in their tails. You may have seen them "hanging by their tails" just under the surface of the water. A little oil-kerosene is the cheapest—spread on the water at this stage clogs the breathing tubes and suffocates the wigglers.

To make our story simpler, we shall follow the career of one wiggler. She (it's a girl, because the male counts for very little in the mosquito world for he can't even bite) grows rapidly on a diet of tiny organisms and dissolved food in the water. Since her skin is non-stretchable she has to shed it and grow a new one every now and then. In a week or two she goes into the pupa state and takes on a somewhat different appearance. She can still swim a little, but she doesn't want to eat; prefers to lie quietly near the surface of the water. Inside her pupa case a great change is taking place. Our wiggler's body structure breaks down into a sort of thick soup and from this soup is formed an entirely different creature, the adult mosquito. This, surely, is one of nature's most wonderful processes.

In a few days the pupa case breaks open and out steps a full-grown mosquito. She waits until her wings have hardened, and then, like females the world over, she is on the lookout for a mate. When she finds him, he immediately fulfils the only reason for his existence, and passes out of our story.

The bride now feels hungry and flies off in search of a meal of blood. When she finds something to her liking, your arm we'll say, she presses the long tubular part of her proboscis against the skin and drives in a sharp cutting instrument. After injecting some saliva into the wound, she sucks the blood and neatly sidestepping your infuriated swat, flies away to lay her eggs. Many mosquitoes can't lay fertile eggs unless they have had a meal of blood. And so the cycle begins all over again.

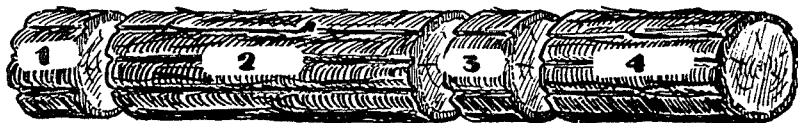
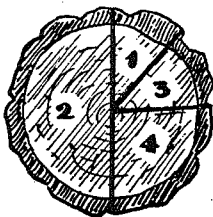
God made the star-hung skies for us,
The whispering trees, the hills, and lakes,
Of course he made mosquitoes, too--
But everybody makes mistakes.

SAFETY BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

Bulletin No. 43.

April, 1944.

THE LUMBER DOLLAR.



This diagram shows the approximate division of each dollar produced in the logging camps and mills of British Columbia. Costs between logging and milling vary but the comparison is possible.

Section 1 represents the portion set aside to replace the original investment of the employer, plus company profits.

**SAVE
MATERIAL.**

Section 2 is the cost of materials—logs, buildings, machines, etc.

**PREVENT
ACCIDENTS.**

Section 3 is the cost of taxes, depreciation, insurance, etc.

**SECTION 4 IS THE PART LEFT FOR WAGES AND
THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION.**

Sections 1, 2, and 3 are fixed charges and must be met if the business is to carry on. Even in the worst years of the depression, when some lumber companies sacrificed their holdings, the whole picture was not greatly affected, as you can understand from the diagram.

Accidents cost money and the money to pay for them comes out of Section 4. **ACCIDENT CHARGES ENDANGER WAGE SCALES.** Efficient workmen can salvage more from the second cut on the log and **efficiency means fewer accidents.**