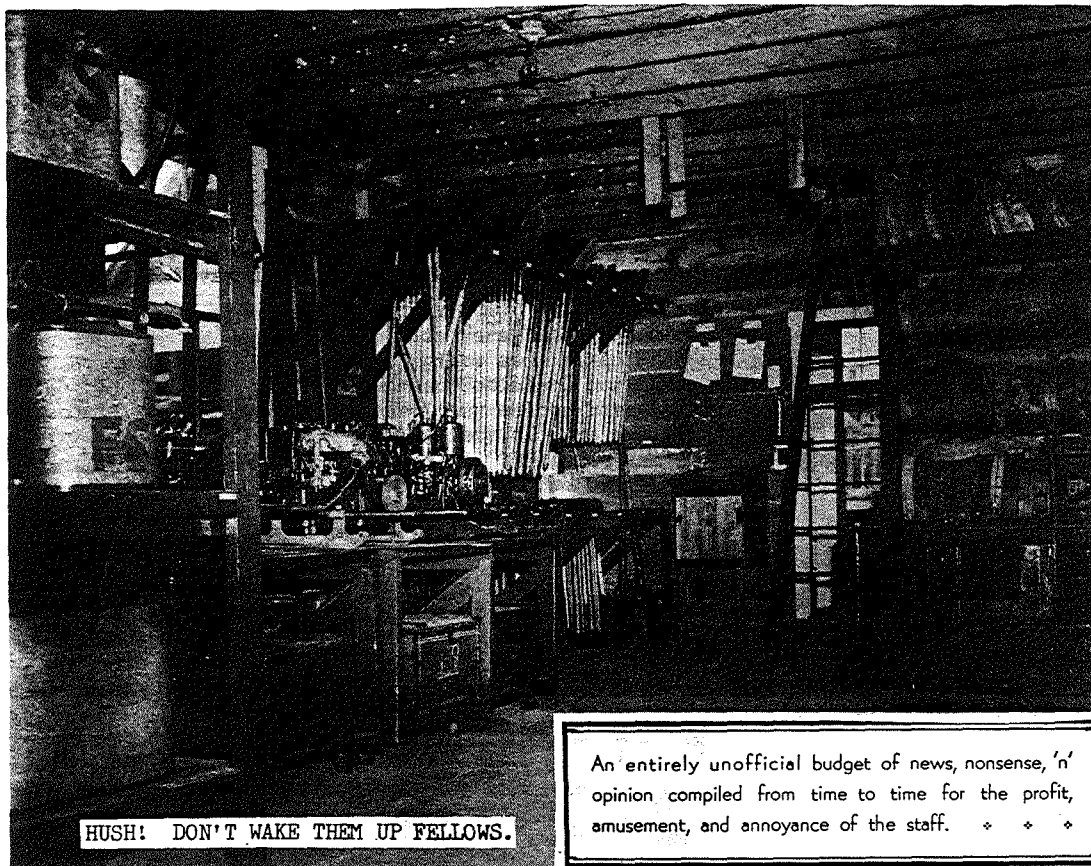


FOREST SERVICE NEWSLETTER



HUSH! DON'T WAKE THEM UP FELLOWS.

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

NO. 70

VICTORIA, B. C. OCTOBER, 1948.

08581.

The falling autumn leaves seem to be a reminder that November will soon be here and we will miss the genial face of another Ranger of the "old" school, George Forbes. Those who have known George for over two decades, realize that you cannot put back the hands of the clock, and being born on November 6, 1883, must mean something more than just another birthday.

George visited Ontario a few years back, having been born at Wyoming, near Sarnia. He left there when 14 to visit an uncle in Nebraska and recuperate from an attack of pneumonia. He turned cowboy in Nebraska and a few years later found himself on a cattle ranch near Medicine Hat.

From 1907 until completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, he handled pack trains, with time out in 1912-13 to skid logs for Cook and Peden's Sawmill near South Fort George. In the winter of 1912, he and a partner named Harry Joyce opened a skating rink in Quesnel. In 1913, George convinced a certain lady that two could live as cheaply as one and, from that day to this, George has not sewn on his own buttons nor mended his socks. During 1915-16 the Inland Express had a most competent stage driver on the old Blackwater Road. George can tell some strange tales of those days of few stopping places, hard times, and cold winters, when whiskey froze in the stage coach and snaring rabbits was the meal ticket, the first world war, the responsibility of a son, Barrett, and a daughter, Margaret, with none of the amenities of life we enjoy today. Barrett and Margaret are now living in Vancouver and have each acquired families of their own, Barrett serving in the last war.



Mr. and Mrs. Forbes.

Former District Forester P. S. Bonney deserves the credit for recognizing the sterling qualities and experience associated with George. He became an Assistant Ranger at Dewey on the C.N.R. in 1919; later, in 1922, Ranger at Dome Creek with much of his time devoted to check scaling and associated with the late Supervisor Walter Lang Muir at Penny, B. C.

Well do we recall the hectic fire seasons along the Upper Fraser, particularly 1927 when fire swept through his entire Ranger District, and the marvel was that he handled a difficult situation so well, thereby saving timber for the mills now operating in the valley of the Upper Fraser along the C.N.R. In 1928, he moved his headquarters to Prince George.



George Forbes.

After retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Forbes will continue to reside at 1850-7th Ave. in the family home in Prince George. A few more bee hives may dot the landscape and George will do some wood cutting on his own account, maybe on a free use permit or cash sale so that the smoke will continue to rise for many moons above his roof-tree.

The Service will miss George. Few are more respected on or off the job. Many of his old comrades have already preceded him in retirement, and the march of time is replacing the old traditions of the Service with newer dogmas and ideas. During his long years of service, he took an interest in many local charities and community activities and became a P.M. of Nechako Lodge 86 A. F. and A. M. and both Mr. and Mrs. Forbes are charter members of the local Old Timers Association. May his shadow never grow less.

NEWSLETTER

PRINCE RUPERT DISTRICT

A final tribute was paid to our retiring District Forester, J. E. "Matty" Mathieson upon his leaving the Service, when members of the Branch at Prince Rupert and their friends joined in surprising him with a farewell party in his honour.

In a neatly delivered impromptu address, our new Boss of the District, Marc Gormely, paid tribute to Matty's long service throughout the Province, and to his devotion to duty during his stay with the Forest Service. As a token of our appreciation, Forest Service Personnel throughout the Province joined together in presenting him with a gold watch, suitably engraved.



Left to Right
Frank Goertzen; Mrs. Den Reid;
J.P. McDonald; Miss Pat Moore;
J.W. Eastwood; Miss Evelyn
Antilla; Mrs. Carl Smith; Marc
Gormely; Chas. Mayo.

During The "Bird" Game.



Matty's Cake



Matty and Miss
Rivett give it
up during the
party.

The pictures by courtesy of Marvin Kullander, Assistant District Forester, indicate the happy time that was had by all.

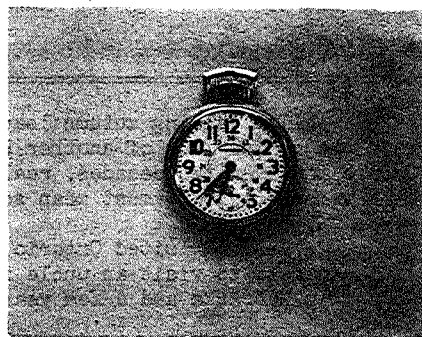
Personnel throughout the Province join in extending to Matty their best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

... ..



The Beauty Corner!

Left to Right: Miss Zabudney;
Miss Holkestad; Miss Baxter.



Presented to
John E. Mathieson
On the occasion
of his retirement
June 30th, 1948
Forest Service
of
British Columbia

FORT GEORGE DISTRICT

We regret to report that G. A. Kenney has left our ranks for greener pastures in Victoria. Ken was operations clerk here for a considerable time and for a period prior to leaving he took over the Management Clerk duties. Ken was also very active in his many outside-the-Service interests. Both Ken and Rene will be missed very much in this district and we wish them both every success and happy times in Victoria.

... ..

We extend our sincere welcome to Don Ritson who is taking Ken's place here. Don comes from the Victoria Office and we trust that he will like his new position.

... ..

On September 11, the gang gathered for the evening and early hours of the morning at the Al Dixons'. The summer protection staff were given a rousing send off before leaving for school. There is really no need to say this but everyone had a very enjoyable time. We would take this opportunity of wishing the boys the best and trust that they may be back with us again next summer.

... ..

On September 12, the P. G. office staff visited the Bob Carter Summer home at Bednesti lake. The office girls arranged the whole affair and another wonderful time was had by all attending. Our thanks go out to Bob and Mrs. Carter for their thoughtfulness.

... ..

NEWSLETTER

FORT GEORGE DISTRICT (Cont'd.)

On September 13, a tea party was given by Mrs. Al. Dixon (alias Doc. Dot) in honour of Mrs. Kenney and a presentation was made. We weren't there but we can imagine that it was well attended by all the Forestry wives and that they didn't talk about trees.

On September 15, a stag party was held by Walt Henning for Ken. We didn't talk about trees either. Ken received an honourable sendoff. We are not going to go into details.

::: ::: :::

On the night of August 30, Miss Vera Mack (whose marriage will be exclusively covered in the next newsletter) was showered with gifts at a mixed shower, given in her honour by Miss Frances Decker of the Game Dep't. and Miss Doreen Tobiasen, our Management steno. It was a most enjoyable evening especially for the men, because they seldom have the opportunity to see what goes on at a shower. The table was set with every variety of cake and sandwiches which, with coffee and tea, was later served to the guests. Vera opened all the gifts and they were passed around the room for everyone to see. Frances and Doreen are to be commended on a very nice party which we are sure Vera and Howard, and all who attended, appreciated very much.

::: ::: :::

As a matter of interest we present the following excerpt from a fire report:-

"MONK" Fire - Dist. No. 107 - P. R. #31958A Fire was caused by ignition of a natural gas seepage, probably by some unknown hunter during the previous autumn. Fire was confined to area of seepage which is a circular depression in the earth approximately 14 ft. in diameter and 4 feet in depth at centre. This depression is surrounded by a dense cover of Pl. & S. reproduction with a heavy ground cover of old windfall extending north to a stand of merchantable spruce along the Red Willow River. The only apparent reason fire had not spread was due to the sheltered location and dampness remaining from heavy snowfall of past winter.

Efforts at smothering fire with dirt were unsuccessful as gas pressure would cause new breaks which would immediately ignite from the heated rock and earth in the depression.

Heavy rains on 5, 6, and 7 July partially filled the depression with water and, by ditching pools nearby, sufficient water was procured to completely fill the hole leaving the fire burning on the surface of the water. It was then possible, by spacing the men around the pool, to "whip" out the fire with "brooms" of immature spruce.

An estimate of seepage, by Dr. Hum, Dominion Geologist, was 5000 cu. ft. per hour testing 11.7% octane gas. It is understood from C. C. Duke, who knows this part of the country quite well, that there are several of these seepages within a radius of some 10 miles.

::: ::: :::

We appreciated very much the visits of Mr. Druce, Forester, Public Relations, and Mr. Crowe, Mechanical Inspector. We will be looking forward to their future visits.

::: ::: ::: :::

NELSON DISTRICT

The heart of the beautiful Kootenays has been torn asunder by the news that Percy Young, Kary DeBeck and Grove-(Snow) White are leaving for other districts in the near future. Like Alexander of old, they go forth to conquer new worlds - especially Snow White-can he Whow 'em? (Don't get my meaning twisted now!)

::: ::: :::

George Palethorpe would choose a season when there were no fires to speak of to be laid up with a broken leg, but we hear that he is able to get around on crutches which we sincerely hope he will be able to discard in time to attend Ranger School this winter.

Talking of the Ranger School; it seems very apparent that somebody has been doing some extensive study. We refer to an appraisal that was sent in a few days ago with the following estimates:

To Building 3 miles of Logging Road at \$10 per mile	\$30.00
To building a camp	7.00
Cost of equipment	5.00

This must be the outfit that has Paul Bunyan on the pay roll.

::: ::: :::

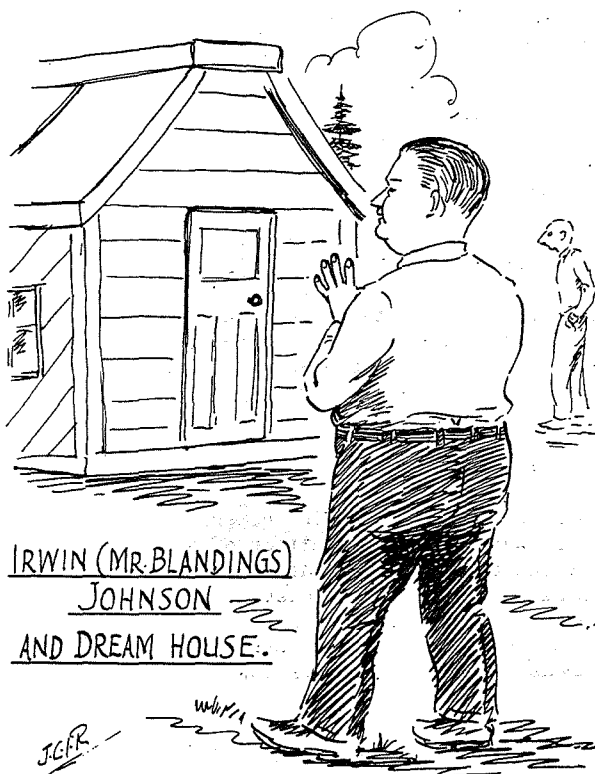
Frank Hill, our Ranger at Kaslo, seems to have been having some trouble with the Forest Service Launch which is in the habit of discarding its "prop" at the most inopportune moments. Still, it's very nice to paddle your own canoe once in a while.

We would also like to know who it is from Kaslo that kneels on the horse's rump to tie on a pack saddle?

::: ::: :::

NEWSLETTER

NELSON DISTRICT (Cont'd.)



IRWIN (MR. BLANDINGS)
JOHNSON
AND DREAM HOUSE.

Our operations staff have been very busy on the preparation of the slash disposal programme. Irwin Johnson, after much head scratching, has produced the model abode for housing the crew on the project and our illustration shows him at the moment of his triumph.

... ..

Ranger Tippie and Couling have strong ball teams organized in their respective districts and competition is keen. We have it on very good authority that when the New Denver team is down our stalwart ranger dons uniform and pulls the game out of the bag. We should like to receive comment on this from Nakusp. In fact it would be very nice to hear from all the ranger stations instead of leaving it to the District Office to report on the far-flung outposts of the Empire; so let's hear from you Rangers.

... ..

At the District Office we have to report the loss of one, Nancy Olsen, who, while studiously attending to the billing throughout the day, was surreptitiously cooing at night. (We quote the D. F.) Anyway she's flown the coop, gone and taken the plunge and we most sincerely wish her all happiness in her matrimonial venture.

... ..

HATCHED AND MATCHED

Lucas--To Larry, of the Fire Control Division, Victoria, and Mrs. Lucas, a SON, Brian Lawrence, on August 10, 1948, at the Royal Jubilee Hospital.

... ..

Johnston--To Ralph, of the Fire Control Division, Victoria, and Mrs. Johnston, a DAUGHTER, Lynne Dorothea, on Sept. 19, 1948, at the Royal Jubilee Hospital.

... ..

On September 4, 1948, Lola (Rosie) Pengelly, of the property room, Victoria, and Mr. Bruce Young, of the Photostat Division, Victoria, were married at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Mr. and Mrs. Young visited the Okanagan and the United States on their honeymoon and will reside in Victoria. "Rosie" and Bruce were presented with a 4 piece silver tea service by Mr. G. P. Melrose on behalf of their friends in the Dept. of Lands and Forests.

... ..

THE WELCOME MAT

The mat is extended once more to welcome Eugene Benner to our Accounts Division; Lois Moir, Judith Wilks, Les Prescott and Terry O'Neill to Forest Management; John Paynter to Operation; Bette Keatley to Forest Drafting; Norman Hamer to Reforestation; Alfred Wade and Cecil Lewis to Parks Division; John Nutt, from New South Wales, and Hilda Smith to our Economics Division.

... ..

STAFF CHANGES

Jack Kerr, Assistant Forester, Economics, has left for the University of British Columbia, where he will be Assistant Professor, teaching Forest mensuration; L. B. "Bev." Boulten, Assistant Forester, Prince Rupert, has returned from his studies at the University of California.

... ..

Alex Gordon has left to take up farming near Parksville. Alex was a veteran of both World Wars, serving as a Captain in the Forestry Corps during the latter. After more than 20 years with the Forest Service Alex retired on August 31.

... ..

NEWSLETTER

STAFF CHANGES (Cont'd.)

Dr.. Don Buckland, Dominion Government Dept. of Agriculture, is now Professor of Biology and Botany at the University of British Columbia.

... ..

Don Ritson, formerly of the management office, has been transferred to Prince George District.

... ..

We extend our best wishes and hope that they will all meet with every success in their new ventures.

... ..

EXTRACTS FROM AN OLD CONFIDENTIAL PERSONNEL REPORT

Title - Despatcher

Originality and ideas: He seems to have a thorough grasp of nearly every forest subject. He has saved the office twenty-three cents this month by using both sides of the carbon paper.

Personal characteristics: He is cheerful (after 5 P. M.). He is very energetic, and especially dependable for his unfailing courtesy even to Assistant Rangers and Assistant Foresters.

Attitude with the public: The local citizens are simply crazy about him. We must admit that he has fallen down in assisting settlers in slash-burning. It is his theory that the slash will get burned by itself, if left in thick underbrush so that it will get real dry and give the lightning a chance.

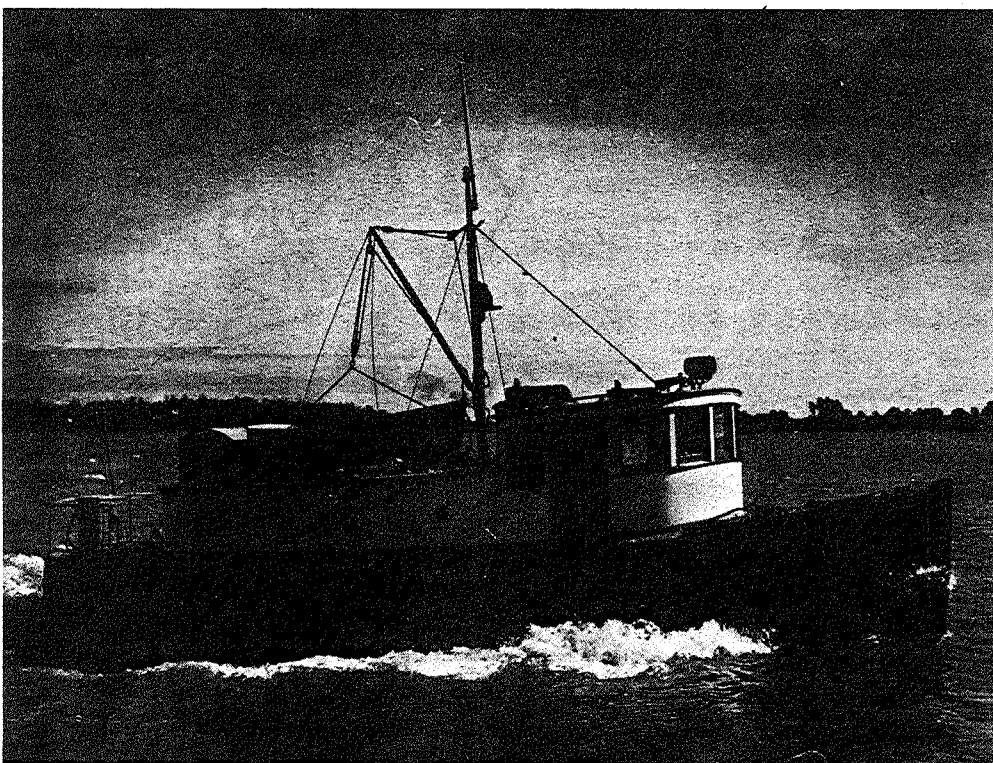
Relations with other forest officers: He is overbearing to his superiors, especially those above the rank of District Forester. Everyone likes him, except a few who have come into actual contact with him.

Equipment: He keeps his tools in fine condition. His beer-opener is clean and his tobacco always moist. His rubber stamps and postage stamps are always kept in good working order and are instantly available just under his typewriter.

His attitude towards fire-law enforcement: He has been very discreet about this not liking to commit himself in such prejudiced company, but I believe myself that he will allow the fire law to be enforced in this province.

Remarks and recommendations: I recommend that he be given the position of Chief Forester as soon as possible. I do not think he is worthy of promotion, but the higher rank he is given, the more chance he has to be demoted. In his present rank it is impossible to demote him.

... ..



"Heading Home"