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FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF B.C. HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

Slightly inclement weather failed to dampen the spirits of those members of the Association who, accompanied by spouses and sons and daughters, attended the first annual general meeting of the Forest History Association of B.C. on May 14 in Duncan. Things got underway at the B.C. Forest Museum with a business meeting where reports of the President, Treasurer, Nominating Committee, Newsletter Editor, and Manuscript Advisory Committee were given.

A tour of the museum grounds was followed by a preview of a new exhibit (which was in the final stages of preparation) in the main building. At the evening banquet in the Cowichan Valley Inn, Gerry Wellburn was given the position of Honorary President of the Forest History Association of British Columbia. The members were then treated to an excellent after-dinner presentation by Mr. Wellburn which gave a fascinating view of history as shown in manuscripts, stamps, and coins.

The Executive and Directors of the FHABC for the fiscal year 1983-1984 are:

Executive Committee:

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DAILY WOODS WAGES IN B.C. IN 1933

Baker	\$2.50 & board	Filer (second)	\$4.25
Bed Maker	1.35 & board	Flunkey	1.35 & board
Blacksmith	5.50	Grading Crew	2.75
Blacksmith Helper	4.00	Hook Tender	5.00
Boatman	4.75	High Rigger	5.50
Boom Man (head)	4.75	Second Rigger	4.50
Boom Man	3.75	Leverman	5.50
Brakeman (head)	5.25	Loader (head)	5.50
Brakeman (second)	3.50	Loader (second)	4.00
Bull Cook	1.50 & board	Pumpman	3.25
Bunk and stake maker	3.50	Rigging Engineer	4.50
Car knocker	3.50 to 4.00	Rigging Slinger	4.50
Chaser	3.75	Rigging Man	3.50
Choker Man	3.50	Scaler	4.50
Cook	5.00 & board to 5.50 & board	Section Man	2.75
Cook (second)	2.50 & board	Section Foreman	4.00
Dish Washer	1.35 & board	Signal Man	3.00
Engineer (donkey)	4.50 to 5.50	Speeder Man	4.00
Engineer (locomotive)	6.00	Steel Gang	2.75
Fallers & Buckers	3.50 to 3.75	Steel Foreman	4.25
on contract 40¢ & 10¢ per 1000 fbm		Unhook Man	3.75
Fireman (donkey)	3.00	Wood Splitter	2.75
Fireman (locomotive)	3.50	Watchman	3.25
Filer (head)	5.25	First Aid Man	3.00

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Into the Archives

In the second of a two-part series, The Forintek Review offers a brief history of the Western Laboratory in Vancouver.

It was in 1918, that the forest products laboratory was established in Vancouver and forest products research got started in the west. The department of the interior was the government body which established the Vancouver lab, although the action was initiated by the department of aeronautical supply, imperial ministry of munitions. It seems strange that this government department should want a forest products research facility, but World War I proved that wood was an ideal material for aircraft construction and at the time, little information was available to show the merits of different species for this use. Sitka spruce, available only in the Pacific Northwest, was used for building aircraft during the war and was considered a highly suitable species. However, only limited information was available on sitka and the ministry of munitions wanted more specific information. The ministry also wanted to study other possible species. So it was really because of the war, that forest products research got underway in the west.

The first western lab was set up in the commercial building on the campus of the University of British Columbia, then located near the present site of the Vancouver General Hospital. The first staff was composed of six people — Loren Brown, superintendent; J.W. Johnson, computing engineer; J.A. Carson and William Templeton, testing machine operators; Arthur White, carpenter and M.S. Carment, stenographer/bookkeeper.

That first year proved to be somewhat catastrophic however, for when it was over, there were three resignations and three new appointments. The following year was worse, with six resignations and five replacements. Loren Brown was one of those to leave during the second year and he was replaced by William Dunbar, who also lasted only about two years.

At the end of World War I, the need for a laboratory in western Canada was questioned, but by extending research

to other species and other engineering uses, the western lab was saved.

It wasn't until 1922, that government and industry realized that there was a continuing need for research, to serve the rapidly expanding western forest industry. Specifically there was a requirement for work on the engineering properties of wood as well as products utilization and kiln drying problems.

In 1925, the laboratory moved to its present site on Point Grey, along with the University of British Columbia. The laboratory and its staff were used by UBC to conduct classes in mechanical engineering. Testing machines at the lab were used for demonstration. The lab housed a timber mechanics section, a library, a carpenter shop and the administrative offices. Two out-buildings contained a dry shed for testing air seasoning of lumber and a kiln for testing accelerated seasoning of lumber.

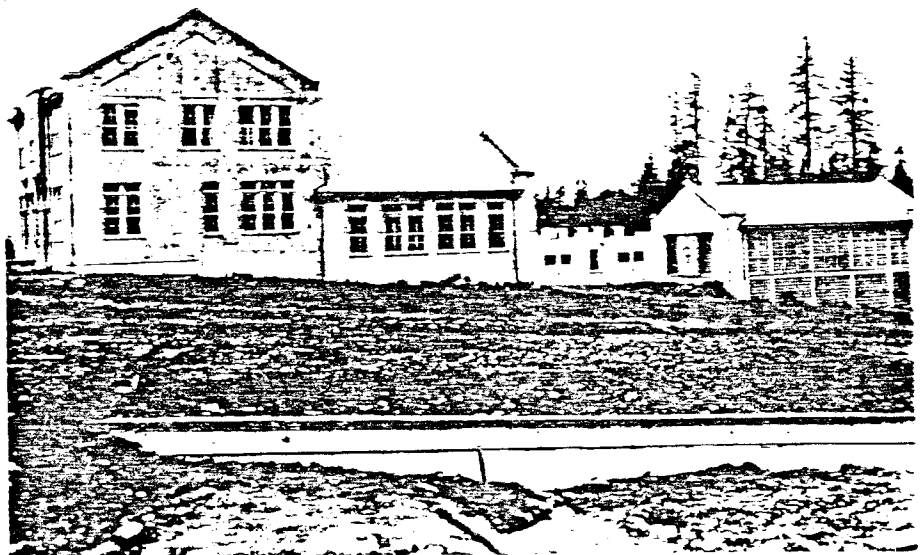
The depression brought difficult times to the western lab, with severe restrictions on its operations. At one

point, most of the staff of the timber mechanics section were released, then rehired, because of protests and representations by industry.

The aircraft industry again called on the western lab during World War II, as sitka spruce underwent another scrutiny for use in building airplanes. Other species were included for testing this time, such as western hemlock and white birch. Testing of wood glues and various methods of laminating wood were also part of the lab's program during this period.

By 1945, the western lab had a staff of 15 people.

Today, the Western Laboratory is a vital part of the forest industry and works in many areas of wood products research. As part of Forintek Canada Corp., it conducts industry-oriented research and development and provides technical services in all major scientific and technical disciplines relating to wood products. But the best part of all is that after 65 years, the Western Laboratory is still performing a vital and significant service to Canada's most important industry. ■



The original buildings of the Western Laboratory shortly after being established in 1917, on the campus of the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO FORESTS

Exodus 22:6 "If a fire break out, and catch in thorns, so that the stacks of corn, or the standing corn, or the field, be consumed therewith; he that kindled the fire shall surely make restitution."

Deuteronomy 20:19 "When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an axe against them: for thou mayest eat of them, and thou shalt not cut them down...to employ them in the siege."

Isaiah 44:14 "He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it."

Job 14:7 "For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease."

Revelation 22:2 "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

Provided by Bill Backman, FHABC President.

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EARLY FOREST LAW

"No felling is allowed when trees are growing. Those hacking off a major branch will be fined one cow. Whoever digs up a tree root and all will be fined a horse."

Source: Ancient official document from China's southern Xinjiang Uygur region, recently deciphered by archaeologists.

"...nor we, nor our Bailiffs, nor any other, shall take any man's wood for our Castles, or other our necessities to be done, but by the licence of him whose the wood is."

Source: Magna Carta, CAPXXI, 1215 A.D.

Provided by Bill Young, FHABC Director

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IT HAS ALL HAPPENED BEFORE, OR SWEDISH FOREST HISTORY

In these times, when we are preoccupied with falldown effects, reforestation, etc., it is salutary to recall that these are not problems only of the present day. In Sweden measures directed toward conservation of the growing stock and improvement of the yield can be documented over 400 years. These also indicate the changing orientation and use of the Swedish forests.

- 1574 The oldest document in Swedish forestry. In a letter the authorities in Vastmanland were instructed to see to it that oak plantations were established. In 1583 the demand was repeated and the authorities were also enjoined to look after the young seedlings.
- 1639 A bill was issued for the legal protection of the "charcoal hills" (forested hills which were used for charcoal production) for 20 years "so that no one may touch the young forest which is growing there."
- 1647 As a consequence of overcutting, primarily in Bergslagen "rules and regulations for all sorts of bearing trees of the forest" were introduced. Under this law anyone who was granted permission to fell "bearing trees" - considered to be broadleaved trees such as oak, beech, and a few others - was also responsible for planting two new trees for each one felled, and for protecting them "until they reached a height where they could no longer be eaten by grazing cattle."
- 1664 The first forest law to apply to the entire country - "Regulations and rules for the forests of the Kingdom" came into effect.
- 1734 The forest law of this year required taxpaying landowners to utilize their forests as carefully as possible. Establishment of sawmills and even peasant smallholdings were subject to permission of the authorities. Orders as to maximum stump height were given and felling of spruce and pine for use as fences and poles was forbidden.
- 1748 The Swedish Scientific Academy published Linnaeus' "Document on the planting of forests". During his visit to Skane, Linnaeus had observed that during the 1730's forest planting was begun on shifting sands near Angelholm.
- 1789 Private forest owners were granted the same rights for use of their forests as the nobility. Previously they had been subject to additional constraint.
- 1828 The Swedish government decreed a higher school of forestry and named it the Royal Institute of Forestry.
- 1829 To secure additional supplies of oak timber, a preoccupation with the European naval powers of that time, the Swedish parliament decreed that oak forest be planted on an area of 10 120 hectares. The first plantings were begun 2 years later on the island of Visingsö. When this planting was finished approximately 3 240 hectares were covered. No other oak forests were ever planted.
- 1848 In the mid-1800's an interest in forestry awakened in the larger private owners as well as in the forest companies. Between 1848 and 1902 the Uddeholm corporation sowed and planted about 12 500 hectares.

- 1857 The first Swedish groundwood mill was established - Ohman's groundwood mill in Trollhattan.
- 1859 The National Board of Forestry was established to manage the state's forests. In 1883 its name was changed to the National Board of Crown Forests and Lands.
- 1866 The Goteborg and Bohus county agricultural society started a tree planting program. This society invested some 740,000 kr. in forest plantations over a 30 year period which covered about 25 000 hectares.
- 1874 Under the "Law of dimensions for Norrbotten county's coast" felling of conifers smaller than 4.8 m by 17 cm was forbidden without special permission.
- 1874 The first sulphite mill was started in Bergvik. Production in 1875 was 96 tonnes; in 1879, 950 tonnes. It was replaced in 1897 with a more modern plant.
- 1903 A generally applicable forestry law came into being that had been under discussion since the mid-1800's. This was a reforestation law under which forest owners were required to ensure that new forest stands were established in any area they clearfelled.
- 1905 The Swedish Forest Research Institute and the County Boards were established. The latter were to follow up the effects of the 1903 legislation on private forestry.
- 1923 The boom caused by World War I made it obvious that the 1903 forestry law was inadequate. In the provisional law of 1918 and the new forestry law of 1923 felling regulations were stated clearly, especially regarding protection of young forest which could no longer be felled but only thinned in a rational manner.
- 1941 The National Board of Forestry began activities.
- 1948 Discussion of long-range possibilities for forestry led to a number of changes which were embodied in the forestry law of 1948. The point of departure for the new law was that the forest should in the long run give the greatest possible economic profit.
- 1974 A new law for the protection of beech forest which could no longer be felled without permission. Replanting with another tree species may not take place without special permission.
- 1975 A statement that consideration must be given to the interests of preservation of environmental amenities became part of the forestry law, as well as an obligation to obtain permission from the National Board of Forestry for all clear fellings over 0.5 hectares.

Provided by Jack Thirgood, FHABC Director.

FOREST MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES IN B.C.
(or the more things change, the more they remain the same)

- 1) Multiple use of forest land, both as a principle and a practice, must be further expanded in the Province.
- 2) There must be cooperation by (forestry interests) with recreation and wildlife interests.
- 3) Land classification is essential for all natural resource users in order that land be utilized in its most productive manner.
- 4) Concentration of forestry efforts on the most productive land is necessary for financially responsible forestry.
- 5) Private land owners should be encouraged to practice forestry.
- 6) Forest management expenditures must be justified in terms of future benefits from managed stands.
- 7) Forestry responsibilities must be clearly divided between the federal and provincial forest administrations. The former should be involved in forest protection/products research. The remainder should be left to the Province.

E.C. Manning, Chief Forester, B.C. Forest Branch, March 1941.

Provided by Bill Young, FHABC Director

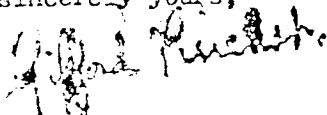
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Mr. M. Allardale Grainger,
Thoburn Postoffice,
Esquimaux, B. C.

My dear Mr. Grainger:

Through a mistake for which I am doubtless responsible but which I can not exactly locate, your kindness in sending me your exceedingly interesting volume entitled, "Woodsmen of the West," has been overlooked and no acknowledgment has been made. I was especially pleased, if you will allow me to say so, not only with the book itself, but with the inscription you put on the fly-leaf. As yet I have not had a chance to read the book, but I shall take it with me when I leave for a trip today. I expect to have a good time with it on the train. In the meantime I want to send you my heartiest thanks.

Very sincerely yours,



Letter dated May 27, 1909 from U.S. Forest Service Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot to Martin Grainger, who was Chief Forester of the B.C. Forest Branch from 1917-1920. "Woodsmen of the West" was written by Grainger while in England in order to raise funds for passage back to Canada.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Coney, Michael. 1983. Forest Ranger, Ahoy! The men - the ships - the job. Porthole Press Ltd., 2082 Neptune Road, R.R. # 3, Sidney, B.C. 240 p. \$24.95

Fahl, Kathryn A. 1983. Forest history museums of the world. Forest History Society, 109 Coral Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060, U.S.A. 76 p. \$7.50 plus \$1.00 for postage and handling.

Gormely, M.W. 1983. (updated) A chronological history of The Association of British Columbia Professional Foresters. ABCPF, # 406 - 837 West Hastings St., Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1B6. xx + 126 p., Appendices.
(May be purchased from the ABCPF for \$15.00 or borrowed for two weeks for \$3.00 to cover postage, or by picking it up in person from the office. The FHABC has placed its copy in the Ministry of Forests Library in Victoria as it lacks facilities of its own to store or otherwise lend out the book.)

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THE FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF B.C. NEEDS A LOGO!!

The Executive Committee, Directors, and many of the members have expressed a desire to have a distinctive logo which would be suitable for stationery, crests, and pins, etc. in addition to our newsletter masthead.

The design should be reasonably simple, unique, and stylish and yet identify the major area of interest as being forest history. The need for a logo has been brought up at Executive meetings as well as the Annual General Meeting but so far only general ideas have been considered and no concrete proposals have surfaced.

If you have some ideas, suggestions, or rough drawings please submit them to Bob DeBoo (410 Raynerwood Place, Victoria, B.C. V9C 2B3) by December 31, 1983.

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This newsletter is the official organ of the Forest History Association of British Columbia and is distributed thrice yearly at no charge to members of the Association, libraries, and to certain institutions. Items on forest history topics, descriptions of current projects, requests for information, book reviews, letters, comments, and suggestions are welcome. Please address all correspondence including changes of address to the Editor: John Parminter, c/o Protection Branch, Ministry of Forests, 1450 Government Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3E7.

Membership in the Association is \$5.00 yearly. Should you wish to join or obtain further information please write to the Treasurer: Mr. Edo Nyland, 8793 Forest Park Drive, Sidney, B.C. V8L 4E8

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