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BLOEDEL FIRE 1938

MEMORANDUM of interview with Mr. Langstroth of the B. C. Forest Service on the 11th May, 1939, at the Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B. C.

(The following notes were taken before arrival of stenographer)

In July 1938, Mr. Langstroth was a Forest Ranger on the staff of the B.C. Forest Service, stationed at Campbell River.

He first heard of the fire by telephone from Bloedel's late in the afternoon of the 5th July, 1938. He was told that a cold deck pile was on fire but that there was nothing he could do for the time being, and he therefore did not leave for the scene of the fire until early in the evening.

He arrived at the scene of the fire at about 8.00 o'clock in the evening. He went by way of Menzies Bay and the Bloedel main line, taking with him a pump and a Forest Service employee to man the pump. Daly, Coy and Lund were there when he arrived. He went down with Daly along Branch 21 around the south end of Boot Lake and discussed with him the best plan to stop the fire spreading west into Bloedel's felled and bucked and cold decked timber. They discussed the advisability of bringing in a cat, and they decided to bring it over from Branch 41, which is at the southwest corner of Block "B" of lot 145. The Forest Branch pump was put into operation. At about 12 o'clock that night the fire had crossed Gosling Lake to the east side. At about one o'clock in the morning Mr. Langstroth telephoned to Mr. Verman at the District Forestry Office in Vancouver and explained the situation to him. There was a slight wind from the northwest - the fire was making its own wind at first. The ground was dry.

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Mr. Lundell: What was the condition of the ground.
Mr. Langstroth:
Mr. Langstroth: How do you mean?
Mr. Lundell: Was it dry?
Mr. Langstroth: Yes, it was dry?
Mr. Lundell: I believe you said you called Mr. Terner-
that night by phone. Was Mr. Terner in
Vancouver?
Mr. Langstroth: Yes, I called him in Vancouver.
Mr. Lundell: I see. Did you report to Mr. Terner?
Mr. Langstroth: I reported the condition as I saw it at
the time.
Mr. Lundell: That was about 1 o'clock.
Mr. Langstroth: Approximately 1 o'clock.
Mr. Lundell: Did you call from Campbell River?
Mr. Langstroth: Yes, from Campbell River.
Mr. Lundell: You left the scene of the fire around
midnight?
Mr. Langstroth: Around midnight.
Mr. Lundell: Were Mr. Daly, Mr. Lund and Coy all at
the scene of the fire at the time you left?
Mr. Langstroth: I think I am right now. We went up. Mr.
Lund and Mr. Coy stayed up and Mr. Daly
came down on the speeder that brought me
down.
Mr. Lundell: Did you go up the following day, the 6th?
Mr. Langstroth: Yes.
Mr. Lundell: At what time?
Mr. Langstroth: I went into Bloedel's camp about.. I think
it was about 7 o'clock in the morning.
Mr. Lundell: On Wednesday, July 6th?
Mr. Langstroth: Yes, I waited for Mr. Terner to arrive by
plane.

Mr. Lundell: Did Mr. Terman arrive?

Mr. Langstroth: He arrived.

Mr. Lundell: And did you go out together?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, we went out together?

Mr. Lundell: At what time about?

Mr. Langstroth: I went up to the fire by speeder and arrived about 9 o'clock. That is, up in the woods.

Mr. Lundell: Did you go in by Bloedel's main line Branch 21 and 21C?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, could not get on 21C at that time.. we went down to the switch at Branch 21.

Mr. Lundell: And then you walked on down? You were getting close?

Mr. Langstroth: We were at it. Our movements after that were pretty hard to detail. We were here and there and back again.

Mr. Lundell: Could you tell me just where the fire was burning that morning when you arrived?

Mr. Langstroth: From just south of the spur of 21 and 21C? South of it. It had pretty well cleaned upon on all branch 21C, that is, working west. It had gone south to the felled and bucked timber east of Root Lake adjoining B.21.

Mr. Lundell: And had it reached the swamp to the Southeast of Root Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: No. It was inside the firetrail between the swamp and Br.21C. Bloedels backfired around the edge of the swamp on the afternoon of the 6th.

Mr. Terman:

At what time was this?

Mr. Terman: No. It was inside the firetrail between the swamp and Br.21C. Bloedels backfired from the fire trail on the afternoon of the 6th.

Mr. Fernow: More properly at 2.00 or 3.00 p.m., as it was not backfired in the morning.

Mr. Langstroth: At 10 o'clock. When we had time to

get around and see what had happened on the south and east sides. As far as how far the fire had gone out into old burn, that is rather hard to state.

Mr. Lundell: That is, south of Gosling Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, south and east, but it had gone down in spots.

Mr. Lundell: Could you tell how far east it had gone?

Mr. Langstroth: I could not tell in the morning.

Mr. Lundell: Did you go around to the east side of Gosling Lake that day?

Mr. Langstroth: Not until the evening when I came up on a speeder over the C.R.T. track.

Mr. Lundell: Around the south end of Gosling Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: The south end of the west side between Boot Lake and the swamp was all on fire. We were down to Campbell Lake south of Gosling... around that end of it.

Mr. Lundell: And up to the east side?

Mr. Langstroth: No, not that day.

Mr. Lundell: You were not able to tell how far east the fire was burning that day?

Mr. Langstroth: Only to guess at it.

Mr. Lundell: What was the condition of the weather that day?

Mr. Langstroth: The wind had changed to south-east--light south-east, and slightly cloudy.

Mr. Lundell: Did you have some conversations with the officials of the Bloedel Company that day? Will you please tell us.

Mr. Langstroth: We were in touch with them by phone.

Mr. Lundell: Who were they?

Mr. Langstroth: The same three--Coy, Daly and Eric Lund.

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Mr. Lundell: What discussion did you have?

Mr. Langstroth: Well, it is hard to state just what was said. We were discussing ways and means. As time went on the fire was giving trouble and they were organized to keep it from crossing Branch 21 to the west. They had a good part of the crew concentrated on that end of 21 to the switch and down Branch 21. I had pumps in that swamp or lake you mentioned. It was part of the connecting link in the fire line on Boot Lake over to the south-east. The cat worked on through cutting line in a south-east direction.

Mr. Lundell: That is south-east of Boot Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: They cut the road to the swamp quite early in the day and we took pumps in over the cat road to the swamp along the trail extending from the south end of Boot Lake in a southeasterly direction to the swamp.

Mr. Lundell: Where was the cat?

Mr. Langstroth: Worked on the south-east over the ridge and down towards the head of Campbell Lake.

Mr. Lundell: That is on the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Do I understand only one cat was used in fire-fighting on the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: I believe so.. don't know of any other.

Mr. Lundell: Was there any discussion with you with regard to cutting of a fire trail around the south end and around the east side of Gosling Lake on the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not know that there was any special discussion about taking that action on the

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Mr. Ternan: Not on the 6th.

and it was a case of keep on going until you get around.

Mr. Lundell: That cat was working around the south end of Cosling Lake and up the east side?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, but the biggest fight we had was to keep it on the east side of Branch 21.

Mr. Lundell: You do not know of any other discussion that took place that day with any of the Bloedel Company officials?

Mr. Langstroth: I cannot remember anything special that occurred on that day...any more than that.

Mr. Lundell: Did you give the Bloedel Company any instructions with regard to fire-fighting on either the 5th or 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: It was more in the nature of a discussion than it was an order or anything of that nature. We were on their operation...their crew...and we discussed ways and means and which would be better to do.

Mr. Lundell: In other words, they were running the show.

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, they were running the show in that regard.

Mr. Lundell: Did you have any men of your own in there?

Mr. Langstroth: Only one.

Mr. Lundell: The pumpman who was there the day previous?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Did he work on the pump all that day?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Did you state you were at the scene of the fire all of the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, we were there all day. I cannot quote the time we came out. Perhaps I have something written in my diary, but I believe it was approximately dark before

we made any attempt to leave the scene.

Mr. Lundell: You and Mr. Terman were there together all day?

Mr. Langstroth: Not together but forth and back and around together quite a bit. That was night. We came down and went on the speeder over the C.R.T. track and had a look from that side.

Mr. Lundell: You went down Gosling Creek?

Mr. Langstroth: No. We went down our line and came on speeder and had a look from the lakeshore.

Mr. Lundell: You went down the Bloedel line to the beach and came back on the C.R.T. line and took a look at the fire from the Campbell Lake side? Then you were following the course of the fire on the east side of Gosling Lake, were you not?

Mr. Langstroth: Pretty well.

Mr. Lundell: How far east of Gosling Lake was the fire burning the night of the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: Approximately half a mile I would say.

Mr. Pilberg: How far south was it burning the night of the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: It had spotted right down to the C.R.T. track; in fact, one spot was across the track between there and the Lake.

Mr. Pilberg: The night of the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: When you speak of spotting I presume you mean the fire had jumped that far ahead over the C.R.T. track.

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, that is right.

Mr. Lundell: The fire in that area and east of Coaling Lake was it a series of spot fires or solid fire?

Mr. Langstroth: More spot fires, some pretty big spots.

Mr. Filberg: How far ahead of the main fire?

Mr. Langstroth: Probably about half a mile--that was the limit ahead of the main fire.

Mr. Lundell: What was the direction of the wind that night?

Mr. Langstroth: That night I think it was still trailing out of the south-east.

Mr. Filberg: There had been little wind on the 5th or 6th?

Mr. Langstroth: Very little. No great amount at any time.

Mr. Lundell: Did you go to the fire on the 7th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Did Mr. Ternen accompany you?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: What time did you arrive?

Mr. Langstroth: I think we arrived about--between 6 and 7 if I am not mistaken.

Mr. Lundell: In the morning?

Mr. Langstroth: I am not sure. I do not know whether Mr. Ternen remembers any more definitely than I do.

Mr. Filberg: How did you go in that time? Speeder?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Filberg: Over which track? Alcedel?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Where was the fire burning that morning?

Mr. Langstroth: Just about the same all around as near as we could see the day before.

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- Mr. Filberg: How was the wind that morning?
- Mr. Langstroth: Pretty well same condition---a little bit veering but very little wind.
- Mr. Lundell: Was the weather the same?
- Mr. Langstroth: Much the same.
- Mr. Lundell: Cloudy?
- Mr. Langstroth: Cloudy.
- Mr. Lundell: Cloudy but dry---no rain?
- Mr. Langstroth: No, no rain. I think our records show humidity to be exceedingly high.
- Mr. Lundell: What fire-fighting effort was made on the 7th?
- Mr. Langstroth: They were continuing the cat road up around the south-east and east side.
- Mr. Lundell: Of Gosling Lake?
- Mr. Langstroth: Well, of the fire. I suppose it was east of Gosling Lake---to up on the ridge, but that quarter from the C.R.T. right around the track and working up the ridges to the east side.
- Mr. Lundell: Just one cat?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes, one cat.
- Mr. Lundell: Was the cat working on the south-west section of the fire?
- Mr. Langstroth: Well, farther south and east, the draw to Gosling Creek south of the lake up into Campbell and the ridge over to the west of that. We had to go right over the ridge.
- Mr. Lundell: Had the fire crossed the fire trail between Branch 21 and the swamp?
- Mr. Langstroth: No.
- Mr. Lundell: Still held.
- Mr. Langstroth: There were spots that day but they were cut out. The line held.
- Mr. Lundell: Was there any other fire-fighting effort on

the south and east side of the fire other than the cat you mentioned a minute ago that was putting in the fire trail on the 7th?

Mr. Langstroth: A cat and a few men of Bloedel's I believe was all.

Mr. Lundell: Did you have any discussions with any officials of the Bloedel Company on that day that you remember?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I don't believe there was anything on the fire line out of the ordinary in the way of just discussing ways and means, how it was going and so on.

Mr. Lundell: Mr. Fernan was with you that day?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, ^{we} were together and apart and so on. We went around a lot together.

Mr. Lundell: Did you cover the whole fire area?

Mr. Langstroth: I did not cover all the area. I covered about three-quarters of it I think.

Mr. Lundell: What part was that?

Mr. Langstroth: From the part the cat was working on line that day right around to the south and west and back up in to the north side.

Mr. Lundell: South and west and north side?

Mr. Langstroth: The piece in the east and I did not cover that day.

Mr. Lundell: Was there any change in the wind or the weather that day?

Mr. Langstroth: I am trying to think. I think it was so slight it did not matter. I believe that was the day there were some showers that did not hit us.

Mr. Lundell: The showers did not fall anywhere in the fire area?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

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- Mr. Lundell: Did you give any instructions to the Moedel officials that day?
- Mr. Langstroth: No, I don't believe I did. Shipped in some equipment.
- Mr. Lundell: You shipped in more. Some more Government equipment?
- Mr. Langstroth: A bit more hose. Another pump anyhow. I forget which side of the 12 o'clock line.
- Mr. Lundell: A third pump was in by that time.
- Mr. Lundell: That was the third Forest Branch pump that was in operation by midnight of the 7th?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes.
- Mr. Manning: If you wish to refer to your diary for the weather probably it would be a whole lot better.
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes, perhaps it would be better in case I made a mistake with regard to those things.
- Mr. Lundell: According to the weather I have noted here (consulting diary) I had the wind switching from south-east to north-west on the 7th, a veering wind.
- Mr. Ternan: (Interjected some remarks here, as in repeating Mr. Langstroth reversed his directions.) Mr. Filberg and Mr. Lundell asked a few questions and Ranger Langstroth explained what he meant.
- Mr. Lundell: Did you stay at the fire all day on the 7th?
- Mr. Langstroth: Apparently I got back to Campbell River at 21.45, that is, 9.45.
- Mr. Lundell: With Mr. Ternan?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes, we came back together that day.
- Mr. Lundell: Now on Friday, the 8th of July, did you go up to the scene of the fire again that day?
- Mr. Langstroth: I was at the fire. I have not got here what time I arrived. I did not leave Campbell River before 9.30 A.M.

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- Mr. Lundell: Did you go out alone?
- Mr. Langstroth: I had one of the Ranger Assistants with me.
- Mr. Lundell: Mr. Terman did not go up with you?
- Mr. Langstroth: No.
- Mr. Lundell: Did you go out the same way--the Bloedel main line?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes, apparently out the same way.
- Mr. Lundell: Where was the fire burning that morning when you arrived?
- Mr. Langstroth: The same place.
- Mr. Lundell: No change there?
- Mr. Langstroth: Very little, except that it was flattening down.
- Mr. Lundell: Not burning so intensely?
- Mr. Langstroth: No nothing near.
- Mr. Lundell: Were there any spot fires around?
- Mr. Langstroth: Oh, yes, there were quite a few of them.
- Mr. Lundell: All spots?
- Mr. Langstroth: No, mostly on the south end.
- Mr. Lundell: What do you mean by the "south end"?
- Mr. Langstroth: The point that goes east following Gosling Creek.
- Mr. Lundell: Between Gosling Lake and Campbell Lake:
- Mr. Langstroth: The part that goes east of that, what was the old operation.
- Mr. Lundell: On lot 51?
- Mr. Filberg: Most southerly end of the fire?
- Mr. Langstroth: Most southerly end of the fire?
- Mr. Lundell: What was the fire-fighting efforts made that day-- the 8th?
- Mr. Langstroth: We were having a bit of trouble between Boot and Gosling Lake on the north side in spots. The fire was working into the fire break. That was the green timber that was left stretched across between those two lakes north of 21 and 210, the switch point of 21 and 210.

- Mr. Lundell: What was the disposition of the fire fighters?
- Mr. Langstroth: There was quite a crew on the south end of the fire if I remember rightly. I am not referring to my diary for that now. We were using several pumps on the south end of the fire.
- Mr. Lundell: The Cosling Creek area?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes. Both sides. I had two pumps anyway.
- Mr. Lundell: In that pothole south-east of Boot Lake in the swamp?
- Mr. Langstroth: In the swamp. I had them working out of Cosling Lake and I believe there was one still working on the east side of Cosling Lake.
- Mr. Lundell: Pumps?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes. They backfired a couple of days before all that line they cut.
- Mr. Lundell: Bloodel's had backfired on the line they cut with the cat?
- Mr. Langstroth: No, another line.
- Mr. Lundell: A hand trail.
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes.
- Mr. Lundell: On the east side of Cosling Lake? Between Cosling Lake and the green timber?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes, green scrub.
- Mr. Lundell: What was the state of the weather on the 8th?
- Mr. Langstroth: I have a note here of the same thing--- switching from north-west to south-east--light.
- Mr. Lundell: A light wind.
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes.
- Mr. Lundell: Cloudy or clear?
- Mr. Langstroth: I have not that noted here, and I would not say whether it was cloudy or not.
- Mr. Lundell: Did you have any conversations or discussions with Bloodel Company officials on that date?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not believe there was any other discussion.

Mr. Lundell: Were any instructions given by you.

Mr. Langstroth: I will tell you this: I went to Camp 10 that night. Does that mean anything to you?

Mr. Lundell: Yes, the Campbell River Timber Company camp.
Mr. Langstroth: That night the wind gave them trouble along the south-west side and they took fallers out.

Mr. Lundell: Did they bring the fallers in to fall snags?

Mr. Langstroth: They brought them from Camp 10.

Mr. Lundell: They sent some fallers out from Camp 10 that night?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: To what part of the fire?

Mr. Langstroth: To the south-west side.

Mr. Lundell: Is that around Boot Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: Well, south of Boot Lake but nearer Campbell Lake than Boot Lake on the ridge between the south end of Boot Lake and Campbell Lake-south-west of the south tip of Goaling Lake.

Mr. Lundell: Did you spend the night at Camp 10?

Mr. Langstroth: Apparently there from 9.30 until 5.30 a.m. next morning.

Mr. Lundell: Do you know how many fallers went out?

Mr. Langstroth: Well, there was a speeder load. I would not say how many there were on it. I would make a guess of probably a dozen on that. This is just a guess that is all. Ordinarily they would not have fallers out at night.

Mr. Lundell: What, if any, operations were carried on by the Bloedel Company on the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th,---logging operations?

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Mr. Langstroth: I do not think there were any. I do not know of any.

Mr. Lundell: Did you tell me whether you gave any instructions to anyone in the Bloedel organization on the 8th. I was not sure whether you said so or not.

Mr. Langstroth: I do not believe I did.

Mr. Lundell: The 9th--that was a Saturday. Did you go back to the fire on the 9th--from Camp 10?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, from Camp 10. I left the camp at 6.30 in the morning. I would not have been more than half an hour getting down at the outside. Went up the C.R.F. main line and up Gosling Lake where they were working on the south-west side again that morning.

Mr. Lundell: Was that side still the trouble area?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, it was.

Mr. Lundell: Were fires spotting in that area?

Mr. Langstroth: I don't think so, we had to shift pumps to get to a higher elevation. I believe that was the morning they shipped a pump into Gosling Lake to get water up over that ridge.

Mr. Lundell: Could you tell us in general terms the boundaries of the fire that morning when you arrived there?

Mr. Langstroth: Well, the switch point on Branch 21 and 21C at the very tip in the notch was burned out and heading south of Branch 21. They saved one small cold-deck pile. That is, you gather the fire was kept from burning that. This cold-deck pile was on the east side of Branch 21. They saved this one small pile. Then the boundary following south from there followed 21 until it turned off to the swamp

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south-east of Boot Lake, then from the swamp south and south-east over that ridge and down the west side, keeping to the west side anyway of Cosling Creek until you get about a quarter of a mile above the crossing of Gosling Creek and the C.R.T. main line. Then the fire line crosses Cosling Creek and tied in further east to the C.R.T. main line.

Mr. Lundell:

Came right down?

Mr. Langstroth:

Went at an angle, if you understand.

Mr. Lundell:

What about that spot that had been burned south of the C.R.T. main line on the 6th?

Mr. Langstroth:

I believe at that time it was pretty well out.

Mr. Lundell:

Where did it go from there?

Mr. Langstroth:

Followed along the C.R.T. main line for a quarter of a mile, maybe more. The cat road went up over the ridges then. Tied in to odd grades and finally the cat road wound up on the east side of what had been a swamp hole almost up to the green scrub on the ridge at the north.

Mr. Lundell:

Is that the ridge between Cosling and Loveland Lakes?

Mr. Langstroth:

Yes.

Mr. Lundell:

What was the condition of the fire that morning----

Mr. Langstroth:

Pretty flat.

Mr. Lundell:

What do you mean by that?

Mr. Langstroth:

There was very little smoke showing.

Mr. Lundell:

Was the fire smouldering?

Mr. Langstroth:

Oh, yes, plenty of smouldering spots.

Mr. Lundell:

All inside the boundaries mentioned.

Mr. Langstroth:

Yes.

Mr. Lundell: What was the weather like that morning?
Mr. Langstroth: I have noted on here showers.
Mr. Lundell: On the 9th?
Mr. Langstroth: Wind; south-east, light.
Mr. Pilberg: What time was that--the hour of the showers?
Mr. Langstroth: I have not a note. I could make a guess. I think that shower came in some early hours of the morning but I cannot swear to that.
Mr. Lundell: Have you any record as to whether the showers were light or heavy?
Mr. Langstroth: They were not heavy.
Mr. Lundell: Intermittent?
Mr. Langstroth: No. There was only just one I remember spotting the dust.
Mr. Lundell: That is the one you speak of early in the morning of the 9th?
Mr. Langstroth: Yes. There may be other records to show.
Mr. Lundell: What was the disposition of the fire-fighting forces on the 9th, Mr. Langstroth?
Mr. Langstroth: Well, they were strung out pretty well all around I believe all that day.
Mr. Lundell: All around the whole fire boundary?
Mr. Langstroth: Yes, more or less all around the fire, but the south-west side was the one that needed the most attention.
Mr. Lundell: You are still referring to that ridge west of Gosling Creek.
Mr. Langstroth: Yes, that is, the south-west side.
Mr. Lundell: Did you have any conversations or discussions with Bloedel Company officials that day?
Mr. Langstroth: I apparently did, from my diary, if I may quote. I have here I went around the east end of the fire and made an inspection of the cat road fire line and an open portion

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that had to be filled in around the green scrub by digging out and so on, and discussed that with Daly after I met him. I believe I met him on the east side of Gosling Lake and discussed with him the fact that there was a fire line to be connected up along the green scrub. There was a gap there in the fire line of that green scrub.

Mr. Lundell: Is that the green scrub you referred to before, east of Gosling, between Gosling and Loveland Lakes?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, much nearer to Gosling than to Loveland.

Mr. Lundell: Do you remember having any conversations that day with any Bloedel officials?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I doubt if there was anything discussed further.

Mr. Lundell: Do you remember giving any instruction that day.

Mr. Langstroth: No, only that discussion about--

Mr. Lundell: The fire trail gap that you mentioned?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Did you bring in any further equipment?

Mr. Langstroth: No, not at that time. It was some days before we brought the extra hose in.

Mr. Lundell: Were you alone that day or was Mr. Ternan with you?

Mr. Langstroth: He was not there.

Mr. Lundell: Do you know if any logging operations were carried on on Saturday the 9th?

Mr. Langstroth: None I know of.

Mr. Lundell: Now we come to Sunday the 10th. Were you at the scene of the fire on the 10th?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I was not.

Mr. Lundell: Where were you that day?

Mr. Langstroth: I was in the office part of the time.

Mr. Lundell: At Campbell River?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, at Orster River, and I had to make a trip to Menzies. Came back late that night.

Mr. Lundell: Did you have any telephone or other conversation with any officials or employees of the Blacdel Company?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not remember any

Mr. Lundell: Do you have a record of the weather and direction of the wind.

Mr. Langstroth: I have showers noted here on that day.

Mr. Lundell: Extensive showers?

Mr. Langstroth: Not extensive. I have wind marked here, both a light breeze and stronger out of the south-east and also north-west.

Mr. Lundell: It veered apparently around to north-west some time during the day?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Have you any record as to whether the weather was clear or clearing that day after the showers?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I have not.

Mr. Lundell: Did you at any time on or before July 10th give Blacdel any permits to resume logging operations?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Lundell: Now, on the 11th of July, Monday. Did you go back to the scene of the fire.

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: At what time?

Mr. Langstroth: It was later on in the day. At 10.00 I left Campbell River apparently. I went in by Forbes

landing--took a kicker and boat.

Mr. Lundell: You went right up to the head of Campbell Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: To the edge of the fire, the nearest point to the lakeshore, near Gosling Creek.

Mr. Lundell: At what time approximately did you arrive?

Mr. Langstroth: If I remember I was there before noon. I think it was about 11 o'clock.

Mr. Lundell: What were the boundaries of the fire then when you arrived?

Mr. Langstroth: I believe they were the same as previously.

Mr. Lundell: On the Saturday?

Mr. Langstroth: On the 9th.

Mr. Lundell: What was the state of the fire?

Mr. Langstroth: Well, it was pretty flat.

Mr. Lundell: Was the fire still smoldering?

Mr. Langstroth: The odd smoulder but the bit of work was being done most on the south-west side. There was not very much of that because there was not much showing.

Mr. Lundell: Apparently not much fire showing?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Lundell: Were there any spot fires showing on the east side of Gosling Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not remember seeing any. If I am right in my memory that is the day that I could not count any from the opposite hill.

Mr. Lundell: What hill?

Mr. Langstroth: From the west side of Gosling Creek. I went up that side of it that day.

Mr. Lundell: You could not see any from there?

Mr. Langstroth: I believe I am right in saying I could not see any smoke.

Mr. Lundell: You did not go over the ground along the fire trails to the east and south of

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Gosling Lake.

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Filberg: On the south end of the fire did you go over the fire trail?

Mr. Langstroth: Just there where I left the boat following around to the west.

Mr. Lundell: That would be from the head of Campbell Lake west?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: What was the weather like that day?

Mr. Langstroth: I believe it was cool. I have noted here light south-east as far as wind goes. No rain.

Mr. Lundell: Do you remember how the fire fighting forces were distributed?

Mr. Langstroth: There was the odd man anywhere I want on the trail. That is all I'd be able to say I guess on that.

Mr. Lundell: Any pumps?

Mr. Langstroth: Oh, yes, pumps still running at various points.

Mr. Lundell: Along the fire trails you covered?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, along the fire trails I covered--Gosling Creek and that pothole swamp.

Mr. Filberg: This was essential to prevent the fire from going west?

Mr. Langstroth: That side I went on that day, yes.

Mr. Lundell: Did you have any conversations with any of the Elodel Company officials that day?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, I met Tom Daly, but I know it was just around quitting time--ordinary quitting time (that is between 4.00 and 5.00 p.m.)--somewhere about there at Switch 21 and 21C. It was a little ahead of quitting time because when I met Daly that night he told me there had been a call at Campbell River about fire in the Elk and I remember I got a call through from the

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switch point to the office, asked for a car to meet me and we got down on a speeder ahead of the crew.

Mr. Lundell: Wire up the Elk Valley?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Is that the only conversation you remember having that day?

Mr. Langstroth: I believe that was the day Mr. Daly told me-----

Mr. Manning: (Interrupted at this point) Wrong.

Mr. Lundell: Did you know anything about Bloedel's resuming logging operations that day?

Mr. Langstroth: I believe that was what I was told.

Mr. Lundell: You had no personal connection with the resumption of operations?

Mr. Harris: What do you mean?

Mr. Lundell: You did not yourself give them permission to resume logging?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I did not give them permission.

Mr. Filberg: Did you instruct them not to?

Mr. Langstroth: Did not instruct them not to.

Mr. Filberg: You knew they had resumed.

Mr. Lundell: That night as you said?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: It was the only time you met Daly that day?

Mr. Langstroth: I believe that was correct.

Mr. Lawson: That is the 11th.

Mr. Lundell: Was there any change in the fire situation on Monday the 11th?

Mr. Langstroth: No. The matter of patrol and odd pump here and there. Had been that way several days.

Mr. Lundell: Had you any conversations with any of Bloedels men or officials on the 11th other than the one you mentioned?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not think so.

Mr. Lundell: Tuesday, the 12th. Mr. Langstroth, were you back at the scene of the fire that day?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I was not at the fire that day at all. The night before I was up at the Upper Elk Valley and some time after dark----I did not get away from there until near 11 o'clock I suppose before I left Campbell Lake.

Mr. Lundell: On the night of the 12th?

Mr. Langstroth: On the night of the 11th I went up to Elk Valley. I came back the next day and I was feeling haywire and hit bed when I got home.

Mr. Lundell: Were any of your men up at the Bloedel Fire?
On the 12th?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not think so.

Mr. Lundell: Have you any record of the weather on the 12th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, north-west light to calm.

Mr. Lundell: Clear or cloudy?

Mr. Langstroth: Did not check that. No rainfall that day.
No record of any rainfall. Either no wind or light north-west breeze.

Mr. Lundell: No record as to cool or hot, clear or cloudy?

Mr. Langstroth: If my memory serves me it was fairly cloudy.

Mr. Lundell: Did you have any conversations with any of

Bloedel's officials by telephone that day--that is the 12th?

Mr. Langstroth: I would not be sure.

Mr. Lundell: You do not recall any.

Mr. Langstroth: I believe I called up and asked how things were going.

Mr. Lundell: You do not remember to whom you spoke or what response you got.

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Lundell: On Wednesday, the 13th, were you at the fire on that day-- the Bloedel fire?

Mr. Langstroth: I was up there about dark. It would be perhaps 9 o'clock, until a little after midnight.

Mr. Lundell: 9 o'clock on the evening of the 13th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Until midnight. What was the situation then?

Mr. Langstroth: The wind had picked up a lot of the smoldering spots inside the guard.

Mr. Pilberg: Where were you at 9.00 p.m. on July 13th?

Mr. Langstroth: At the very south end of it. Went up the lake, Campbell Lake by boat to the head of Campbell Lake. Just to the edge of the fire.

Mr. Lundell: What ground did you cover during those three hours?

Mr. Langstroth: Just the south-east corner. From the point where I landed.

Mr. Lundell: In an easterly direction?

Mr. Langstroth: East and north and west and north.

Mr. Lundell: And west and north?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, up along Gosling Creek on the west side and across the ridges on the east side a ways.

Mr. Lundell: Following fire trails on both sides?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Let us get back to these spot fires. Will you just explain what was happening at the fire.

Mr. Langstroth: Well, there was a locie and tank car and crew working right at the nearest point where I landed with the boat and they were pumping water up the hill and there was another pump working out of the lake on the same side.

Mr. Lundell: How many men were working there?

Mr. Langstroth: I did not count them but I believe I contacted about 20.

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Mr. Lundell: Twenty men-- along the whole length of the fire trails that you travelled that night?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: How far would that be in miles?

Mr. Langstroth: A mile and a half about.

Mr. Lundell: You explained a little while ago that when you arrived there the wind had picked up the spot fires. Just what was happening. Was the wind throwing fire ahead?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, throwing sparks.

Mr. Lundell: Were the spot fires being thrown across the trail?

Mr. Langstroth: They had been before I got there. There were some extra trails put in that afternoon.

Mr. Lundell: You could tell that could you?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes. The extra trails were put around the spot fires that had been across the first trail.

Mr. Lundell: Were any fires burning to the east or south of the trail on the far side of the fire?

Mr. Langstroth: I do not think there were. I could not see any.

Mr. Lundell: What was the state of the wind?

Mr. Langstroth: North-west.

Mr. Lundell: Was it blowing briskly?

Mr. Langstroth: Fairly fresh.

Mr. Pilberg: What do you mean by that? How strong?

Mr. Langstroth: I suppose 8 or 10 miles perhaps. That is just a guess.

Mr. Lundell: Was there any change in the fire situation the three hours you were there or have you described everything that happened?

Mr. Langstroth: The change was for the better. The fire was flattening down. There were places up well inside the burn or inside the fire line that they could not reach with water.

Mr. Lundell: Could you see if any snags were burning that night?

Mr. Langstroth: I would think there were snags burning well inside the line at that time, yes.

Mr. Lundell: That is between the fire line and Gosling Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, up that draw and some of the area to the east of the draw.

Mr. Lundell: That would be on Lot 51?

Mr. Langstroth: You have got me now. Will say between the fire line and Gosling Creek.

Mr. Lundell: Would you say between the fire line and Gosling Lake as well?

Mr. Langstroth: I suppose that would apply.

Mr. Lundell: That would be to the north?

Mr. Langstroth: I would not be able to state definitely.

Mr. Lundell: Did you see Mr. Daly, Mr. Coy or Mr. Lund?

Mr. Langstroth: No. They had left before I got there.

Mr. Lundell: Was the tank car still operating there when you left at midnight?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes. They were due to switch a short time after that.

Mr. Lundell: Switch cars?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Filberg: This night the fire had not crossed that trail to the south? The fire trail still held up to the night of the 13th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Were any fellers and buckers out?

Mr. Langstroth: I did not see any.

Mr. Filberg: You stayed there until a little after midnight?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: What time did you arrive the following morning, the 14th?

Mr. Langstroth: I was in the office and got in touch with the

lookouts until I went up Campbell Lake in the afternoon and got to the edge of the fire about 4.30.

Mr. Lundell: You spoke of the lookouts. Where were they?

Mr. Langstroth: Elk Falls and Upper Campbell.

Mr. Lundell: Is that between Lower Campbell and Upper Campbell lake?

Mr. Langstroth: One lookout, Upper Campbell, is just as you leave the Upper Campbell lake up on the hill to the west side slightly below the end of Upper Campbell.

Mr. Lundell: And the other was at Elk Falls?

Mr. Langstroth: That bit of a hill near Elk Falls Park. To the west a mile and a half.

Mr. Lundell: Were you getting reports from these men that morning?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: What were the reports?

Mr. Langstroth: Reports that the fire was picking up, until in the afternoon when they first reported it picked up big.

Mr. Lundell: You left for the scene of the fire?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: What is your record of the weather for that day?

Mr. Langstroth: Strong north-west.

Mr. Lundell: All day?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes..... No other note on it.

Mr. Lundell: Have you anything on the temperature?

Mr. Langstroth: A guess that it was over 70.

Mr. Lundell: Do you remember whether it was clear?

Mr. Langstroth: No rain so I believe it was clear. Wind in the north-west.

Mr. Pilberg: Have you a note of the humidity?

Mr. Langstroth: I have not here a note.

Mr. Lundell: Is the north-west wind the prevailing wind in that country in the summer time?

Mr. Langstroth: Pretty well prevailing summer wind last year.

Mr. Lundell: What time did you arrive at the fire on the 14th?

Mr. Langstroth: It was about 4.30 p.m.

Mr. Lundell: What route did you take to get there?

Mr. Langstroth: The boat from Forbes Landing.

Mr. Lundell: How far up the lake did you go?

Mr. Langstroth: I went up to within a mile described as the place where we had been landing.

Mr. Lundell: A mile west or east.

Mr. Langstroth: A mile east.

Mr. Lundell: East of the mouth of Gosling Creek?

Mr. Langstroth: Approximately.

Mr. Lundell: Where was the fire burning when you arrived?

Mr. Langstroth: Right there where I was.

Mr. Filberg: Right there at the shore of the lake?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: How far back from the shore of the lake would you be able to see from where you were?

Mr. Langstroth: I landed as close to the fire as I could, that would be a hundred yards east of the fire perhaps, otherwise the fire was on the shore line.

Mr. Farris: West of Jack Pine Point, just at the mouth of Deep Bay on the west side?

Mr. Langstroth: Just a little.

Mr. Farris: West of that?

Mr. Langstroth: A little west of the point of that--oh, I could not state where I was, I tried to set up radio connection.

Mr. Farris: Had the fire crossed the C.R.T. main line?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, it was, it smoked them out by then from the east to the west.

Mr. Filberg: Who was with you?

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Mr. Langstroth: A ranger assistant we had by the name of Carrot brother of the engineer who was at the station.

Mr. Lundell: Do you--we just spoke of Jack Pine Point a moment ago, do you know the fairly steep ridge that lies to the north and west of Jack Pine Point?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Had the fire reached that point?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, crowning up from it.

Mr. Filberg: All the snags there were afire?

Mr. Langstroth: All the snags and green timber, everything was on fire.

Mr. Lundell: But the fire had not reached Jack Pine Point?

Mr. Langstroth: Just according to how big Jack Pine Point was, the tip wasn't on fire.

Mr. Lundell: Was the fire burning south of the C.R.T. main line?

Mr. Langstroth: South of the main line I would say, where the point just starts to make off into the lake.

Mr. Farris: About what time?

Mr. Langstroth: About 4.30 in the afternoon.

Mr. Lundell: Just at the point?

Mr. Langstroth: Where the point starts to work out into the lake, the west edge--I think I am talking about the same place you are.

Mr. Lundell: What wind was blowing at the time?

Mr. Filberg: If there is any doubt I think you might set that out on the map?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: What was the state of the wind?

Mr. Langstroth: Strong northwest.

Mr. Lundell: Could you see where the fire was spotting ahead?

Mr. Langstroth: I could not see it spotting, it was crowning over the top of that ridge you refer to.

Mr. Lundell: You know what we mean Mr. Langstroth when we

refer to the Forbes Peninsula?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Was there any fire on the Forbes Peninsula at that time?

Mr. Langstroth: I didn't see it.

Mr. Filberg: Were there any fire fighters where you were?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Filberg: Did you see any one when you got to the shore line?

Mr. Langstroth: Not at the fire.

Mr. Filberg: When did you see anyone?

Mr. Langstroth: Now, when I say I didn't see anyone I mean fire fighters, now there were two other boats on the lake that came in there.

Mr. Filberg: Do you know who were in the boats?

Mr. Langstroth: I know one of them.

Mr. Filberg: Who?

Mr. Langstroth: Harvey, a game warden, he came after I had made my second landing.

Mr. Lundell: Where did you make your second landing?

Mr. Langstroth: I presume in the shore at the point you refer to as Jack Pine Point.

Mr. Lundell: On the beach?

Mr. Langstroth: At the east end, it runs at a south east direction-- if I believe you are talking about the one I think you are.

Mr. Filberg: Lets point it out on the map?

Mr. Langstroth: I can show you easily on the map.

Mr. Filberg: This is Jackpine Point?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, my first landing was about here--I am not dead sure of that place, we will say if the ridge lies here--then my landing is just down here.

Mr. Filberg: We will mark the place of your first landing "A".

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

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Mr. Filberg: The ridge where the fire was crowning is at the point marked "X"?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Farris: Where was the fire in relation to the point "X"?

Mr. Langstroth: If this is the road this is where the fire was right against where I landed.

Mr. Farris: It wasn't there on the point "A"?

Mr. Langstroth: I don't think so.

Mr. Filberg: At that time?

Mr. Langstroth: At that time.

Mr. Lundell: Will you mark the place where you made your second landing?

Mr. Langstroth: (does so)

Mr. Lundell: That is "B". What time was that?

Mr. Langstroth: Well I was here, perhaps---

Mr. Lundell: You were at "A"?

Mr. Langstroth: Not over ten or fifteen minutes, I had arranged a schedule for my radio message at a certain time--I tried the one here (at Point "A") at that time, and I had to hustle for it here (at point "B").

Mr. Farris: Where was the fire at that time?

Mr. Langstroth: If I landed here the fire was a hundred yards here.

Mr. Farris: To the west of "A"?

Mr. Langstroth: Everything to the west of a hundred yards was afire.

Mr. Farris: It had not got into Jack Pine Point?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Lundell: Did you see any fire on the Forbes Peninsula from the point "B"?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

(map marked Exhibit A for identification)

Mr. Farris: You said when you arrived at the point "A" there were no fire fighters there?

Mr. Langstroth: I said no.

Mr. Farris: That is at point "A"?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Farris: Do you know where they were?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Farris: You didn't go ashore at that time?

Mr. Langstroth: I went ashore and went along the track as far as I dared.

Mr. Lundell: You saw no fire fighters there?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Lundell: Did you see any fire fighters at point "B"?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Filberg: Did you see anyone on the shore of the lake there on the railway track?

Mr. Langstroth: Only when I got out on the lake again.

Mr. Farris: What time would that be?

Mr. Langstroth: I pulled out there about, I think 5.30.

Mr. Lundell: Any change in the fire situation when you left?

Mr. Langstroth: Just the same as when I landed.

Mr. Filberg: The fire on Jack Pine Point was spreading east?

Mr. Farris: He said there wasn't any fire on Jack Pine Point.

Mr. Langstroth: The fire was working down over the ridge, working east.

Mr. Farris: In the direction of Deep Bay?

Mr. Filberg: Was there a fire on Jack Pine Point?

Mr. Langstroth: No, not that I would know of.

Mr. Lundell: Had the fire crossed the C.R.T. track east of point "A" when you left?

Mr. Langstroth: I don't believe so.

Mr. Filberg: How much higher was the ridge between point "A"

and "B" from the lake in elevations approximately?

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Mr. Harris:

That is something that is capable of exact measurement, Mr. Wilberg.

Mr. Langstroth:

That is only by a guess as far as I am concerned, my guess would be perhaps three hundred feet, but I expect someone always knows what it is, there must be a map some place.

Mr. Lundell:

Where did you go after you left point "B"?

Mr. Langstroth:

Back down to Forbes.

Mr. Lundell:

Had those two parties in boats you spoke of left before you left Point "B"?

Mr. Langstroth:

No, I left ahead of them.

Mr. Lundell:

Were they both in Deep Bay when you left?

Mr. Langstroth:

Yes, they were ashore there.

Mr. Lundell:

On the shore?

Mr. Langstroth:

At the same place I was, they came ashore.

Mr. Lundell:

You didn't know the people in the other boat?

Mr. Langstroth:

No, I didn't know them.

Mr. Lundell:

How many were in that boat?

Mr. Langstroth:

Two.

Mr. Lundell:

Men?

Mr. Langstroth:

Two men.

Mr. Harris:

Appeared to be fishermen?

Mr. Langstroth:

I think they were---but really I could not say.

Mr. Lundell:

You returned to Forbes Landing then?

Mr. Langstroth:

Yes.

Mr. Lundell:

Where did you go after that?

Mr. Langstroth:

Campbell River.

Mr. Lundell:

Did you come back to the scene of the fire that night?

Mr. Langstroth:

Somewhat later.

Mr. Lundell:

When?

Mr. Langstroth:

When I took a crew in about midnight.

Mr. Lundell:

Were you back at Forbes Landing?

Mr. Langstroth:

At the actual fire?

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Mr. Farris: That is something that is capable of exact measurement, Mr. Wilberg.

Mr. Langstroth: That is only by a guess as far as I am concerned, my guess would be perhaps three hundred feet, but I expect someone always knows what it is, there must be a map some place.

Mr. Lundell: Where did you go after you left point "B"?

Mr. Langstroth: Back down to Forbes.

Mr. Lundell: Had those two parties in boats you spoke of left before you left Point "B"?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I left ahead of them.

Mr. Lundell: Were they both in Deep Bay when you left?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, they were ashore there.

Mr. Lundell: On the shore?

Mr. Langstroth: At the same place I was, they came ashore.

Mr. Lundell: You didn't know the people in the other boat?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I didn't know them.

Mr. Lundell: How many were in that boat?

Mr. Langstroth: Two.

Mr. Lundell: Men?

Mr. Langstroth: Two men.

Mr. Farris: Appeared to be fishermen?

Mr. Langstroth: I think they were--but really I could not say.

Mr. Lundell: You returned to Forbes landing then?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Where did you go after that?

Mr. Langstroth: Campbell River.

Mr. Lundell: Did you come back to the scene of the fire that night?

Mr. Langstroth: Somewhat later.

Mr. Lundell: When?

Mr. Langstroth: When I took a crew in about midnight.

Mr. Lundell: Were you back at Forbes landing?

Mr. Langstroth: At the actual fire?

Mr. Lundell: Were you back at Forbes Landing later that evening?

Mr. Langstroth: I went in with a crew that evening.

Mr. Lundell: When did you go back to Forbes Landing?

Mr. Langstroth: About eleven--between eleven and twelve.

Mr. Lundell: Did you go up from Campbell River then, from Forbes Landing?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, took a crew in from Forbes.

Mr. Lundell: Mr. Langstroth, were you along the Elk River Company's main line on the night of the 14th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: After you left Campbell River with this crew of men?

Mr. Langstroth: No, previously.

Mr. Lundell: Was that after you had returned to Campbell River or before?

Mr. Langstroth: You mean after I had been up the Lake?

Mr. Lundell: Yes.

Mr. Langstroth: After I had been up the Lake?

Mr. Lundell: Before you had returned to Campbell River?

Mr. Langstroth: No, returned to Campbell River first.

Mr. Lundell: And then you came back to Forbes Landing with a crew of men?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I then went up to Camp 3.

Mr. Lundell: Alone?

Mr. Langstroth: No, with Mr. Conway.

Mr. Lundell: Camp 3, that is the Elk River Company's Camp 3?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Mr. Conway by the way is what official?

Mr. Langstroth: Supervisor at Campbell River.

Mr. Lundell: Where did you and Mr. Conway go?

Mr. Langstroth: We went up on the speeder with Mr. Cobb, up the main line of the Elk River.

Mr. Lundell: The Elk River Timber Company?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

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Mr. Langstroth: About five miles I suppose.

Mr. Lundell: To the west?

Mr. Langstroth: More than that a little, I think it was nearer six, Mr. Cobb can probably check me.

Mr. Lundell: To the west of camp 6?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: To a point where you get a view over Campbell Lake across to the north shore of Campbell Lake?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: You were able to get a good view of the fire from there?

Mr. Langstroth: A good one.

Mr. Lundell: Somewhere around Cougar Point?

Mr. Langstroth: I think that is where we went to look around.

Mr. Lundell: What did you see from there?

Mr. Langstroth: Taking the thing from west to east, we could see dust rising from a cat on the south-west of the fire and the locie on the line on the east side.

Mr. Lundell: What did the locie have?

Mr. Langstroth: Presumably a tank car, it looked like it.

Mr. Lundell: Where was that in relation to Deep Bay?

Mr. Langstroth: You are calling Deep Bay this part east of Jack Pine Point?

Mr. Lundell: That's right.

Mr. Langstroth: That is where the locie was.

Mr. Lundell: What else?

Mr. Langstroth: The fire was crowning all over those ridges still.

Mr. Lundell: All over the ridges to the north of Campbell

Lake? Those ridges we have been referring to?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes. It was in the whole fire area that had been inside the fire line.

Mr. Lundell: At what time of the evening of the 14th was this?

Mr. Langstroth: I will see if I have anything here--I believe it was between seven and eight o'clock in the evening. I didn't note the time--sometime before

dark so we could see plainly.

Mr. Lundell: Did you see any fire on the peninsula?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Will you describe that?

Mr. Langstroth: Spotted at least a quarter of a mile southeast of the part of the peninsula that was nearest to the fire and approximately half a mile spots as we looked, it was looking across the lake, it spread half a mile across the section of our view of the fire--put it that way.

Mr. Lundell: There was a front of half a mile of spots on the peninsula at that time?

Mr. Langstroth: May I refer to that way again. I can describe it better--this was the part of the peninsula nearest to the fire.

Mr. Lundell: We will mark that "Q"?

Mr. Langstroth: We were looking from over in here.

Mr. Lundell: You were looking at it approximately at the point "D"?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, and it was spotted from within that bracket.

Mr. Lundell: Within this area from here--that is from the point marked "X" to the point marked "F"?

Mr. Langstroth: Spotted through this area.

Mr. Lundell: Spot fires in that area between "L" and "F"?

Mr. Langstroth: Smoke rising in various places, fairly good strong smoke.

Mr. Lundell: Could you see how far back of that line the spot fires were burning to the east and the north?

Mr. Langstroth: It is pretty hard to state, it didn't look to be on the shore-line but with this rise up it flattens off here for a ways so you are looking over flat--if I make myself clear and it is hard to judge how far back of the flat it was--it

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was in from the shore and I would say it was in about that far, but it might have been scattered this way too.

Mr. Lundell: In a north-easterly and south-westerly direction?

Mr. Filberg: You would have to look through the smoke and the fire to see anything else?

Mr. Langstroth: Not at that time, it lifted up so we had a clear vision through here.

Mr. Lundell: Could you tell at that time of the night in which direction the fire was travelling?

Mr. Langstroth: The wind was drawing this way.

Mr. Lundell: South-easterly?

Mr. Langstroth: We call it a north-west wind.

Mr. Cobb: How much would you estimate the velocity of that wind?

Mr. Langstroth: Fifteen miles an hour perhaps.

Mr. Filberg: Fifteen miles an hour. At what time?

Mr. Langstroth: I described we were in there while it was dark enough to see clearly--I would say between seven and eight o'clock.

Mr. Lundell: When you were at the point "D" was there any fire burning at the points "A" and "B"?

Mr. Langstroth: I can't be sure of that.

Mr. Lundell: You don't remember?

Mr. Langstroth: There was smoke in here, drifting out of there-- I won't be sure about that.

Mr. Lundell: What did you do after that Mr. Langstroth?

Mr. Langstroth: Came back down to Camp 8, went up to Campbell River and rustled a crew.

Mr. Lundell: You and Mr. Conway?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: And then what?

Mr. Filberg: Who was with you when you saw those fires on the peninsula?

Mr. Langstroth: At which time? Mr. Cobb and Mr. Conway and whatever

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the speeder man's name is, I am not sure of it ---

Mr. Cobb

I am not sure--someone drove us.

Mr. Lundell:

What did you do after you left Campbell River with the crew of men?

Mr. Langstroth:

We collected them at Campbell River and headed out to Forbes Landing and separated them into two gangs and back fired the peninsula.

Mr. Lundell:

You and Mr. Conway both?

Mr. Langstroth:

No, he was with us, but my assistant took one crew and I took another.

Mr. Lundell:

Approximately what time?

Mr. Langstroth:

It was midnight when we kicked off from Forbes.

Mr. Lundell:

Where did you go to back fire?

Mr. Langstroth:

I don't know whether it is marked on the map-- I can show you approximately.

Mr. Lundell:

I am afraid we will have to transfer to some other map.

Mr. Farris:

Is that the map used on Daly's examination?

Mr. Lundell:

Yes, the same one--marked Exhibit 1 on Daly's examination.

Mr. Langstroth:

Do you want me to mark this one?

Mr. Lundell:

I think we might mark it in pencil.

Mr. Langstroth:

We came up to here approximately by boat, one crew on this part in from here like this and out around this way, we had to go through a strip of green timber, we had to go through there to get to it and we fired up to this tip of slash from the top between these two hummocks.

Mr. Lundell:

From the west bank of Campbell River following approximately the line marked B.F. on the map, west in the draw between contours 550 and 600, and north to the west bank of the Campbell River, is that right?

Mr. Langstroth:

There is something that doesn't quite jibe

there, from what I remember of the country we went down and come up to the river bank on this side with a green strip between us, the slash lay here and along the side hill.

Mr. Lundell: You didn't come out to the river bank in lot 89?

Mr. Langstroth: No, back behind.

Mr. Lundell: Following the contour 550 on the west bank of Campbell River?

Mr. Langstroth: About that.

Mr. Lundell: Were you in charge of that gang?

Mr. Langstroth: I was in charge of that gang.

Mr. Lundell: What time did you fire that part?

Mr. Langstroth: Left here at midnight--in about three quarters of an hour or less we started to light up.

Mr. Lundell: Were you able to tell at that time from where you were what progress the fire on the Forbes Peninsula had made?

Mr. Langstroth: Before we left here?

Mr. Lundell: Forbes Landing?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, we could see the fire down on the shore line here some place, it is difficult to say where at this point.

Mr. Lundell: Down on the shore line?

Mr. Langstroth: Down on the shore line somewhere along here.

Mr. Lundell: Could you say approximately how far from Forbes Landing?

Mr. Langstroth: It is pretty hard to tell at night--these two points line up.

Mr. Farris: Point along the south side of the Forbes

Peninsula.

Mr. Langstroth: Along in here to where this one was--that one--
I could not say.

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- Mr. Lundell: Could you tell how far to the north the fire was burning on the Forbes Peninsula?
- Mr. Langstroth: No, not from this point.
- Mr. Lundell: Not from Forbes Landing. What was the direction of the wind at that time?
- Mr. Langstroth: About like this.
- Mr. Lundell: Still blowing from the northwest?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes.
- Mr. Lundell: At approximately what velocity?
- Mr. Langstroth: About the same--fifteen miles an hour I believe.
- Mr. Lundell: About fifteen miles an hour. Now you said another crew went to another point in the Peninsula?
- Mr. Langstroth: My assistant went up in here, I don't know the exact point on this map.
- Mr. Lundell: About how far?
- Mr. Langstroth: To the edge of this slashed place through here, at various places through here.
- Mr. Lundell: Various places through the peninsula--about how far west of the point where you went in with your crew?
- Mr. Langstroth: Approximately at the point marked L92. Somewhere in here I can't point it out to you, the edge of the slash where they came down here.
- Mr. Lundell: Did that crew back fire at that point?
- Mr. Langstroth: A little, but they were chased out of it.
- Mr. Lundell: Did you say they were chased out?
- Mr. Langstroth: There wasn't much left to back fire when they came out.
- Mr. Filberg: What was your purpose in back-firing?
- Mr. Langstroth: To clean the slash out before it came to the heat of the next day.
- Mr. Lundell: Were those the only two places where you backfired that night Mr. Langstroth?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes.
- Mr. Lundell: What time did you finish?
- Mr. Langstroth: My crew finished about daylight, at the crack of day

light, that would be about 3.30--we let up on the hill.

Mr. Lundell: And the other crew?

Mr. Langstroth: I didn't see them until the next day at noon.

Mr. Lundell: Did you hear when they finished or were driven out?

Mr. Langstroth: I could not tell you that.

Mr. Lundell: How did your crew come out?

Mr. Langstroth: Following out these grades over the C.R.T. main line and working along the C.R.T. main line towards Elk Falls to the end of the road built the winter previously by the F.R.P.--and picked up at the end of that road by Constable McAlpine.

Mr. Lundell: Did you stay with the crew all night?

Mr. Langstroth: I was there when they came out.

Mr. Harris: What is the morning of the 15th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Where had the fire on the peninsula progressed when you left that morning?

Mr. Langstroth: Well, I could not tell you that very well. We were working in the dark, firing up that one bunch of slash, on that one grade and it didn't get over the hill to us when we came out that rose

Mr. Lundell: It didn't connect up with your back fire?

Mr. Langstroth: No.

Mr. Lundell: Could you see where it was burning when you got to the C.R.T. track?

Mr. Langstroth: No, it was blotted out with smoke so we could not see distinctly at all.

Mr. Lundell: Was the whole peninsula blotted out with smoke?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, as far as the sight went, we could not be sure what was what.

Mr. Lundell: Was the wind still blowing from the northwest when you left that morning.

Mr. Langstroth: A little, not so strongly.

Mr. Lundell: Then did you go back to Campbell River on the

morning of the 15th?

Mr. Langstroth: When I came out from the fire?

Mr. Lundell: Yes.

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Did you go back to the fire again on the day of the 15th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, as soon as I could get back.

Mr. Lundell: What time was that?

Mr. Langstroth: Well, I am afraid you have got me now.

Mr. Lundell: Perhaps we are getting too particular here?

Mr. Langstroth: I will see if I have got it down here--oh yes, I have, I can just read it and that's all--in to Duncan Bay Road eight o'clock returned to Forbes Landing ten o'clock.

Mr. Lundell: Ten a.m.?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Where was the fire burning then?

Mr. Langstroth: Going strong on the peninsula.

Mr. Lundell: How far to the east and south was the fire burning on the peninsula at that time?

Mr. Langstroth: I don't know rightly at that hour--our back fire was going good I know that, that is the one I could see when I was going back to Forbes by reason of its position, it was the nearest one to that road going in there.

Mr. Lundell: Could you see the position of the main fire going down the peninsula?

Mr. Langstroth: Not so good on account of the smoke.

Mr. Lundell: Was the smoke from that main fire blowing across the peninsula, across Campbell River and across Forbes Landing?

Mr. Langstroth: Coming right along down the valley that is formed in there between the hills.

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Mr. Lundell: Coming right down Campbell Lake in the direction of Forbes Landing?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Was the wind still from the northwest?

Mr. Langstroth: Oh yes.

Mr. Lundell: What velocity approximately?

Mr. Langstroth: I don't think it was so strong that morning, I would not say it was not over ten miles at the most, that is the morning I am referring to now.

Mr. Lundell: Did you stay at Forbes Landing?

Mr. Langstroth: I worked around there all day and was still there at midnight in that vicinity.

Mr. Pilberg: What time did the fire cross Campbell River?

Mr. Langstroth: The first one crossed sometime within an hour after I got back to Forbes Landing that morning.

Mr. Pilberg: That would be about eleven o'clock.

Mr. Langstroth: I would say about that.

Mr. Pilberg: On the 15th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, that is the 15th.

Mr. Lundell: At about what point?

Mr. Langstroth: That would be across below Forbes.

Mr. Lundell: That would be to the north of Forbes Landing.

Mr. Langstroth: Northeast.

Mr. Lundell: North and east. About how far north and east?

Mr. Langstroth: I had better refer to that map again. This area--somewhere in here.

Mr. Lundell: Just to the west of the words and figures L86?

Mr. Langstroth: I can't be sure about that, but in here approximately.

Mr. Lundell: In that neighbourhood?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Pilberg: How far north of Forbes?

Mr. Langstroth: Between a quarter and a half a mile down river from Forbes, that is north really and east.

- Mr. Lundell: Where was the fire burning on the peninsula at noon on the 15th?
- Mr. Langstroth: Pretty well all through the peninsula.
- Mr. Lundell: Down to how far?
- Mr. Langstroth: This burning here and this back fire going strong.
- Mr. Lundell: Back fire still going strong?
- Mr. Langstroth: Oh yes.
- Mr. Lundell: Just along the west bank of the Campbell River?
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes, this portion of it.
- Mr. Lundell: Confined to the west bank of the Campbell River from this point--about here?
- Mr. Langstroth: I don't know whether that ridge burned that day or not. I can't be sure, it burned afterwards sometime. I would not say it burned that day.
- Mr. Lundell: You are sure of this part here?
- Mr. Langstroth: This was all lit up in here from behind that ridge.
- Mr. Lundell: Where I am running my pencil now, between the lines, how about there?
- Mr. Langstroth: No so close to that side--at that time I mean.
- Mr. Lundell: Between the lines "B" and "P" about like that?
- Mr. Langstroth: I would say that is pretty near proper.
- Mr. Lundell: And this one back fire was burning at noon on the 15th.
- Mr. Langstroth: Yes.
- Mr. Lundell: Along a narrow strip?
- Mr. Langstroth: The width of the logging, this was all logged here.
- Mr. Lundell: Approximately how wide would that be?
- Mr. Langstroth: Ten to twenty or thirty-thirty chains I would say, about three-eighths or a quarter of a mile between those two.
- Mr. Lundell: Do you mean in width?
- Mr. Langstroth: In width--much more than that in length, there is a grade down here----

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Mr. Lundell: How far down the lake was the main fire burning at noon?

Mr. Langstroth: I wasn't there at noon. I can't really definitely state--I was all over in here.

Mr. Lundell: In lot 80?

Mr. Langstroth: In this part here, about here.

Mr. Lundell: Were you back at Forbes Landing during the afternoon of the 15th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes, off and on.

Mr. Lundell: At one o'clock.

Mr. Langstroth: I believe I was back along about that time.

Mr. Lundell: Where was the main fire burning on the peninsula at that time?

Mr. Langstroth: I can't say definitely--along about here.

Mr. Lundell: You could not tell from Forbes Landing how far in the direction of Forbes Landing it had gone?

Mr. Langstroth: No, I could not definitely state that. It had cleaned up what slash there was which came about here but I can't state definitely.

Mr. Lundell: Do you know when the fire crossed Campbell Lake?

Mr. Farris: Do you mean into the Elk River?

Mr. Lundell: Into the south side of Campbell Lake.

Mr. Langstroth: I cannot give you the hour during that afternoon.

Mr. Lundell: The 15th?

Mr. Langstroth: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Did you see the fire spot on the south ~~of~~ side of the lake?

Mr. Langstroth: No I did not.

Mr. Lundell: I think that is all.

-----OIO-----

EXAMINATION OF MR. CLIFFORD TERNAN BY MR. LUNDELL.

Mr. Lundell:

Mr. Ternan, you have heard what Mr. Langstroth has told us this afternoon about the Bloodel Fire in 1938, have you anything to add?

Mr. Parris:

How about calling it a fire in the Campbell River District.

Mr. Ternan:

That is the official name.

Mr. Parris:

It has no official name.

Mr. Lundell:

Have you anything to add to what Mr. Langstroth has told us?

Mr. Ternan:

He phoned me and I left at six o'clock in the plane and I went around the fire twice by plane and went up in the speeder and got to the fire about a quarter to nine.

Mr. Lundell:

On the morning of the 6th?

Mr. Ternan:

Yes, on the morning of the 6th and they had a pretty tough time of it and I stayed with them until a quarter to twelve and I decided to go and see for myself and I went around the fire and got back about five o'clock that afternoon and they were still fighting it with the main crew and that is the first time the fire had been looked at apart from where the fight was going on at the time and the next morning I told the superintendent to get his tractor down into the old burn and cut it off and I took twenty-four men to work on the west side of Gosling Creek and after I got that crew to work I came back again, made arrangements with the superintendent and had his foreman come with me and went down to the job, crossed over ^{to} the C.R.T. track and came up on the south and east of the fire and by that time, the afternoon of the 7th, the tractor was working and I went over the

the different spots with him and told him what to do and arranged for work to be carried out the next day and I left that evening.

Mr. Lundell: That is the evening of the 7th?

Mr. Terman: The evening of the 7th.

Mr. Lundell: In July?

Mr. Terman: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: What arrangements did you make to have the work carried out on the following day?

Mr. Terman: I told him how to go about it with his tractor; how to concentrate his men on the fire, while the tractor was still there I suggested what he had better do and from then on I could not tell you.

Mr. Pilberg: You left when?

Mr. Terman: I left the fire line about 7.30, left the camp about 8 o'clock and arrived at Campbell River about 9.30.

Mr. Farris: Which day?

Mr. Terman: The evening of the 7th.

Mr. Pilberg: Were you back to the fire again north of Campbell Lake?

Mr. Terman: No, I wasn't back until the 15th and then I was at Forbes Landing.

Mr. Lundell: Did you assume charge of the fire fighting, Mr. Terman, during the days you were there?

Mr. Terman: If you understand a crew of a couple of hundred men on a fire, organized and carrying on fire fighting activities satisfactorily, because everyone was working and doing good work when I was there, in fact had attacked the vital part of the fire, and there is no question about that, it was not necessary for me to assume charge of the fire.

Mr. Lundell: Was it at your suggestion that they ran the fire

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trail, the esterpillar around the south and east boundaries of the fire?

Mr. Torman: Yes.

Mr. Lundell: Nothing had been done on that side up to that time?

Mr. Torman: When I got there in the afternoon the tractor was there, after going around with the foreman I found that some of the crew from camp 10 were down there on the south side of the fire.

Mr. Lundell: Where was that, at Gosling Creek?

Mr. Torman: Down on the track at Gosling Creek, around that area there.

Mr. Lundell: What were they doing?

Mr. Torman: Oh, general fire fighting, putting the trenches around here and there, it was all spotted out there you see.

Mr. Filberg: In the old burn?

Mr. Torman: Yes.

Mr. Filberg: When you left the fire on the evening of the 7th?

Mr. Torman: Yes.

Mr. Filberg: And you didn't know how the fire fighting was conducted after that time.

Mr. Torman: I know nothing about it.

Mr. Lundell: Did you give any other instructions in regard to fire fighting by telephone?

Mr. Torman: No.

Mr. Lundell: Did you give any permission to the Eiscoed Company to resume logging operations?

Mr. Torman: I went in to see the Superintendent before I left and just as I was leaving he asked me if it would be alright to remove cold decks later on if conditions were O.K. as he wanted to burn slash in the fall so I told him in so far as we were concerned we hoped--we were anxious to see them burn in the fall and we would not mind them

taking up the cold decks provided the fire was safe and to get in touch with ranger Langstroth ~~and to contact them~~ *who could readily be contacted.* That was just a passing conversation, as a matter of fact I had picked up my hat and was just starting out of his office.

Mr. Lundell: Was there any mention of the number of men that might be employed at that work in removing cold deck piles?

Mr. Ternan: No.

Mr. Lundell: Where were they?

Mr. Ternan: On the main line.

Mr. Lundell: Did the superintendent mention the number of cold deck piles?

Mr. Ternan: I think three--it was just a passing conversation.

Mr. Filberg: Did you assume that the Bloedel Company would work their full number of employees as were necessary on the fire---

Mr. Farris: I don't think that question should be asked?

Mr. Ternan: I wouldn't answer that question---

Mr. Farris: Just a minute please. I think Mr. Lundell agrees with me. I don't think you should make any answer to that question.

Mr. Filberg: Can't I ask the representative of the logging company?

Mr. Ternan: I can't express an opinion.

Mr. Lundell: In any case you arranged with the Superintendent to contact Mr. Langstroth?

Mr. Ternan: Yes, I knew he would be around the fire and I would not be.

Mr. Lundell: So there were no final instructions of any kind.

Mr. Farris: That is not fair either. The effect of that can be determined later.

Mr. Lundell: I want to be sure that Mr. Ternan has exhausted his conversation.

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Mr. Filberg:

Mr. Daly has said in his examination for discovery he had certain instructions from the Forest Branch. Can't we ask regarding that?

Mr. Farris:

I have no objection to asking Mr. Terman what he said or what he did. I don't exactly remember what Daly said.

Mr. Lundell:

Just before we give that I would like to be sure we have covered all the conversation you had with Mr. Daly or any other officer of the Bloedel Company?

Mr. Terman:

Yes, I think so, except a general discussion on the fire line.

Mr. Lundell:

Do you know of your own knowledge whether any verbal permission was given to Bloedels to resume operations?

Mr. Farris:

Other than the conversations already referred to?

Mr. Terman:

No.

Mr. Farris:

When you say of your own knowledge, that is in your presence?

Mr. Terman:

Right.

Lawson, Clark & Lundell
Barristers, Solicitors, Etc.

James H. Lawson, M.A. George H. Clark
Charles H. Lundell

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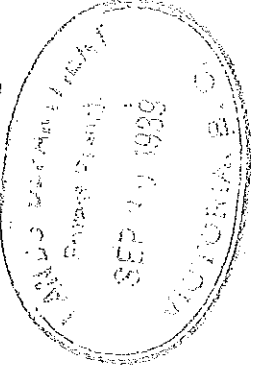
TELEPHONE SEY. 3682 & 3683
CABLE ADDRESS "LAWCLA"

1398797

Standard Bank Bldg.
Vancouver, B.C.

September 29, 1939.

E. C. Manning, Esq.,
Chief Forester,
Parliament Buildings,
VICTORIA, B.C.



Dear Mr. Manning: Re: Elk River Timber Co. Ltd. vs.
Bloedel, Stewart & Welch Ltd.

We enclose herewith copy of the minutes of
taken in our interview with Messrs. Langstroth and
Ternan, as revised and approved by them.

Yours very truly,

OFL:D

LAWSON, CLARK & LUNDELL

enc.

Per: *Off. Lundell*

*file
JCL*

Lawsen, Clark & Lundell

Barristers, Solicitors, Etc.

James P. Lawson, M.A. George F. Clark

Osborn F. Lundell

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TELEPHONE SEV. 3682 & 3683
CABLE ADDRESS "LAWCLA"

Standard Bank Bldg.
Vancouver, B.C.

November 1, 1939.

1405825

E. C. Manning, Esq.,
Chief Forester,
Parliament Buildings,
VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Mr. Manning:

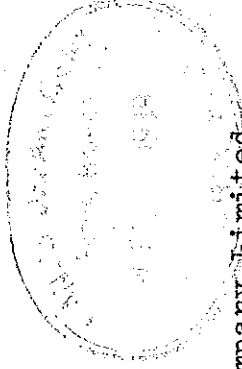
The case of Elk River Timber Company Limited
vs. Bloedel Stewart & Welch Limited has been set down
for trial for the 4th December next, and no doubt the
records of your Campbell River office with reference
to weather conditions, humidity, and more particularly
the hazard sticks may be called for in evidence at
the trial.

In order that these records may be available
on short notice and that they may be maintained in some
safe situation, we would request that they be transferred
to your office and placed in some fire-proof vault.

Yours very truly,

JHL:D

James P. Lawson



Q3739

Vancouver, B.C.

November 3, 1939.

OF Bloedel #230 (1938)

Please find attached, copy of a letter of November 1st from Lawson, Clark & Lundell.

As this seems to be a reasonable request will you arrange to have all records, such as those mentioned, transferred to this office specifically labeled so that they will not go astray here.


E.E. Gregg,
Assistant Forester.

EEG:J
encl.

0131739

P.C. Nov. 13
[initials]

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344

365

November 3, 1939.

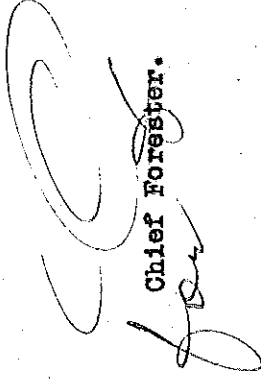
File: 0131739.

Messrs. Lawson, Clark & Lundell,
Barristers, Solicitors, etc.,
Standard Bank Building,
Vancouver, B.C.

Gentlemen:

Acknowledging yours of November 1st,
I beg to reply that as your request seems quite reason-
able, we are having all such records as you mention
transferred to Victoria where they will be stored in a
fire-proof vault.

Yours truly,


Chief Forester.

EEG.
J.

Copy forwarded D.F. Vancouver

*Re. Nov. 15 to Vancouver
leave it with
being*

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Lawson, Clark & Lundell

Consulting Engineers, Ltd.

James H. Lawson, M.A. George F. Clark

Robert F. Lundell

TELEPHONE SEY. 3692 & 3693
CABLE ADDRESS "LAWCLA"

1406864

Standard Bank Bldg.

Vancouver, B.C.

November 6, 1939.

Chief Forester,
Department of Lands,
Forest Branch,
Parliament Buildings,
VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Sir: Your File No. 0131739.

We have your letter of November 3, 1939,
for which we thank you.

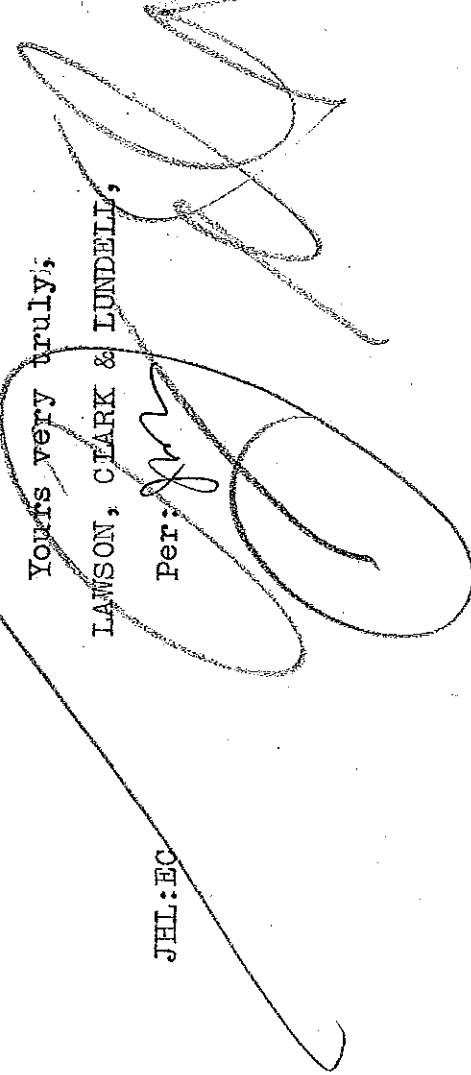
Yours very truly,

LAWSON, CLARK & LUNDELL,

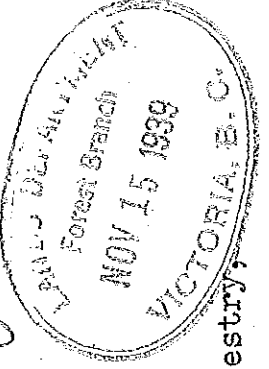
JHL:EC

Per: 





3470/309



Box 212,
Comox, B.C.,
November 9, 1939.

Mr Manning,
Chief of B.C. Forestry,
Victoria, B.C.

1408

Dear Sir:

During the fire at Campbell River in 1938, Mr. Conway of the Campbell River Forestry Station phoned and said I had been recommended to him to take a Forestry Official into the Dove Creek and Wolf Lake areas, to ascertain how far the fire had worked back.

I informed Mr. Conway that I could spare three days, although it meant giving up my work for which I was receiving eight dollars a day.

I was sent out with a Mr. McKinnon at Dove Creek, and while climbing through burning wind-falls the first day, I strained my back. I was laid up for ten days and had to have a number of treatments.

I phoned Mr. Conway regarding pay and he said it was nothing to do with him -- but later said he would look into the matter. So far I have heard nothing more.

Yours very truly,

J. Leis Smith.

For Mr. Manning



DEPARTMENT OF LANDS
FOREST BRANCH

VICTORIA, B.C.

November 16, 1939.

File: 0131739 #2.

MEMORANDUM

re

J. Cecil Smith's letter of Nov. 9, 1939

At the time of the Bloedel Fire, in the summer of 1938, I was assisting the District staff by making various scouting trips to determine the boundaries of the fire. One of the trips on which I was asked to go was up into the Forbidden Plateau. There were sundry rumours to the effect that the fire had burned as far as Croteau's camp, and before Messrs. Haddon and Conway would let me start they insisted on a seasoned woodsman accompanying me.

Mr. Conway, or possibly Mr. J.G. MacDonald, suggested Mr. Cecil (Cougar) Smith as being a suitable man since he knew the country so intimately. Mr. Smith at the time was guiding for Tyee fishermen at Campbell River, but in view of the emergency, consented to make the trip. I have no knowledge concerning the financial arrangements -- whether or not the man was hired for three days work, or at what rate of pay.

The following morning (date forgotten) I met Mr. Smith in Courtenay (Conway having brought him from Campbell River) and we started up the Plateau trail from the end of the Dove Creek trail. In due course we worked our way through the burning timber and counted several miles further up the trail to see if there were any spots or whether we had passed out of the fire area. In the afternoon we again got back down to the fire and worked our way along the face south toward Dove Creek to determine whether the fire had been drawn up the canyon.

At a point about one mile south of the Plateau trail Mr. Smith bent down to pass under a windfall about $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet off the ground. After getting clear he was unable to straighten up due to what appeared to be a crick in the back. We had to sit around for half an hour for his back to straighten out. An attempt was made to push further south, but Smith's back was in bad shape and we decided

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That the best course of action was to get as far down the hill as possible before he had to be packed. Fortunately he made the car under his own steam and we returned to Courtenay.

Mr. Conway took Smith back to Campbell River that night and I located another cougar hunter to continue the scouting.

The facts of the case are these:

- (a) Mr. Smith worked only one day.
- (b) Mr. Smith really did nothing for us which should have strained his back, but a compensation form should have been submitted (it apparently was overlooked).
- (c) At the time of the incident Mr. Smith laid the cause to a chill he had received the night before while out rowing fishermen.

7.5. McKinnon

F. S. McKinnon,
Forester.

FSM:JC

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November 16, 1939.

File: 0131739.

Mr. J. Cecil Smith,
P.O. Box 212,
Comox, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of November 9th addressed to the Chief Forester has been handed to this Department for attention.

As the fire in question was fought under the jurisdiction of the District Forester, Vancouver, we are asking him to investigate the matter and upon receipt of his report we will again write you.

Yours truly,



T.A. Simmons,
for Forester.

TAS:J

Copy forwarded D.F. Vancouver