



Summer-Fall Issue

From the President

By Richard Dominy

A lot of emphasis since the last quarter has been catching up on administrative Association tasks such as the conversion of the website to WordPress, conforming to the new "Society Act" requirements and conducting the annual financial reviews.

Our searchable **online bibliography** has been converted to Zotero thanks to **John Parminter**. (read more on page 12).

Thank you to **Katherine Spencer** for presenting our book prize to the ABCFP Valedictorian at the Feb 2019 convention. (read more on page 9).

Congratulations to **Eric Andersen** on his new position as a Squamish municipal councillor! Subsequently, Eric has less time to dedicate to the newsletter and I am happy to report Dave Florence is taking the newsletter editor's hat.

Gerry Burch – a Founding Member of our Association - has been named "Volunteer Alumnus of the Year" by UBC.

Plans are proceeding on the development of our **AGM 2019** – to be held in **Kamloops 27-29 September** this year. More on page 12 in Upcoming Events.

Social Media: We are investigating our social media presence and shortly we will be able to report our connections to the members and the rest of the world!

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Forest History Collaboration Report: Aleza Lake Research Forest and UNBC Archives

By Michael Jull MSc, RPF, Manager, Aleza Lake Research Forest

We are happy to report on several inter-connected forest history initiatives currently ongoing in the Prince George-Upper Fraser areas of the BC Central Interior. These include projects at the Northern BC Archives (located at the University of Northern BC), and at the Aleza Lake Research Forest (or ALRF), a UNBC research forest. The ALRF covers 9,000 ha of moist upland sub-boreal forest about 60 km NE of Prince George. The research forest encompasses the area formerly occupied by the Aleza Lake Forest Experiment Station, which was operated by the BC Forest Service (BCFS) between 1924 and 1963.

At the ALRF, we are looking forward to our centenary milestone year of 2024, representing 100 years since the founding of the Aleza Lake Forest Experiment Station in 1924 by Dr. Percy Barr of the BC Dept. of Lands. We are working to document and consolidate the history of this storied area.

Recent digitization of Aleza historical materials, and extension accomplishments by the UNBC Archives, described in more detail in

the companion article in this newsletter by Kim Stathers, are now being complemented by the hiring of Forest History and Cultural Heritage student assistant and UNBC graduate, Melanie Bellwood, from May to August 2019. This internship position is being supported by the Aleza Lake Research Forest Society and a private donor. 80% of Melanie's work will be focused at UNBC Archives and 20% in the field at the ALRF.

Historical field areas being examined this summer include sections of the forest trail system still visible on the Aleza forest; we suspect that these were constructed by the Depression-era Young Men's Forestry Training Plan program back in the late 1930's. Also, Melanie will be working with Kim to develop a forest history interpretive exhibit, to be installed at the new Aleza Field Education Centre (<https://www.aleza.ca/>).

In 2015-16, ALRF Manager Mike Jull and FHABC member Barb Coupe assisted UNBC Archives in the collation and description of forestry materials donated by Harry Coates.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Harry worked as a BCFS Research Technician at the Aleza Lake Forest Experiment Station from 1957 to 1963, and later established many reforestation research trials in the Central Interior during his BCFS career, from the late 1950's until his retirement in 1993.

Harry Coates and his colleague, the late John Revel RPF, were instrumental in advocating for the re-

establishment of the Aleza Lake area as a research forest from the 1970's to 1990's. John was also well known for his pioneering work on reforestation in the northern Interior, and his leadership in establishing the Red Rock Research Station near Prince George. Harry and John finally succeeded in 1992 in having the Aleza Lake Research Forest officially designated as a research forest by the provincial government, and further, in

2001, when the ALRF became a university research forest.

We will provide further updates on the progress of Aleza Forest history initiatives and projects, in future issues of the FHABC newsletter.



Archives work on the Aleza Lake Research Forest records

(By Kim Stathers, MAS, MLIS, Archivist | Librarian; Northern BC Archives & Special Collections, UNBC).

The historical records of the [Aleza Lake Research Forest](#) are now fully digitized and freely available online.

The Northern BC Archives, located at the University of Northern British Columbia, holds the original Aleza Lake Research Forest (ALRF) archival material, which consists of records created between 1913 and 2001 by the Research Branch of the BC Ministry of Forests. These records were transferred to the archives in 2006 from the Ministry with the goal of increasing access to historical scientific data for the ALRF Society

and other researchers interested in forest history. In 2019 we were able to further increase access by digitizing this important resource thanks to external funding support from a private foundation.

The digitized records encompass textual, cartographic and photographic materials documenting BC's earliest and longest-running experimental research forest. With its experimental plots existing from the 1920s, these records provide a wealth of data for the study of forest practices in BC.

The collection can be viewed here:

<https://search.nbca.unbc.ca/index.php/aleza-lake-research-forest-fonds>

Browse digitized photographs:

<https://bit.ly/2uOLrFy>

Browse digitized maps:

<https://bit.ly/2EvwJbP>

Browse digitized reports and documents:

<https://bit.ly/2BUpNDB>



[2007.1.25.6.12 - District Officers meeting at Aleza Lake experimental Station held in 1928](#)
- courtesy UNBC archives

...from our [newsletter archives](#) ...

A 1989 article by Bill Young titled "[Aleza Lake Research Forest - the Early Days](#)"

... and a 2007 article by Tara Rogers titled "[Aleza Lake Research Forest Archival Records](#)"

Membership: New or lapsed member?

\$15.00 annually, or three years for \$40.00

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Please help the FHABC modernize our communications. If you are holding a paper copy of the newsletter, **please update your email address.**

Even better please opt for the online version and permit us to not mail you the black & white print version. Why?

1. Underlined text links you to extra online information on the [website version](#), and
2. The online version is in colour. (Costs to produce physical copies and send them out in the post are rising fast. Even if you still want to receive the B&W paper version, having your email address makes it easier to send out important announcements in between issues.)

So, please send us an email at info@fhabc.org. and state your preferences for newsletter delivery: Online in colour, or paper in B&W by mail.

Those members whose membership expired this year on December 31st will be receiving an update reminder electronically or included in their next newsletter.

The FHABC Board is considering an adjustment to membership fees such that those wishing to receive a mailed version of the newsletter will pay a larger fee than those opting for the email version.

FHA of BC Newsletter team:

Editor: Dave Florence **Assistant Editor:** David Morgan

Reviewers: Eric Andersen, John Parminter, Mike Meagher;

Webmaster: David Brownstein; **Production:** Richard Dominy

Issue #102 article contributors: Don Avis, Michael Jull, Kim Strathers, John Parminter, Eric Andersen, Mike Meagher, Bruce Devitt, Kat Spencer, David Brownstein,

Submissions??: Yes, Please!

email us at newsletter.editor@fhabc.org

Recent Books

Will Sutton: The Forgotten Trail Breaker of

Vancouver Island. William John Sutton (1859-1914) was a timberman, geologist, mineralogist, assayer, surveyor, lecturer, explorer, pioneer and promoter of Vancouver Island, British Columbia and stood twice in B.C. elections; he also robbed the graves of First Nation people.

He was one of the first to advocate tree preservation in British Columbia and wrote and published *Our Timber and its Conservation* in 1910. His story is told by Jan Bridget, genealogist (and distant cousin) in *Will Sutton: The Forgotten Trail Breaker of Vancouver Island*. This can be accessed free on: <http://janetandstephen.info/publications.html>

.....

The tree trunk can be my pillow: The biography of an outstanding Japanese Canadian

Kagetsu, Tadashi Jack; University of Victoria Press, 2017
Free download from the UVic library [here](#).

The biography tells the story of prominent Nikkei

timber industrialist Eikichi Kagetsu (1883-1967), owner-operator of Deep Bay Logging Co. at Fanny Bay and Ocean Timber Company at Cowichan Lake during the 1920s-30s.

[2007.1.25.7.34 - Dr. Percy Barr on velocipede to Aleza Lake village in 1925](#) - courtesy UNBC archives



The crash of B.C.'s first wildfire patrol plane

By John Parminter *who is a former Newsletter editor, active story contributor, and keeper of our searchable bibliography*

Most of us grew up during a time when aircraft were easily available and used for work and recreation. Airplanes ranged from the small Piper Cub up to the massive Martin Mars and helicopters ranged from the Bell 47 or Hiller UH-12 up to the Sikorsky S-64 Skycrane. Most aircraft were mass-produced and had potentially long lives if properly flown and maintained. In the early aviation age the opposite situation existed as many aircraft were custom designs – possibly somewhat experimental – and made in limited numbers. Due to a combination of design deficiencies, poor construction and human error the aircraft often had short lives, along with many of their pilots.

Nevertheless, progress was made in proportion to needs, one of which was forest fire detection. In 1915 the first successful air patrols for wildfire detection were carried out in Wisconsin. As a result, interest in this new technology arose elsewhere in the United States and Canada. The B.C. Minister of Lands, T.D. Pattullo, was inspired by a conversation he had with an air services veteran of the European front. The Department of Lands subsequently contracted the Hoffer Motor Boat Co., a Vancouver boat-building firm, to build a plane. The Hoffer brothers had already built a floatplane known as the H-1 which made several successful flights in 1917 before deteriorating beyond repair.

The Department of Lands' aircraft was to be a flying boat based on a Glenn Curtiss design. Known as the H-2, it was a two-seater biplane flying boat with a rearward facing propeller which pushed rather than pulled the plane. Construction took place during July and August of 1918 and, with the exception of the engine and some hardwood components,

utilized local materials. The frame was of Sitka spruce, the fuselage of mahogany and Sitka spruce and the wings of a British design, using unbleached varnished linen.

The wingspan was 12.8 m and two watertight metal cylinders aided balance and prevented the wingtips from dipping into the water. The engine developed 75 kW (100 hp) and could sustain speeds of up to 125 km/h. Climbing ability was rated at 915 m in ten minutes and the range was 360 km. Construction costs were between \$7,500 and \$8,000. By comparison, a Grumman Goose amphibian plane – first flown in 1937 and still used today – has a wingspan of 14.9 m, two 340 kW (450 hp) engines, a cruising speed of 308 km/h, a climbing rate of 3360 m in ten minutes and a range of 1030 km.

Initial test flights of the H-2 were carried out in late August by Flight Commander Capt. W.H. Mackenzie of the Royal Air Force (RAF). He said it was a really excellent machine that could nearly fly itself. Without hesitation the B.C. Forest Branch signed a one-year lease with an option to purchase. Unfortunately their hopes proved to be short-lived. While on another test flight above Vancouver, in view of thousands of spectators, the H-2 crashed and was utterly destroyed on September 4, 1918.

The pilot on the ill-fated flight was 23-year-old Flight Lieut. Victor A. Bishop, a Vancouver resident on leave from his duties as a flight instructor at the RAF base in Southampton, England. A veteran of many crossings of the English Channel while ferrying new aircraft to Paris, as well as battles at Vimy Ridge and the Somme, Bishop wasn't expecting trouble in the peaceful skies above Vancouver.

Ascending at 3:00 pm from Coal Harbour, Bishop flew over the city,

Burrard Inlet and English Bay. While over False Creek at an altitude of 365 m, the engine started to misfire. Bishop considered heading for English Bay, then decided in favour of Coal Harbour. Before getting over the water the engine stopped altogether and the aircraft, at the wrong attitude and lacking enough speed to manoeuvre, went into a spiral nosedive.

Bishop looked down to see where he was going to hit and braced himself. The plane crashed into a house at 755 Bute Street, at the corner with Alberni Street, in the West End of Vancouver. Flight Lieut. Bishop managed, more by good luck than anything else, to crash into the roof. A crowd of onlookers and souvenir hunters soon arrived on the scene, along with the police and fire departments. The owner of the house, Dr. J.C. Farish, was nearby and quickly reached the crash site. He rendered assistance to the slightly wounded pilot and accompanied him to the hospital.

Dr. Farish's home suffered structural damage as a result of the heavy engine bursting through the roof and lodging on the attic staircase. Bishop suffered some facial cuts, a slight injury to his back and likely one to his pride as well. While recuperating in the hospital he said "...this is the first fall I have ever had, and I am free to say that it was a miraculous escape." He was anxious to get back to France as quickly as possible, as he observed that "...life away from the war zone has too many risks."

The Hoffer brothers arrived swiftly and took charge of the wreckage. The authorities kept the crowd back and received suggestions such that pieces of the wrecked plane should be sold to pay for Flight Lieut. Bishop's hospitalization. Ironically, T.D. Pattullo was on a long distance

phone call from Victoria to an office in the Pacific Building in downtown Vancouver earlier that afternoon. The biplane flew by and Pattullo heard the noise of the engine until it faltered and the aircraft began its untimely and final descent.

Pattullo expressed regret over the loss of the plane, cancellation of the aerial forest fire patrol program and demise of a proposed provincial air service. He said the

government would make good the cost of the plane to the Hoffars and pay for repairs to Dr. Farish's house. Given the many uses for aircraft when not needed for fire patrols, the Department of Lands planned to have a new aircraft constructed as soon as possible. But for unknown reasons this was not done.

The first aerial discovery of a wildfire in Canada was made by an air crew in Quebec on July 7, 1919. In B.C. a forest fire was first detected from the air in late September 1919. The aircraft, a Curtiss JN4 "Canuck" named Pathfinder No. 2, was flying over Vancouver Island when the pilot spotted a mass of smoke. He circled to assess the fire and determine its location, then landed at Duncan to turn in a report to the B.C. Forest Branch which undertook fire suppression action.

The Hoffar brothers tried their luck once more with the H-3, another flying boat, and received design advice from Bill Boeing of Seattle. After hitting a deadhead during take-off on a flight to Victoria, the H-3 was written off. The Hoffars went back to boat building, including coastal patrol launches for the B.C. Forest Branch in 1921 and 1922.

In 1929 the Boeing Aircraft Co. purchased the Hoffar firm (then

known as Hoffar-Beeching) and aircraft production resumed, hopefully with fewer incidents.

[City of Vancouver Archives A23420](#)



The vast wealth of B.C.'s forests, the damage caused by wildfires and the relative inefficiency of ground- and water-based patrols combined to favour further developments in the use of aircraft in forest fire detection and suppression. In July 1922 the B.C. Forest Branch's employee newsletter, *Root and Branch*, noted receipt of a proposal for a waterbomber which in retrospect was not overly fanciful:

A correspondent suggests '.....huge aeroplanes, capable of lifting seven or eight tons, with a speed of seventy miles per hour, and equipped with water tanks below the fuselage. These tanks to be capable of holding five tons of water. In case of fire, all that would be necessary would be to start the plane, fly over the area, open your floodgates – and the fire would be no more!

Unfortunately for those who, by this time, are seeing the end of pick and shovel work, the writer admits that 'it would be impossible to fly directly over a hot fire, and it would no doubt be impossible to use this method in case of a very fierce fire and a high wind.' So, when

it comes down to the real rub, we shall still need the pick and shovel – to say nothing of the lil' ol' pump!"

Airplanes were occasionally used in B.C. during the late 1920s for fire patrols and spraying insecticides. But the promise which aviation held was not fulfilled until much later. In recent decades technological advances resulted in purpose-built aircraft such as the Canadair CL215/415 and Air Tractor AT802. Other fire-fighting planes

came from Conair Aerial Firefighting's conversions of the DeHavilland Tracker, Lockheed L188 Electra and Convair 580. In addition, Conair uses the Avro RJ85 and Bombardier Q400MR as air tankers.

Between 2013 and 2017, Coulson Aviation of Port Alberni purchased four C-130 Hercules and six Boeing 737-300 aircraft for use as air tankers. Their fourth C-130 Hercules conversion is underway in Mesa, Arizona. The 737-300s are being converted in Spokane, Washington and Port Alberni. On November 22, 2018 Coulson's plane number 137 became the first Boeing 737 to work as an air tanker on an ongoing wildfire [\(in New South Wales, Australia\)](#). It carries 18,000 litres of water or retardant and can drop 10,000 litres in a second.

Times have certainly changed since the Hoffar brothers struggled to get airborne and stay that way. They would be amazed to see multi-engined jet aircraft such as the Douglas DC-10 and Boeing 747 working as air tankers. Then again, most of us are probably amazed just as much.

See a pre-crash photo of the Hoffar H-2 on page 9



A HISTORY OF SETTLEMENT AND LOGGING AT QUATSINO, BC

By Don Avis, who is a long-time FHABC member, has logged in the Quatsino area where he continues to own 320 acres of Managed Forest, mostly 30 – 35 year old hemlock and alder. With FHABC edits by David Morgan.

Quatsino is a settlement on northern Vancouver Island on the north shore of Quatsino Sound accessible from Coal Harbour by a 20 minute water taxi ride. The area has a moist climate, mild winters and rich forests of hemlock, balsam, spruce, cedar and fir.

In the early 1890s, the government of British Columbia wanted to develop remote coastal areas and offered land for Crown Grants. The British Columbia *Colony Act* offered free land to groups of 30 or more settlers. Homesteaders could purchase lands for one dollar in exchange for living on the land for five years and improving it by a value of five dollars per acre. The government pledged to supply schools, roads and services.

The British Columbia government marketed the colony scheme by distributing maps and brochures through their exhibit at the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, marking the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's landing in America. The Exposition was a tremendous success and attracted 20 million visitors.

A group of American settlers of mainly Norwegian descent, including the brothers Charles and Christian Nordstrom, learned of the land grants from the Exposition. Christian Nordstrom attended the Exposition as part of Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show and later told his brother of the opportunity. Charles Nordstrom was an early homesteader in the Red River



Valley near Fargo, North Dakota. Christian Nordstrom homesteaded in Mandan, North Dakota, in the Missouri River Valley where Lewis and Clark spent their first winter on their expedition to the West Coast in 1804-1805. There is a brief history of Christian Nordstrom's exploits in the "History of the Quatsino Colony" written by his son George Nordstrom.

In 1894, Christian Nordstrom organized a group of settlers, but less than the required 30, to settle a colony under the Colony Act but none-the-less headed for Victoria. There, following further research and discussion with the provincial government, represented by Colonel James Baker, Minister of Immigration, the group decided to settle in the Quatsino area. Over 30 parcels were surveyed and made available. In 1895 the two brothers and their families took up quarter sections in the west end of Quatsino and started clearing the land to build their colony. They had expected more settlers in 1896. However, interest dampened due to threat of war between Canada and the

United States during the Alaska Boundary Dispute.

The parcels were spread over about five miles of south facing waterfront. As part of the settlement agreement, the province was to provide roads throughout the colony. In 1895, a public wharf was constructed. In 1898, the community requested, among other items that: the government provide funds to build a wagon trail through the colony; funding for a road from Coal Harbour to Hardy Bay be transferred to

Quatsino; and, a Mr. Varney the road foreman, who was also known as Lord Henry Varney of Mable River, be replaced by someone elected by the colonists as he was deemed utterly incapable.

Charles and Christian Nordstrom received their Crown Grants in 1901 after fulfilling their obligation and paying one dollar. The Crown Grant was a title in fee simple, subject to certain terms and provisions included in the Grant. One provision allowed the government the right to a portion of up to 1/20th the Crown Grant for road right of way.

Early logging in Quatsino was to clear the land and to provide logs and wood to construct local buildings. The large timber was difficult to handle. When clearing land, the saying was "it takes the tree to burn out the stump." The forest was more an obstacle than a resource. At the time there was no way to get Quatsino logs to markets outside of Quatsino Sound.

In the early 1900s timber speculators charted timber licences.

(Continued on page 7)

Between 1905 and 1907 they had become a very popular form of tenure for independent loggers and there was a frenzy of timber staking in the province. The granting of timber licenses was suspended in 1907 in the run up to the 1910 Fulton Royal Commission. Also, in anticipation of a pulp mill, pulp tenures were acquired. In 1908, a saw mill was constructed in the west entrance to Quatsino Narrows. The saw mill provided materials to build the pulp mill in Port Alice. The pulp mill (Whalen Brothers, then B.C. Pulp and Paper Ltd.) commenced production in 1918. With completion of the two mills, the forest industry had finally arrived in Quatsino.

In 1908 a severe windstorm blew down hundreds of thousands of acres on northern Vancouver Island. This blowdown produced hemlock and balsam dominated stands which are prominent today in logging plans. George Nordstrom referred to a severe

windstorm in 1901 in his “History of Quatsino Colony”. A severe windstorm in 1908 was described in the “Quatsino Chronical” by Gwen Hansen but unfortunately the specific date was not provided.

A faller in Port Alice told me that the 1908 blowdown was not in fact a blowdown at all. He promoted a theory that the blowdown was the result of the Tunguska blast in Siberia, thought to be an asteroid or meteorite air burst. I have been unable to identify the date of the 1908 blowdown. The date of the Tunguska event was June 30, 1908 while the windy period in Quatsino is usually between October and April. The Tunguska Blast is a fantastic story but probably not the cause of the northern Vancouver Island’s blowdown.

It didn’t take long for Quatsino’s Crown Grants to change hands and be subdivided. The waterfront access Grants were subdivided into various smaller lots. All the lots had the same

provisions for the original Crown Grants and the Colony Agreement. Plus, new titles contained a variety of trail locations and gazetted roads and trails (constructed or not). This created a patchwork of titles with differing subjects and descriptions of roads and access which would become a source of dispute between the various landowners.

The Crown Grant of Charles Nordstrom changed and altered many times over the years. It passed to his son Philip in 1909, thence to FJA Green and thence Christian Jacobson in 1910. It was subdivided in 1913 and a group including BC Land Surveyors F. Swannell, Richard Bishop and Vilhelm Schjelderup were registered as owners. In 1925 and 1929, Quatsino farmers Peter Jorgensen Obiling and Alfred Wakefield purchased the subdivided lots. In 1955, as a precursor to some logging, the titles were acquired by Jephtha Hole, a logger and member of a long-time Quatsino Sound family still involved in the towing and transportation business today. In 1960, Jephtha Hole sold his private lands to MacMillian Bloedel and Powell River Ltd.



END OF PART ONE. Part 2, the final Part, will appear in Issue #103, October 2019



A barge with two steam donkeys arrives at the Quatsino government wharf with Quatsino Strait in the background. The CPR west-coast ship Princess Maquinna is waiting to dock. The photo is some date after 1913. Photographer: Ben Leeson. Vancouver Public Library, with permission [Keyword 13971](#).

JAMES SHAND, CANADIAN CHAIN SAW INVENTOR

By Eric Andersen, who is a Director, former Newsletter editor, active article contributor, and Squamish district councillor

The world's first portable power chain saw was invented by **James Shand** (1861-1950), a millwright from Dauphin, Manitoba. Shand applied for patent and received it July 15, 1918. (See Shand's patent drawings below.)

In 1976, artifacts relating to James Shand's invention came to the British Columbia Provincial Museum. Museum Assistant Curator Jim Wardrop wrote in an article, "[British Columbia's Experience with Early Chain Saws](#)", partly based on interviews and research assisted by the Shand family:

"The idea came to him while he was fencing his quarter-section of land and discovered that the barbed wire, drawn by horses, had sawn through a seven-inch oak post. Working in his shop and using his son's bicycle chain with cutting teeth inserted, Shand produced two working models. Shand used one saw for a short time while in the employ of Manitoba Bridge and Iron Works and in 1919 he took both working models to British Columbia, hoping to spark interest in chain saw production."

Shand allowed his patent to expire in 1930, however. It was not until labour shortages of the later war years that there was real demand for a power chain saw.

Shand did spend the latter part of his life in B.C., in Kelowna working at a sawmill and then at Nanaimo.

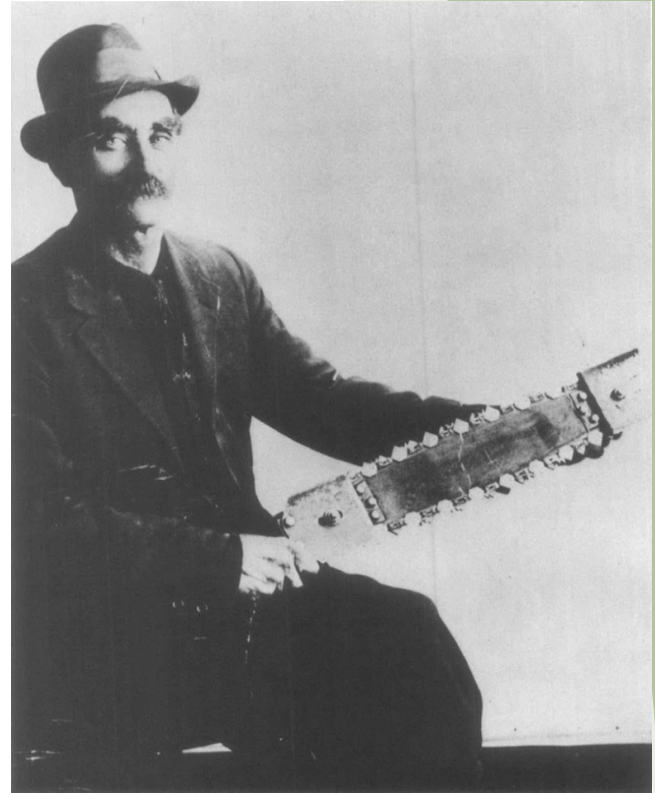
In a March 1939 interview at Kelowna, Shand related, *"I have been in and around sawmills since [1870s]. We cut the first circular saw lumber west of Winnipeg in the winter of 1871, just after the first Riel rebellion in 1870."*

James Shand had only good wishes for his successors: *"I had the pleasure of holding one end of the Stihl saw which was demonstrated by Donald Smith [later of Industrial Engineering Ltd. (I.E.L.)] of Vancouver in Kelowna last summer, and am in hopes that Mr. Smith will make a saw that will down the world."*

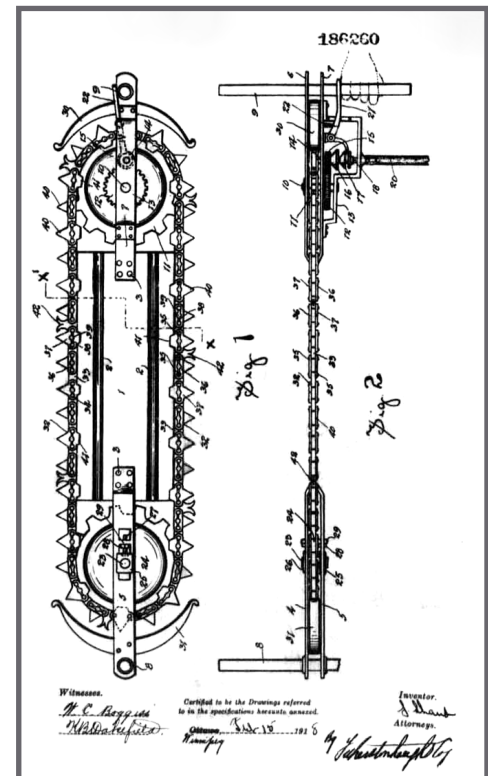
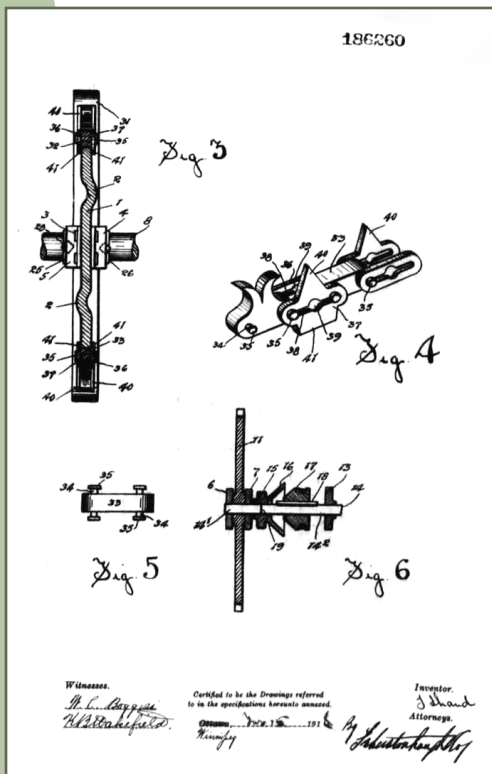
In a Nanaimo Free Press interview shortly before his passing in 1950, Shand lamented, *"My trouble is that I have never had a month's schooling in my life."*

Son Dave Shand always shared his father's interest in the invention and joined the staff of the I.E.L. firm which manufactured and developed improvements to its Pioneer Chain Saw over many years.

While operating McIntyre & Shand, Pioneer distributors in Nanaimo, Dave Shand and his partner dreamed up and promoted the idea of the newly organized local D.V.A. Vocational Training School training veterans in chain saw operation and repairs. They donated 2 saw models for stripping and assembly. Graduates were hired by logging camps, or else



bought their own saw and went to work for themselves.



Report on a presentation at ABCFP Kamloops, Feb 5/6 2019

By Kat Spencer, *FHABC Director*

As a young member of the Forest History Association of British Columbia and inductee transferring forester to BC, it was an honor and a privilege to present the valedictory book award to the top ABCFP RPF and RFT inductees of 2018. The lucky recipients of "The History of Forestry in Canada" by Gilbert Paille were Carl-Evan Jefferies, RPF and Adam Flintoft, RFT (Sadly, Adam was unable to attend).

Prior to presenting the award I did an online and social media search for this member to find out more on his history. Carl-Evan is an avid fisherman and as such had a strong understanding of hydrology and our watersheds. I was able to meet with Carl-Evan prior to the awards and find out more about his history in forestry, family connections, motivations for pursuing a career in forestry and goals for his career. Hearing a young inductee describe the impact of previous forestry management paradigms and how his generation of foresters are prepared to handle it

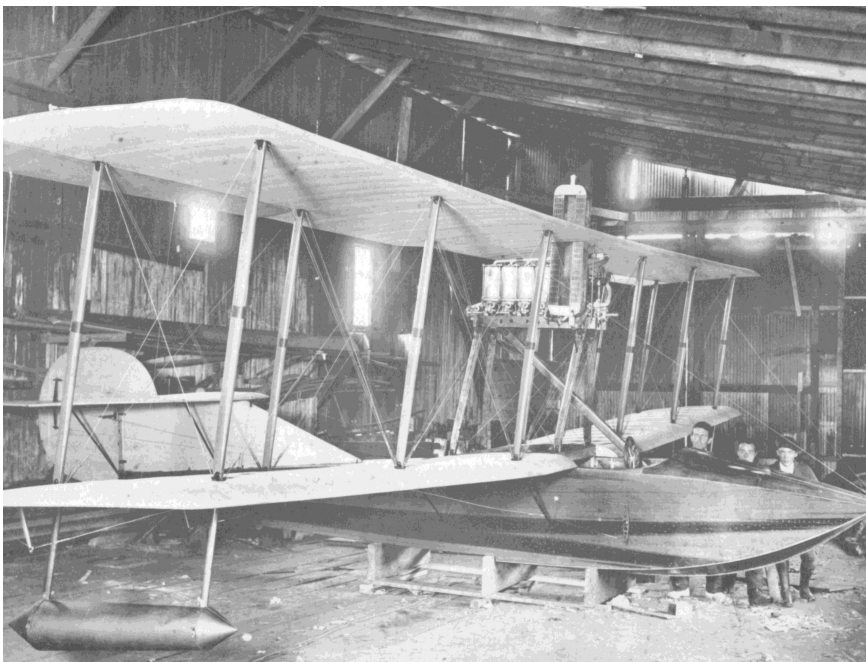
was enlightening.

While presenting the award I was able to speak to the 500+ ABCFP AGM attendees about the history in the room and the need we have to document and record this history. I spoke to the passion of the professionals and how with each rationale written and decision implemented we create a historic pattern on the land. Documenting these and creating a living legacy of the work foresters do allow future generations to have a full understanding of past paradigms and the science at the time which drove decision making or policy. I stressed that as a collective group our story can only be heard and more importantly understood with a strong commitment to keeping current records, so we have a history to refer to. Additionally, I referred to the general demographics of the room and how much history each member themselves contained and to please share their story and the story of their communities.

To conclude, I suggested everyone purchase a FHABC membership and learn more about how they can keep up on the exciting activities of the association and find ways to contribute.



Kat Spencer, an FHABC Director, presented the valedictory book award to the top ABCFP RPF and RFT inductees of 2018. The lucky recipients of "The History of Forestry in Canada" by Gilbert Paille were Carl-Evan Jefferies, RPF and Adam Flintoft, RFT (Sadly, Adam was unable to attend). [*Photo courtesy Sandy McKellar, Tree Frog News*](#)



A pre-crash photo of the Hoffar H-2. Read John Parminter's article about this historic fire patrol aircraft on pages 4-5



We regret to note that Dave Wallinger, RPF (Ret.) passed away last year, shortly after publication of the article he wrote in the May 2018 issue of the FHABC Newsletter entitled "Start of Reforestation in the Interior". Dave had also contributed to our newsletter on other occasions, such as in [issue 66, 2002](#). His [family obituary](#) appeared in the Victoria Times Colonist. Two RPF friends and colleagues, FHABC Director Mike Meagher and Bruce Devitt, wrote the following obit which outlines Dave's career as a forester.

The Career of Dave Wallinger, RPF

By Mike Meagher and Bruce Devitt

Dave Wallinger, RPF (Ret.) passed away August 24th, 2018 in his 89th year.

From his youth in Cranbrook to his retirement in Victoria Dave was focused on regeneration of forest areas by running planting crews, organising cone-collection or snag-falling crews, or training local BC Forest Service (BCFS) Ranger or District personnel in current skills and techniques.

His first exposure to forestry was as a Boy Scout to visit the BCFS "Eager" fire lookout north of Cranbrook. At 16 he worked on a railway track gang for Bloedel Stewart and Welch's Camp B at Franklin River – until a strike shut down the operation.

His first exposure to his future path developed in 1953 when he joined a BCFS Reforestation ("RN") Division crew in the east Kootenay area that exposed him to the "nuts and bolts" of regeneration programs: "*regen*" surveys, cone-crop reconnaissance and planting. Following graduation from UBC's Forestry program the next year Dave joined the RN Division at Cranbrook to begin full-time work to restore the east Kootenay Valley to its status as a major area of grassland forests. As well as the foregoing list of activities he added site preparation: clearing areas of invasive trees and brush to ease planting the trees grown locally at the Wycliffe Nursery on the Saint Mary's River. Also, directed by the Division's Victoria superiors, he established trials to test the effects of seedling age, stock type (transplanted vs. undisturbed seedlings) with various local tree species. This period involved

collaboration with US Forest Service personnel in Idaho and Montana, including borrowing machinery to speed site preparation for ponderosa pine plantations. Machine planting had been developed by the US collaborators, resulting in their machinery gravitating north, where Dave found it very suitable on clean and low-slope sites.

Also, following a visit by USFS Geneticists Dick Bingham and Dr. Ray Hoff, Dave organised a set of plantations to test the blister-rust resistance of tested Idaho white pine vs. BC's rust (*Cronartium ribicola*) population. Those results helped advance BC's program to restore white pine to the status of a viable selection for suitable sites.

When the Provincial regeneration program was to expand beyond the lower Mainland, Dave was charged with developing contacts throughout the Interior. Bruce Devitt, also with the RN Division in Victoria, accompanied Dave when visiting Ranger District staff to introduce Interior workers to the aspects of planning for and conducting reforestation programs in their jurisdictions.

Dave was charged with establishing trial/demo plantations in each Forest District using suitable species from local seed collections in that District (later "**Region**"). Also, small demonstration/trial nurseries were established in suitable Interior sites in which seedlings could be "hardened off" for overwintering pre planting the following spring.

As the planting program increased Dave was transferred to Victoria to coordinate planting programs, especially as the planting was done increasingly by private contractors. This required a comprehensive and reliable record system. Pete Robson



joined Dave to develop that system, which recorded, eg., geographical and biological attributes, plant species, seed origin, stock type, planting year, etc. – all part of the record system preceding computerised files.

Earlier, in the spring of 1957, Dave was sent to Victoria to begin a program of managed-stand seed production, which had been recommended by Dr. Alan Orr-Ewing of the BCFS Research Branch as a first step in producing higher-potential seedlings for the Coastal Douglas-fir planting program.

Young and accessible natural stands of good health and form were to be selected, the poorer-formed stems to be removed and the remainder fertilised and spaced to stimulate seed-crop development. Two assistants, recent UBC Forestry graduates, were hired: Bruce Devitt, with whom Dave had worked in the summer of 1951, and Mike Meagher. They studied inventory maps and inspected promising stands on lower Vancouver Island. Two such "SPAs" (seed-production areas) were selected and treated as directed. Following a dry year, which can induce cone buds for the following year, good conditions for pollination: dry and warm weather, and sufficient rain to sustain the developing cones and seeds, results

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were very promising, prompting wider interest in the program.

That put Dave in the forefront of BC's program of genetic improvement – experience he applied to the Interior as the breadth and magnitude of the BCFS regeneration program and seed requirements developed. Although stands in several locations were selected and treated, results were not as dramatic.

Dave's last eight years with BCFS were spent as leader of the BC Wild Stand Seed Collection program. That involved training BCFS field staff in assessing seed crops for designated areas identified by the District planning staff, so that there could be a 10-year supply of seed in storage for each species and elevational belt per biological Region and Sub Region. That involved developing techniques to assess seed quality, especially storability and germinability to facilitate meeting seedling targets in containerised seedling nurseries. Another challenge was collection of *Abies* species seeds before the cones "shattered" and released the mature seeds – and scales. Helicopters had been logging some steep sites bearing valuable trees beyond road building, so they were invited to fly in. They did,

resulting in serious discussions with BC's Safety authorities and development of Workers Compensation Board regulations, but not before several scenes of seed showers gracing the testing crew below.

The magnitude and complexity of BC's reforestation program required practices to maximise cone-collection and subsequent handling of the crops to retain seed quality pre refrigerated storage. Collaboration with Canadian Forest Service scientists Drs. Bob Dobbs and George Edwards, plus BC Forest Service's Jenji Konishi, in charge of the cone-collection and seed-storage system for Crown Lands led to a renowned publication: **"Guidelines to Collecting Cones of BC Conifers, 1976"**. Some years later while Jenji attended a Western Forestry meeting he was met by several US attendees who felt the Guideline was a real asset to them, also.

Dave reminisced on his professional activities in 2002 via an article in the Forest History Association of British Columbia's Newsletter number 66:

"I was fortunate to have been involved in the early and exciting days of reforestation in the Interior and to have had a

part of the evolution of site preparation and of contract planting. Considering that we knew very little in 1953 [when Dave planted his first tree] things turned out OK – we did the best we could with what we had, ... I only wish that I could take the tree planters of today forty years ahead in time. It would be quite a sight.."

Much of Dave's success is attributable to his easy manner and clear competence – likely due to his development in a small Interior town and experience with Ranger District staff whose current responsibilities focused on timber sales and fire planning/fighting. Bruce Devitt, Dave's companion during the early contacts with the Interior District staff – also from a small town – made an effective team when introducing reforestation issues behind the shift from centralised to diffused responsibilities. They were the ideal combination for the success of such a major shift of action and control, resulting in the recent celebration of BC's 7 BILLIONTH planted tree.

Dave is survived by three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, one son in the Yukon, the rest of the family in BC.



Archival donation: Canadian Forest History Preservation Project.

By David Brownstein

Eugene Jobagy of Duncan, BC, has donated a mid-1970s Audio Visual program on the Nahanni National Park Reserve to the Northwest Territories Archives. The AV program was created with the help of some of Eugene's colleagues at the University of Alberta, with funding from the then National and Provincial Parks Association (now the [Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society](#)).

Shown to visitors of the park, the

AV program consisted of two slide projectors and an audio tape. The two projectors were set up, side by side, and focused on the same image area. The image overlap and the variable projector brightness was used to create a variety of effects. Sequence programming was done by Eugene Jobagy.

Thanks to Erika Reinhardt, Senior Archivist, Library and Archives Canada; also Erin Suliak, Territorial Archivist, and Leslie Gordon, Senior Archivist, both of the NWT Archives. All helped to find a home for this material.

Do you know of some valuable forest history material in danger of loss

or destruction? Please get in touch and we would be glad to help you find a loving archival home.

Project brochure: <https://foresthistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/>



Online Forest History Bibliography

Did you know that the FHABC maintains a searchable database of publications related to B.C.'s forest history?

To access it, just point your browser to <https://fhabc.org/bibliography/> and click on the Zotero link. You can search for material by title, creator or year.

A unique feature is that the database also contains 361 obituaries of foresters, forestry technicians, timber cruisers, loggers and mill owners.

The Forest History Society, based in North Carolina, also maintains a searchable database at

<http://prestohost26.inmagic.com/Presto/home/home.aspx>

It contains 1433 references to British Columbia forestry.

Deep thanks from the FHABC to John Parminster for creating this invaluable database, and for adding to it.

Stan Chester Oral History Interview.

Back in 2009, David Brownstein sat down with FHABC past-president Stan Chester and they recorded an oral history interview. That recording is now available to all members via our webpage.

Just point your browser to:

<https://fhabc.org/oral-history/> and scroll down the page to take a listen.

Are you interested in undertaking any oral history interviews of your own? Please get in touch as we are keen to expand our collection. We are always looking for both interviewers and interviewees!



[BC Forest Discovery Centre](#) in Duncan has an appeal on its web page: *"December was a devastating month for the BC Forest Discovery Centre with extensive storm damages and lost revenue. Can you assist with the recovery and rebuilding on the many areas affected by damage?"* In May I spoke with

Chris Gale, Manager at BCFDC, and he confirmed that funds are still needed, as they have reached about half of their goal. Chris reminded me that their new exhibit [Forests Forever](#) Official Opening was the May long weekend. A good place to visit this summer!!

...Dave Florence, Newsletter Editor.

2018/19 FHABC officers:

President, Richard Dominy
Vice Pres., Terry Simmons
Secretary, Mike Meagher
Treasurer, TBA (Pres. acting)

Six Directors at large:

Eric Andersen John Parminster
Katherine Spencer Gordon Weetman
Dave Florence, Newsletter Editor
David Morgan, Assistant Newsletter Editor
Webmaster: David Brownstein



Next Issue:

- Part 2 of Quatsino story
- Your Story? Contact us at newsletter.editor@fhabc.org

Upcoming Events

2019

Summer Logger Sports!

[Scotch Creek June 29](#); [Powell River July 13-14](#)
[Bowen Island July 27-28](#); [Squamish Aug 1-5](#)
[Lac La Biche Aug 3](#); [Campbell River Aug 9-11](#)
[Smithers Aug 24](#); [Duncan September 7](#)
[Port Alberni Sep 8](#);

Sept 27-29 [FHABC Annual General Meeting](#) to be held in **Kamloops**. Plan as of late May:

- **Meet and greet Friday evening, Sep 27.**
 - **AGM Saturday Morning, Sep 28.**
 - **program tour Saturday afternoon.** (Kamloops Fire Centre, if available)
 - **Dinner Sat. evening.** Optional program Sunday.
 - **more details/registration available in Jul-Aug**
- Sep 22-28:** [BC National Forest Week](#) (many local events)

Sep 30-Oct 2 [BC Museums Association Convention](#): Prince George.

Oct 6-9: [Canadian Institute of Forestry](#); National Conference and AGM; Pembroke, Ontario.

2020

Jan 16-18 [Annual TLA Convention & Trade show](#) Vancouver BC