

Errata-- Issue 103, "What does this code mean?"

Member Jim Stephen of Delta writes with a correction. In Issue 103, David Brownstein observed that the Canadian White Pine Sawmill “was one of the oldest mills on the West Coast, and the last operating sawmill in the city of Vancouver, closing in 1999/2000”. Jim reminds us, however, that the White Pine mill wasn't the last operating Vancouver sawmill.

In fact, Terminal Forest Products still operates its Mainland Sawmill in Vancouver, at Yukon St & Kent Ave. Jim thinks that this might be the last operating sawmill in Vancouver, but if you have other info, then do write and let us know!



Jim continues, “The nearby Western Forest Products Vancouver Sawmill stopped operating in 2005. The WFP Silvertree mill by the south foot of Fraser street stopped operating in 2002.” Jim worked in those WFP mill offices for a brief time when Doman & WFP went through restructuring.

David B had copied the incorrect info from a Museum of Vancouver object description. Thanks to Jim’s note, the Museum has now corrected their metadata.

And, as per the original article, we are still in search of the meaning for the mill mark “R2638”. Do you know what it means?

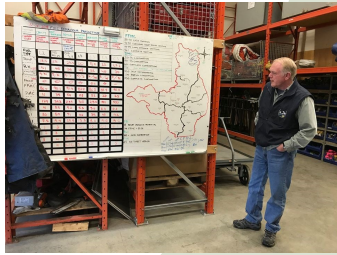
Eric Andersen has led the launching of the [B.C. FOREST HISTORY GROUP Facebook page](#). This Facebook forum represents an extension of our ongoing activities in presenting and discussing B.C. forest history. “We wish to gather people with diverse relationships to the forest, from those who have forests as a profession or livelihood to researchers and the interested public. We expect to see photographs, stories, and discussions relating to the history of forest management and forest industries of British Columbia. News items regarding publications, exhibits, tours and facilities presenting forest history are welcome.”



September 27th - 29th, 2019 **Kamloops AGM Report**



The AGM weekend began with a tour of the Kamloops Fire Centre on Friday afternoon, followed by dinner at the Brownstone restaurant. The AGM was held Saturday morning, and the afternoon session was a presentation described on page 10. In addition to the new board election (see the list of Directors on page 3); decisions were made regarding social media, member dues and newsletter distribution.



Bruce Jensen of BC Wildfire Service gave an overview of the Kamloops Fire Centre operations Friday afternoon



Upcoming Events

2019

Nov 2: [Heritage BC Workshop in Squamish](#)

2020

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

Feb 5-7 [ABC Professional Foresters Nanaimo](#) (FHABC book presentation)

May 7-9 [Heritage BC Conference: The Culture of Heritage: Place and Space](#) Chilliwack,

June 5-7 [British Columbia Historical Federation Conference](#) in Surrey, BC
“Back to the Future: Celebrating Heritage in the 21st century”

Next Issue: Mar 2020

- More of the Burch and International series
- something from Eric and David B.—they never miss an issue
- a book report—submissions encouraged
- Your Story? Contact us at newsletter.editor@fhabc.org

WebLinks: if you are reading the online versions of our newsletters in your browser, don't forget that you can click the under-lined text to go to relevant info on the web.

Issue #104

Dec 2019

look for #105 Mar 2020
Ideas deadline Jan 15

Website:
fhabc.org

From the President

By Richard Dominy

Welcome to the Winter issue of the newsletter.

There are several great historical articles by Gerry Burch, Mike Meagher, Art Klassen!

NOTE: Directors recently approved new membership fees, which are now \$20 per year; or, \$50 for 3 years. The fee structure had not changed for at least 10 years and costs have risen.

Becoming a new member or renewing? You can now join or renew either by mail or email. Membership payments are now being accepted electronically via e-transfer or by mail; more details on page 3 or the [website](#).

Some AGM information is shown on Page 12— a great tour of the Fire Centre was enjoyed the day before the AGM by all attendees.

The Forest History Association Directors elected at the AGM in Kamloops are listed on page 3. A great big welcome to Sarah Giesbrecht and Claire Williams.

Exciting news – we now have a Facebook “Group” presence; search Facebook for the group “[British Columbia Forest History](#)”. This is the first step in our longer-term plan to have a full social media presence- Stay tuned for upcoming news, and see some events listed on page 12.

This is the last edition of the year, and on behalf of all of us to all of you and yours, we wish you a most Joyous Christmas season and all our best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

British Columbia

ISSN 2563-0229 (Print)
ISSN 2563-0237 (Online)



Winter Issue

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Leaving a Mark

By Mike Meagher RPF (ret.) *Recollections from the 1950s by a young forestry student gaining experience in the fire-prone interior forests of BC.*

As a kid from the West Kootenays, I was surprised and intrigued by the different landscapes revealed by our 1948 move to Oliver: a lower-valley bottom tree line, open grassy areas, and different trees and shrubs; not to mention cactus, scorpions and rattlesnakes! I walked the hills to absorb the different smells and plant life to be able to embrace them as fully as possible. Also, I found lots of trees bearing stem scars from the highly-vulnerable combination to wildfires.



I spent my first two summers after high school graduation, 1951 and '52, with a B.C. Forest Service (BCFS) Fire Suppression crew based in Penticton. First-day introduction involved instruction into operating the portable radio and fire pump. Travel to a fire followed loading the tool box containing pumps, axes, saws, water backpacks, etc., and jumping into the pickup’s box and heading out. Also yelling at the Cook to load the chest for our next meal. NB: NO Safety Committee, hard hats, glowing coveralls, goggles, fire-resistant mittens and NO seat belts; our future was in the hands of our positive attitude.

Rangers involved were, in order, Charlie Perrin and Emery Scott. Charlie’s Assistant Ranger was J. B. “Jack” Cawston from the small Similkameen River settlement of the same name where his father, “Ginty,” was the fire-season Patrolman. Jack later rose to the Directorship of the BCFS Ranger School at Green Timbers. Perhaps not by chance, four members of the 1951 Suppression Crew came from Cawston – a farming/ranching area. All good workers.

My first job under Charlie was to assist loading his horse for the trek up to a local fire lookout in the company of Clay Perry, a student in Oliver who later became a senior official with the IWA. Crewmates Rob Hall and Gerald

(Continued on page 8)

PROMOTION OF FOREST HISTORY IN AUSTRIA

By **Eric Andersen** is a Squamish district councillor, an FHABC Director, former Newsletter editor, active article contributor, and avid Facebook user who has spearheaded our appearance on social media with creation of our [facebook page](#). Learning about how forest history is dealt with in Europe can open ideas for us here in BC.

Forest History, or Forest Culture as it is more broadly defined in Austria, is well featured in the 2020+ FOREST STRATEGY (2018) forest policy framework for Austria.

Forest History is highlighted in 2 of 7 specific fields of action and in several strategic goals spelled out in this updated vision for Austrian forests.

The Austrian context for protection and promotion of Forest Culture is a diverse mountain landscape, predominantly small private forest ownership, economic challenges for the rural economy, and a legal context which necessitates emphasis on motivating voluntary action on the part of forest owners and enterprises.

- Consistent themes behind support for Forest History in Austria are, as reflected in the 2020+ Strategy:
- Selectively integrating history and culture into public awareness campaigns can stimulate greater public interest in forests.
 - Forestry expertise and experience of past generations should be preserved and passed on as valuable for future development in sustainable forest management and ecosystem protection.
 - Many forest holdings can be considered cultural properties ideal for use in disseminating forest-cultural knowledge. As economically sustainable enterprises with a long tradition they are living proof of the usefulness of intensive forest management.
 - Austria's beautiful mountain forest landscapes are a cultural heritage providing a foundation for the tourism and recreation industries vitally important to its rural economy.

In 1991 a Forest History working group – today, Technical Committee – was formed within the Austrian Forest Association, the umbrella group for seven state associations with a combined membership today of 4,400.

The Forest History Technical Committee's goal is "to address knowledge gaps, through analysis of socio-economic and ecological conditions, in order to understand the dynamic development processes that have resulted in the forest conditions of today."

Inadequate working definitions and agreements concerning cultural and social aspects of sustainable forest management for policy and program development purposes were seen to be needing attention.

In 2003 the initiative was taken to put forward for adoption by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (now FOREST EUROPE) a "Vienna Resolution No. 3", which committed

signatories to "address the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management in national forest programmes and other relevant policies."

- These aspects were now, for the first time, precisely defined to include:
- Art (painting, literature, music, carving, etc.)
 - Landscape (historical uses and management)
 - Wood uses (wood architecture, etc.)
 - Recreation (well-being, health, etc.)
 - Sightseeing attractions and monuments
 - Tradition (folk art, songs, wildcrafting, etc.)

This 2003 resolution became a tool with which to anchor Forest History / Forest Culture firmly into forest policy: the "Forest Dialogue" and Austrian Forest Program (2006); Alpine Convention forest protocols; and, importantly for financial support, the EU Programme for Rural Development.

Another critical initiative taken in 2003, jointly by the Austrian Forest Association Forest History Technical Committee and the federal Ministry (today: Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism), was the founding of a country-wide NETWORK FOREST-CULTURE AUSTRIA.

- The Network ties together diverse institutions and stakeholders in Austria and serves also as a platform for international cooperation. Network tasks were to include:
- Collection and aggregation of data referring to Forest History
 - Collection of information about institutions dealing with Forest Culture
 - Setup of a Forest Culture related databank
 - Introduction of the term Forest Culture in Austria and in discussions on the European level
 - Strengthening the co-operation of forest enterprises with tourism + Information about historical uses and management of landscapes
 - Promotion of studies and research dealing with woodland history
 - Consultation in the fields relating to Forest Culture and project implementation

Surveys and interviews identified over 500 actors (museums, societies, enterprises, initiatives and individuals) engaged in producing and disseminating knowledge relating to Forest History. Developing partnerships, improving public relations impact through coordination, and promoting high technical standards



(Continued on page 3)

Forest History and Reconciliation.

By Francis Johnson, Scott Scholefield and David Brownstein. Francis Johnson, RPF, is a Hereditary Chief of Esk'temc, and a Planning Forester at [Alkali Resource Management Ltd.](#) He lives in Esk'temc (aka Alkali Lake) in the Secwepemc nation. Based in Williams Lake, Scott Scholefield, MSc, RPF, is Managing Partner at [Colorz HUB Enterprises Inc.](#), and the co-founder of an Indigenous non-profit organization to be incorporated in December 2019. David Brownstein does freelance archival work under the banner of [Klahanie Research Ltd.](#) He lives in Vancouver.

While history might be about past events, its telling is always rooted in the present. This is because our shared stories inform how we ought to interact with one another, and perhaps more importantly, what we ought to do next. What is the relationship between forest history and reconciliation?

The goal of *reconciliation* is the ongoing act of restoring estranged people to friendship. However, many first peoples feel that there never was true friendship. Rather, they believe that their ancestors extended goodwill to help settlers survive cold winters in unknown lands. In some Secwepemc (Shuswap) communities there are references to the 'Original Ones': settlers with whom the Secwepemc had a good relationship and shared stories. However, with subsequent waves of immigration, the introduction of the reserve system and residential schools, those good relationships were broken.

This recognized, reconciliation is not about blame or guilt. It is about learning from the past and ensuring that it does not repeat. Many colonial institutions and laws are still intact oppressing the original peoples. Further, for many First Nations it's about having their existing Aboriginal Rights and Title on the land recognized, and restitution. To have traditional laws in self-determination on the land, they first need a returned land base.

To use the Supreme Court's words: "Put simply, Canada's Aboriginal peoples were here when Europeans came, and were never conquered." That means that we must "reconcile pre-existing Aboriginal sovereignty with assumed Crown sovereignty." With respect to Indigenous Peoples, this means that all Canadians have a responsibility to honour treaties, and the obligations that they represent. In



the absence of treaties, space and resources for self-determination and self-government must be created for those Indigenous groups that desire it.

How might forest history help? All too often, history has excluded the perspectives of first peoples. Indigenous oral histories, span the Creator's unveiling of the cosmos through to the stories of every living creature and every aspect of nature, as interpreted by various traditions. For example, for the Secwepemc people, animals were often used as both antagonist and protagonist. Coyote was known as a trickster and often filled the former role. The stories were told to teach lessons or morals and could also be used to mark major historic events such as creation stories, geological events, wars and peace treaties. Indigenous histories of the forest, if valued, considered and understood, can complement newcomer forest histories and science by strengthening our relationship, not unlike a braided rope.

If only a new story can be woven together, in a good way on a new path together, perhaps our histories can help to "rewrite the story's ending." Every generation gets one chance to rewrite the ending of what has happened before. But, how can the aver-

age FHABC member help to build a shared story and thus find solutions together?

FHABC members already love history, so, learn which traditional territories you are in, and the pre-contact histories of that place. Understand what languages are spoken there and how to pronounce greetings and original place names. Include some of this information in your next newsletter submission.

Participate in a [KAIIROS blanket exercise](#)

Collaborate to plan your own local event using [Reconciliation Canada's toolkits](#).

Reach out with respect by calling a Band office. They may be aware of public events where you can learn about traditions, culture, and witness a ceremony or an event. Ask how to approach others and what special protocols may be required.

Be open and willing to listen with grace and empathy. Invest in the time to meet someone, make friends when given the opportunity. Listen, listen, listen.

Readers may also be interested in the piece: *Advancing Reconciliation in the Forest Sector: An Interview with K'axwsumala'galis (Chief Bob Joseph)* which appears on pages 26/27 in the Sep/Oct issue of the BC Forest Professional Magazine. ([Download here](#))



(Continued from page 9) **“Leaving a Mark”** squirrels have a remarkable talent for determining cone maturity. Don Pigott, a commercial seed collector, told me he made a good living via locating and collecting from caches of many coniferous species. That insight came to life years later when I was involved in collecting cones of targeted species in designated areas for BCFS planting programs on the Coast.

Other lessons, such as avoid wearing blue to discourage mosquitos, were taken quickly to heart. Re bears: we

were told that they could run uphill better than we AND climb trees better. One day in a valley west of Summerland we spooked a bear located below us and between us and the truck. Two quick decisions: bear headed up, we down. Quick wade through the creek and all was well. I have wondered since if momma bears tutor their cubs. I can recommend they do.

In summary: these summers and engagements with crew mates, nights returning in the dark, escaping a crown fire at night (no need for

flashlights then!), learning to set a bearing and follow a compass, recognize species by their bark and general shapes, how to minimize the effort involved in blazing most efficiently, effects of land steepness and exposure on habitats and adapted species, were all useful experiences that **“left a mark”** in my brain during my career in forestry.

*NB: My thanks for the assistance of John Parminter for supplying info re the Okanagan Lake fire of 2003 and and Dave Florence for the photo and info re the Junkers airplane (with the energetic wing).



Some notes by Mike Meagher from the Saturday afternoon session of the AGM held in Kamloops Sep 27-29, a presentation on:

“The Impact of the Mountain Pine Beetle on the local Ponderosa pine populations.”

Presented by Alan Vyse, RPF (Ret.), Research Forester, formerly with the BC Ministry of Forests, and now a Forestry lecturer and Research Associate at Thompson Rivers University.



Prior to his address, Alan recommended the classic 1918 descriptive work on BC forests: **“The Forests of British Columbia”** by Whitford and Craig. It described Ponderosa pine’s (Py) distribution and poten-

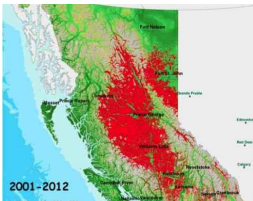
tial uses well and makes reference to the impact of mountain pine beetle at that time. Other sources refer to beetle-caused mortality in Py stands in the 1930s.

The current beetle invasion began in 2006, having been built up to epidemic status by feasting on local lodgepole pine. By 2008 the beetle had killed large numbers the of Py populations a far south as the Kelowna and Merritt areas. Mortality of large stems was 70 – 90%. No direct control was possible on such a scale.

A major impact was felt by the pygmy nuthatch, an obligate seed feeder on Py, with seed comprising 80% of their winter feed. Also, the big pines and other large trees provide nest and shelter cavities for birds and other animals. Much of the for-

est affected is regenerating with a mixture of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir in mixed stands with a lower proportion of Py than in the past. A crew of local professionals and volunteers is pursuing actions to generate such stands by: thinning stands to open the canopies to boost tree growth, igniting light fires to reduce the risk of stand loss by reducing flammable undergrowth and dry shrub and tree debris, and by salvage logging. This can increase site diversity in species and ground cover.

Planting of Py beyond the natural range, using seed sources recommended by Marie Vance, a Kalamalka Forestry Centre scientist, is underway.



Long-time Director Retires

By David Brownstein



Our deep thanks to John Parminter for 35 years of FHABC Directorship.

At the recent AGM, John Parminter retired from his Director position, which he had held without interruption since May 1984. John was present at the FHABC’s birth as a co-founding member. He also edited the newsletter from March 1981 to May 2008 (a simultaneous 27 years of service). In parallel, John did a stint as a Board Member of the BC Forest Museum Association in Duncan, 2001-2006.

Members will recall that, apart from his many newsletter pieces, John has authored or co-authored several of our other publication projects. These include histories of the Inventory Program, the Research Branch, and biographies of Thomas G. Wright and Frederick Davison Mulholland.

Perhaps less widely known, are the countless inquiries that John has fielded, and the warm, friendly correspondence that he has sustained, helping others with their forest history-related work. John continues that volunteerism by monitoring the FHABC email account each day.

We look forward to seeing more of John’s articles and comments as a newsletter reviewer in the future, as well as updates to the online [BC Forest History bibliography](#) that he maintains on our website.

From all of us: thank you, John Parminter

Membership: New or lapsed member?

\$20.00 annually, or three years for \$50.00

To join, renew or correspond by mail:

Forest History Association of B.C.

1288 Santa Maria Place

Victoria BC, Canada V8Z 6S5

Print a membership form from the website, or provide equivalent information on paper, and mail, along with your cheque made payable to “Forest History Association of BC”. No form is needed for renewals if contact information has not changed.

To join, or renew by email & e-transfer:

Email: info@fhabc.org **Website:** fhabc.org

Email your information to us at info@fhabc.org, and arrange an electronic fund transfer of your dues with Richard at: bc.forest.history.dominy@gmail.com

We require your email address for delivery of the newsletter, notice of meetings, etc.; and we recommend you provide a phone number for short-notice contact.

BC Society Act regulations require that you also provide us with your complete mailing address, including postal code.

Printed Newsletters

We invite members who want a printed version of the newsletter to make their own arrangements. Some prefer the 8.5”x11” version on a home printer; some prefer to take the tabloid 11”x17” version to Staples or other sources of tabloid printing and make it booklet-style. Some like black and white, some like colour. The choice is yours.

(Continued from page 2) **Austria Forest History** would be ongoing priorities of the Network.

Among the most noteworthy accomplishments of the Forest History Technical Committee and Ministry partnership is the development of a **FOREST + CULTURE CERTIFICATE COURSE** program. First launched in 2007, this successful program remains unique on the European scene today.

The course, with a target enrollment of 120 participants and hosted at Austria’s forestry training centre, consists of four modules of one week in duration arranged over a 2- year period, as follows:

- Module 1 (May): Forest History – Overview, Research Skills
- Module 2 (Oct.): Our Partners in the Cultural

FHABC Newsletter team:

Editor: Dave Florence **Reviewers:** David Morgan , John Parminter, Mike Meagher; Terry Simmons, Eric Andersen, Richard Dominy, David Brownstein

Issue #104 article contributors: Mike Meagher, Gerry Burch, Art Klassen, Francis Johnson, Scott Scholefield and David Brownstein,, Richard Dominy

Submissions??: Yes, Please!
email us at newsletter.editor@fhabc.org

2019/20 FHABC officers:

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

Webmaster:
David Brownstein

Six Directors at large:

Eric Andersen
Sarah Giesbrecht
Claire Williams
Katherine Spencer
David Morgan
Dave Florence

(Continued from column 1 **Austria Forest History**

Field (E.g., Archaeology, Music, Literature)

- Module 3 (May): From Knowledge to Practice
- Module 4 (Oct.): Tourism Project Management + Sources of Funding Support

Finally, student projects are formally presented in Jan.-Feb. the following year. Graduates form an alumni association – “FoCuS” (“Forestry and Cultural Service”).

Over the past two decades, Forest History / Forest Culture has achieved a strong profile in Austria’s forest dialogue and policy framework (Strategy 2020+), in platform and network development, and in forestry-tourism collaboration all of which can be an inspiration for British Columbia and elsewhere.



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Participants in Forest + Culture Certificate Course in Austria



BCFP Resource Planning Group and why it formed

By Gerry Burch *Fascinating insights of logging decisions in the pre-Clayoquot Sound era. Second of a four-part series of writing by Gerry Burch, whose bio can be found in the UBC Library [Gerry Burch fond.](#)*

BC Forest Products formed a Resources Planning Group in 1969. To fully understand the need for this pioneering move by BC Forest Products, one needs to be informed about the rise of the environmental movement in BC, and particularly, their campaigns against the larger forest companies.

In the 1960's, the Federal National and Historic Parks Branch was investigating the establishment of a National Park on the west coast of Vancouver Island. They had plans to incorporate a block on the area between Tofino and Ucluelet, and another block to include the scattered islands at the mouth of Alberni Inlet (often called the Effingham Group). Arrangements were then made for an aerial visit by the Minister of Federal Parks, Hon. Jean Chrétien. On this inspection, Chrétien noted the west coast from Bamfield to Port Renfrew had no industrial development, and was told it was only used by hikers on a trail along the coast. Whereupon, he requested the Park staff to include this strip in their new park planning.

(Note What is now the West Coast Trail was built around 1900 as a “Lifeboat Trail”, to provide help for shipwrecked sailors after their ship was wrecked along this coast, which was named “The Graveyard of the Pacific”. So, the government built a trail from Jordan River on the south to Estevan Lighthouse on the north. Crossings were constructed over the rivers, and a telephone land line constructed along the trail. Cabins were built every 4-5 miles for shelter, food, and use of a telephone. Patrolmen were hired to maintain the trail and line. Today, this trail area is patrolled by the Federal Parks wardens. The only road access is to the ends of the trail, and contact along the route is through the lighthouse keepers.)

Eventually, in 1965, a meeting was

called to outline the area requested by the federal park staff for this new Park. It was held in Victoria with representatives from the federal and provincial park departments, the B.C. Forest Service (represented by Ian Cameron, Chief Forester), and the two logging companies operating in the area; B.C. Forest Products Ltd. (represented by myself as Assistant Chief Forester), and MacMillan-Bloedel Ltd. (represented by John Hemmingsen, Vice President Logging)

The federal staff then presented their plan, which included areas on the Tofino/Ucluelet peninsula, in which both companies had active operations; the Effingham Group, and a new third block along the west coast one mile wide between Bamfield and Port Renfrew, with a huge bulge to include all of Nitinat/Squalicum/Hobiton Lakes, hereafter, called the “Nitinat Triangle”, which became the first environmental conflict in our industry. After their presentation, I remember the dead silence in the room. Then, Ian Cameron stated bluntly that the provincial government would never accept these boundaries, and the meeting ended.

During the next few years considerable discussion occurred between all parties, resulting in a negotiated reduction of the boundary in the Tofino/Ucluelet Block, but allowing the companies to finish harvesting activity of settings included within this new boundary. The Bamfield /Port Renfrew section was narrowed to one half mile (approx.), with one bulge in M&B's Carmanah Creek, south of Nitinat Lake. This left the controversial Nitinat Triangle area to be negotiated, which included much of BCFP's Tree Farm Licence #27, recently purchased from Cameron Lumber Co., which



had established a logging camp on the south shore of Nitinat Lake.

Narrow bundled booms had been built by Cameron crews in the lake, towed to the narrow passage, called the Nitinat Narrows, and in favorable weather, one tug would push the booms to sea, and a larger tug would pick up the boom for towing to Victoria to Cameron's mill. In some winter periods, this meant stowing the booms in the lake for weeks awaiting fair weather. But, it was soon discovered that the lake was one of the worst teredo-infested areas on the coast. So, with this new purchase, BCFP decided to proceed to develop roads from Nitinat Lake to our sawmill on Cowichan Lake. This involved road construction, not only from the existing camp, but the need to construct a load-out, and spur road, to develop the Hobiton/Sprise Block, which was within the disputed area, for which there seemed no boundary resolution. The block to the north of Nitinat Lake, between Hobiton and Nitinat Lake, contained some of the highest site forest lands in Canada, and with high volumes of cedar/hemlock stands! So, we submitted a plan for two cutblocks in this area with a road around the north and west sides of Nitinat Lake. Approval was granted by the BCFS, and in the winter of 1968-69, BCFP started road construction.

In latter January 1969, I received a call from John Stokes, Deputy
(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 8) “*Leaving a Mark*” nature – in this case ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir and sagebrush stands – a highly-flammable combination! A local resident raised in Oliver immediately felled all the pines and other trees to save his home, unlike most of those whose possessions were consumed, resulting in the loss of 239 homes! That “Okanagan Mountain Fire” lasted for nearly 2 months, consumed 25, 910 hectares*, drove 33,000 people out as refugees and caused \$200 million in damages! Due to it, and after a public inquiry to explore the causes and recommend solutions to reduce risk of future disasters, many changes were declared to zoning and building standards to reduce risk and susceptibility to housefires to achieve lower home-insurance rates.



Hindsight is always clearer.

My sixth summer in the drylands entailed a move for summer work on a BCFS Marking Crew based again in Penticton. Crew chief was Garnet Grimaldi, whose long career with the “FS” is memorialized in the “Garnet Fire” of 1994. It reached 5500 hectares* and 3593 registered evacuees. Not as stunning as the Okanagan Mountain Fire, but very disturbing to the victims.

Our job was to document the potential tree harvest on a proposed Timber Sale filed by a local logger or sawmill on Crown Forest land in the area as far north as Vernon, east to the Rock Creek area, south to the US border and west to Manning Park. Each sale had been defined by reference to established lot boundaries established years prior by a Land Surveyor. New skills required: reading a compass, pulling

a “chain” along that compass setting, then using an Abney to determine the land’s slope and compensate its effect on true horizontal distance – all to establish and document the boundaries of the sale application. Finding the Surveyor’s boundary points could be an adventure. The corner points were usually defined by a metal pin in the ground, with two “reference trees” in close proximity blazed on the side toward the pin – the blaze usually displayed a written or carved description of compass bearing and distance to the pin tree. If suitable trees were not available, the pin might be under a rock mound. Then we worked as a 4-man crew walking one on each side of the 2 on the compass-chain combination to record all mature trees for their potential as a marketable log. For each tree the info was: species, DBH, estimate of height, apparent flaws (cracks, deformities, signs of rot, etc.). For ponderosa pines (“Py”) we used the US Forest Service’s “*Keen’s Classification for Ponderosa Pines*” to ensure a standard evaluation of each tree. Our main job was to select trees to represent about 50% of the loggable volume, based on DBH of all mature trees, then mark about half of them for felling. That action involved cutting through the bark of a selected tree near the base to create a level surface into which we left a “F ↑ S” imprint mark to assure the Royal approval via the F S’ “broad arrow” (between the “F” and “S”. Blazes were cut into the bark on 2 sides of the selected tree to assist in locating it, hence “**Marking Crew**”.

One lesson learned quickly was the correlation between bark thickness and the species’ typical habitat: the drier the locale and common habitats the thicker the bark. MANY more calories and sweat spent in hacking through the Py and Douglas-fir (F) bark than on any other species. The easiest blazing was in a young Lodgepole pine (Pl) stand that contained mature Py and F worth logging. Later sales in the Coldstream Valley east of Vernon saw our axes at play in sales on opposite sides of the

Valley and a quick lesson on the influence of slope and aspect to the sun on forest composition. The north-side (south aspect) forest was mainly Py and F, with some aspen and small maples, while the northern aspect of the south-side stands was reflected in western larch (Lx), white pine (Pw), and cedar (C), plus a rare F, and even rarer Py. Larch bark was nearly as thick as was Douglas-fir’s, but the others were a real gift to blazers. Farther east, where the Monashees pushed up the east-bound Oceanic air, now somewhat supplemented by evaporation en route, the forests were identical to those I knew as a kid in Nelson: more-complex due to more broadleaved species and more wildlife species.

Lessons could develop while engaged in other work. One late-summer trail-clearing week in the dry mountains east of Penticton involved camping without tents – “no need” due to the “reliable weather”. My sleeping bag and I were comfy on a ground sheet under a large and protective Douglas-fir – after a thorough sweep for rattlesnake nests (or footprints). One night my dreams were elevated to overdrive by a mysterious sound. My suspicions re bears created a scene of a bear following his nose to our food cache – suspended in a secure bag over a branch - above any reach. But, the more I listened to the “bear”, which I had never heard in action before, the more I matched even my feverish standard when the sound began high overhead as a slight rustle, then a series of gentle clicks/clips until a slight pause ended in a soft “clunk” near my head. In the dim early-dawn light I could see a few more “Bears” (Douglas-fir cones) lying on the groundsheet near my head. Squirrels were cutting and dropping the mature cones to be saved as winter’s food, often to be stored on large mounds, rather than digging them individually, where many could be lost to competitors of fuzzy memories. Evidently,



(Continued from page 1) **“Leaving a Mark”** Arbeiter from Oliver made that fruit-growing area the second “majority” in the camp.

A few fires that year, none threatening or difficult. Not commonplace in that noted hot/dry area, though Coastal forests were closed by the dry summer, bringing another crewman east looking for work. Since most fires developed late in the day, we did respect the potential high risk by resting 2 hours after lunch before resuming our chores. One memorable fire-chasing day we descended to our trucks in the near-black light guided by the flashlight of assistant Ranger Ole Kettelson. Supper delayed – not for the first time.

My background in the Nelson area, well supplied with steep country that encouraged agility, nearly caused a fatality while on a fire above Penticton. The post-glacial term of Lake Penticton left a landscape of steep slopes below benches of sandy soil and rounded rocks due to outflow from lateral creeks and visible along both sides of Okanagan Lake. I was used to navigating in such terrain, so worked alone from my crew stamping out small hot spots on a steep section when I dislodged a round stone. No problem, it would stop against a tree BUT: each time it did it rolled slowly around the tree and continued further downward, gaining speed until it disappeared over the last obstacle, followed shortly by a **“HEY!”** from a locally-drafted fire crewman below. It had broken off an aspen tree next to him! He had been working on the

lower section unknown to me. Communication protocols were not the best at those times.

1952 opened with an aerial tour of the area to cover: from the USA border to north of Peachland, east to the Monashee Mountains and west to the border of Manning Provincial Park. Our wings were attached to a pre-World War 2 Junkers float plane. A good choice, since its cruising speed was slow enough to study the terrain for water bodies (when backpack pumps – “piss cans” – needed refilling), and reliable roads. However, take-off was memorable when we were taxiing to ascend over a minor ripple on the calm Okanagan Lake surface: one wing was rock steady while the other developed a not-entirely-minor shimmy that resulted in a 3-foot diversion from horizontal! Not a regular feature when I flew in other chariots! Not everyone on the crew shared this honour. I had been named Strawboss (i/c the second crew) after only one summer of experience! That surprised me then and does still. Probably due to my June availability from UBC vs. local boys still in school.

My most-memorable fire developed in 1952 on the east side of Okanagan Lake among the scattered ponderosa pines and Douglas-firs occupying post-glacial benches and cracks in the bedrock south of Squally Point and north of the road system. The fire was spotted late in the afternoon, meaning a hurried “load-up” and drive to Peachland where Assistant Ranger Bill Sanderson met us with his boat to ferry us to a suitable landing spot. By near-dark we had dug a guard along the west (downhill) side, but the main burn was still alive above us. A descent to a safe area near the Lake – and a dinner of canned beans and water before bedding on a groundsheet under a tree. Later, a noise woke me to see the effect of a strong wind from the south: fire crowning in the trees and progressing north at an impressive rate. Fought it all the next day – too far from the Lake to make the “Piss cans” useful; shovels work anywhere, during which

time the Fire Office in Kamloops District HQ decided to assemble a team of available workers, plus a cook and helper, who greeted us at the end of the day with a very welcome meal. Back at our Penticton camp to clean and repair tools pre the next callout, swim in the Creek and eat a full meal pre bed.

At the end of the summer, Jack Cawston asked me re my future career plans. To that point I had none, apart from enjoying biology and nature, to which Jack’s *“Why not Forestry?”* question generated some thought. Having been boarded some months with a Game Ranger, I had considered wildlife management, but learned job positions were pretty limited. I considered Jack’s suggestion, and decided it seemed to fit, even though requiring a second year in Arts and Science to collect the necessary Physics credit (not a favourite from my High School exposure). Credit to a good Lecturer for making it clearer than previously and I was accepted into UBC’s Forestry Faculty.

[Small pebbles into a stream can generate meaningful waves.]

NB: Similar conditions existed in the same general Squally Point area in 2003 when a sudden strong south wind arrived and drove a small lightning-strike that had been smoldering for some days into housing areas that had been built to satisfy the recent urge to live among



(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 4) Minister, BCFS, requesting a stop to the road construction. He had a call from the Minister, Ray Williston, that day, indicating that this issue had been debated in the Legislature that day, and that the Minister was requesting our cooperation to cease operations in this area until the eventual boundaries of this portion of the Park could be resolved. BCFP reluctantly agreed.

It is important to mention that a groundswell of support for the establishment of the Park was building in the public, led by a student, Rick Careless, of the new Sierra club on the University of Victoria campus. Soon, the Minister was flooded by petitions to stop BCFP from harvesting within the proposed new Park. So, we were invited to participate on radio, television, and press. Williston stated that BCFP must respond to these claims, and that the boundary of the new Park in this area must be resolved in the near future. He also further stressed that this was becoming a political issue, and some of our TFL may be lost. However, he stated that BCFP would be compensated, either by allowable cut elsewhere, second growth land, or cash. BCFP tried to enlist support from other organizations: COFI, IWA, TLA, the cabinet and the public, but, no support was forthcoming. It was apparent the coast industry was ill prepared for a large public relations battle, such as this. In the past, it was assumed the government, as land owners, would fight these “battles”, not industry! In fact, the prevailing policy in the industry at this time, as determined by the company presidents, led by H.R. MacMillan, was that industry and their staff should not be involved in public discussion, or opinions, on forest policy! And, BCFP was being criticized for our operations on all fronts: clear-cutting, slash burning, restriction of access, poor road construction, lack of culverts, etc. The Social Credit government then decided to call an election in 1972, which they lost. The new NDP forest

minister, Bob Williams, in the first meeting concerning the Triangle, told me that the Park boundaries would be established soon, and would include our TFL, but, that no compensation would occur. (Park boundaries were set in 1973. After some 20 years, a settlement was agreed upon with the two companies by the Liberal government, involving allowable cuts, land, timber volumes, and cash.)

Given this situation, what action did we take?

The company asked me to advise on a solution to this public relations dilemma! After discussion with our small forestry staff, and others, the only action I could recommend was the appointment of an Environmental Forester, who would report to me on action to be taken, or studies we could carry out, or support, to indicate that good stewardship was being carried out. In looking around for a bright, and interested, forester on my staff, I chose Ray Travers. He remained in the position for about nine months, at which time he indicated that he felt he needed to go back to university to obtain further education. The company complied by paying him half salary for a year, but, after completion, he elected to pursue other opportunities. In that period, we developed a Forest Practices Guide, the first one in the industry. Basically, its purpose was for guidance to our logging staff. In many instances, the managers were confused as to proper action to take to satisfy these new public demands, and most involved staff and money. Considerable discussion was involved at the senior level in the company as to the need for the company to proceed with this pioneering venture of a Guide and an Environmental Forester. In the end, it was determined by a slim majority to proceed .

Then, I appointed Stan Nichols to the position of Environmental Forester. At this time, a new logging system was being carried out by all large companies on the coast, called Access Logging. It involved cat roads

throughout the settings, and, where possible, log trucks traveling these un-graveled cat roads, and loading on site. In some instances, the soil damage was substantial. Stan was directed to examine the practice, and make recommendations. He stated that it appeared that we should suspend this practice, but, that we needed a soil specialist to determine whether this new method was feasible or not. He brought forth the name of Bob Willington, a UBC professor and a Forest Hydrologist. I had never heard of him, or his specialty. But, I recommend to the company that we needed this skill to counter the criticism BCFP, and others in the industry, were receiving. Soon, there was a demand for a Fish Biologist (Sally Spenser), a soils specialist (Al Chatterton), a Game Biologist (Dave Lindsay),etc. So, the formation of the Resource Planning Group was established. Later, the value of such specialists was becoming recognized in the industry, and soon, other companies were hiring specialists. M&B set up a similar group to the RPG, called LUPAT.

But, it is important to point out that the RPG reputation was derived, not by setting up the group, but, by the excellent studies and reports by its members on controversial topics, which proved to be sound, feasible, and economic. Soon, divisional managers were calling for assistance from the Group, to examine a new proposal, or to recommend solutions to problems. And, not only in the logging divisions, but, in pulp and sawmill operations also.

There is no doubt that this reputation increased with the appointment of leaders, such as Bob Willington, Al Chatterton, and Dave Lindsay! Well done, RPG!!

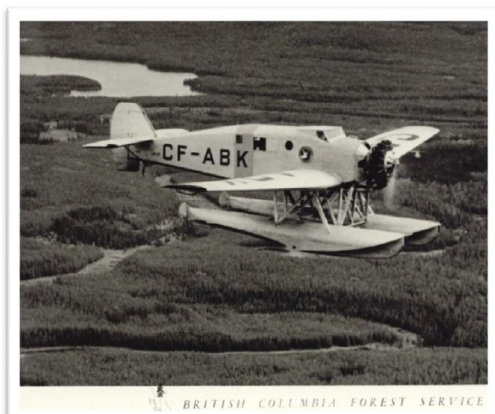


Figure 11: Central BC Airways Junkers W 34 transport



Art Klassen's International Career as a BC Forester

By Art Klassen. This autographical piece was written circa 2014 as part of the "International BC Foresters" series initiated by George Nagel and introduced in Issue #103. More of this series will appear in future issues.

Art Klassen Graduate of BCIT Forest Technology 1968; Graduate of UBC BSF 1976; RPF 1209

Back when I was still young, decisions were made in pursuit of dreams, not practicalities. So the decision to join CUSO and go off to 'bongo bongo' land for peanuts when there were four well-paying job postings for every forestry graduate, was considered by my BCIT classmates as an act bordering on lunacy! That decision took me to Tanzania where for the next three years I lived the dream as "Conservator of Forests" in the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority. That was 1968.

My BCIT forestry diploma served me well for those three idyllic years, but it also became apparent that further education would open more doors. Consequently, on completion of my CUSO assignment, followed by five months of backpacking through India and all points West to Europe, it was back to school at the UBC Faculty of Forestry. With graduation in 1976 came an offer to join Charnell & Associates and ultimately a two-year posting in Iran as Area Engineer with what is arguably the largest international forestry project ever to be awarded to a Canadian forestry consulting company.

In these final two pre-Komeni years, Iran was a great place to work; the culture, the people, the history, and the natural environment of the Elburz Mountains, all stand out in my memory making this a truly memorable experience. In all my years of international work, the Iranians stand out as the most hospitable of all cultures.

Iran was followed by three solid years of good forest engineering experience with Weldwood of Canada contract division based in Campbell River. A

great place to start a family . . . plus the fishing up and down the B.C. coast was second to none.

I left Weldwood in 1982 to take on a forest engineering position with Guyana Timbers limited through the consulting firm of C.D. Schultz and Co. Ltd. This fairly remote jungle posting was a great learning experience but a rather challenging hardship posting, particularly with two preschool children and very limited food or other supplies available that are normally associated with bringing up small children, even in the most frugal of scenarios.

Leaving Weldwood for a one-year contract in Guyana marked the beginning of a long period of alternating between international work and work in the B.C. forestry sector. On the international scene, the first assignment was with the FAO to prepare a 5-year development plan for a forest concession area in the foothills of the Himalayas, Kingdom of Bhutan. After miles of trekking, hundreds of leeches, and an examination of exhaustive computer printouts while sequestered in a wooden hut in the rain and fog, I came to the conclusion that the 'sustainable wood supply' would be exhausted in 5 years and that clearcutting would have to start to sustain the country's first plywood factory. Needless to say none of FAO, UNDP, or the Bhutan Forest Department were particularly impressed with this conclusion and I returned to B.C. fully expecting to have all ties with said organizations permanently severed.

I resumed work in B.C. but not for long. Guyana came calling with an offer to run the country's largest forest concession. This time, living conditions were substantially improved and to make things even sweeter, almost all of my original staff had joined the new company.

It was in this new position as Forest Manager that the benefits of a good inventory, accurate maps, operational planning, and efficient organizational structure came together in a win-win situation that we now refer to as "reduced impact logging", but more on that later.

A two-year contract in Guyana was followed serendipitously and unexpectedly with an offer from the Bhutan Logging Corporation which had received a World Bank grant to assist it in salvaging a massive bark beetle outbreak in the countries high elevation spruce forests. The logging corporation was preparing its first clear cut for the country's only plywood factory, as predicted in the 5-year plan prepared during my first assignment in the country!

With credibility restored, the tasks and scope of the new contract expanded steadily to include road and bridge construction, forest engineering for skyline logging, management planning, and silvicultural research.

Bhutan has one of the worlds most intact cultures and an incredible biodiversity ranging from tropical Dipterocarps at 50 meters elevation to pure fir forests merging into alpine rhododendron vegetation at 4,000 meters.

This very satisfying three and a half year posting ended by choice to enroll our two sons in the final three years of the B.C. high school system. What followed was an exciting nine years running a small but successful forest consulting company out of our home in Cobble Hill. With clients around the entire province, this provided the long missed opportunity to really explore what I still consider one of the most beautiful corners of the world. But it also set the stage for the next overseas

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adventure as we began picking up short-term consultancies during the winter months in Indonesia.

By the end of 1999, with my two sons graduating from high school, a change was on the cards and in January 2000, I accepted the challenge of establishing a training program in SE Asia, based in Indonesia. The concept was to stimulate improved forest management of tropical rain forests of SE Asia by demonstrating and training a 'reduced impact logging' management strategy. The lessons learned as Forest Manager in Guyana proved invaluable and ensured that the development of a credible training program was grounded in reality.

Twelve plus years later, our Indonesia program keeps expanding and now includes chain-of-custody, legality verification, and certification support facilitation. Reduced impact logging has become an institution and remains the TFF-Indonesia's main calling card.

Retirement seems to be receding into the indefinite future as our program activities continue to expand and our successes in sustainable forest management and certification keep growing. Looking back on my mixed career, there are no regrets. Following that dream, whatever it was, clearly changed the course of my life, but in a good way. My B.C. forestry education has served me well over the years.

To find out more about what I'm doing, visit our Indonesia website www.tff-indonesia.org or check out our organization's parent site www.tropicalforestfoundation.org.

From "In Memoriam" Page 26, BC Forest Professional [Jan-Feb 2019](#)

Arthur Wolfgang Klassen RPF #1209
October 1, 1946 – November 1, 2018

Art was born in East Germany and his family moved to Abbotsford when he was very young. Following high school he attended BCIT to attain forest technologist certification. He was



Two and a half year Red Meranti. Check out the article "Can We Harvest This in 23 Years?" posted in the TFF 2011 newsletter downloadable from www.tffindonesia.org

accepted by Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO) and served a two year assignment as a volunteer in Tanzania where he was able to apply his training in the forests of BC to the montane forests of Ngorongoro Crater. Upon his return from Africa, Art decided to enroll at UBC's Faculty of Forestry and graduated in 1975. The early years of Art's professional career consisted of alternating periods of working overseas in countries such as Iran, Guyana and Bhutan, and working for major BC coastal forest companies such as Weldwood of Canada. Two sons, Andrew and Patrick were born to Art and his wife, Jan, while they were living in Campbell River.

But Art always seemed drawn to the challenge and adventure of overseas life and he eventually settled in Jakarta, Indonesia, where he became regional director for the



South East Asia Pacific Region of the Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF).

Art was very well respected within TFF and throughout the tropical forestry community. He was recognized as an authority in all facets of sustainable tropical forest management and was largely responsible for pioneering much of the work on reduced logging impact and forest certification in Indonesia.

He was a reliable contact for an ABCFP project in Indonesia that invested in rehabilitation and reforestation of mangrove forests following the Tsunami of December 2004 that affected major areas of Aceh province, killed more than 200,000 people, and wiped out many coastal communities.

Art was remarried in Indonesia, to Susi, and raised three daughters. He loved to garden and scuba-dive, and continued to travel, including at least two trips per year back to North America.

Art was a passionate, but practical forester and had a deep understanding and knowledge of the ecosystems within which he worked and played. He had a unique ability to convey much of that understanding to others and he will be sadly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

Art passed away in Jakarta after a valiant battle with cancer. He was planning to retire to B.C. in 2019.

The Tropical Forest Foundation – Indonesia wrote a tribute to Art Klassen. It can be read at www.tff-indonesia.org.

Submitted by David Woodgate, RPF(Ret)

