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 new Facebook forum representing 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 re- searchers 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 re- searchers 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 re-

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 after-

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 underlined text to go to relevant info on the web.

Leaving a Mark

By Mike Meagher

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 cacti, 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 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, “Ginny,” 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
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 and 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. At a cultural level

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, the Federal Ministry (today: Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism), and the Federal Forest Committee (today: Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism), was the founding of a forest history group: 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 database
- 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 wood 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

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 and management)
- Wood uses (wood architecture, etc.)
- Recreation (well-being, health, etc.)
- Sightseeing attractions and monuments
- Tradition (folk art, songs, wildcrafting, etc.)

This is the Austrian context for protection and promotion of Forest Culture, 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 to stimulate greater public interest in forests.
- Forest history as an 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 idealizing and 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

By Eric Andersen, 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.

FHABC members already love history, so, learn which traditional territories you are on, and 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 KAIROS 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 with whom to meet at 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.

Advancing Reconciliation in the Forest Sector: An Interview with K’axwe’alma’ul Ga’alis/Cheief Bob Joseph which appears on pages 26/27 in the Sep/Oct issue of the BC Forest Professional Magazine. (Download here)
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 Vysy, RPF (Ret.).
Search Forester, formerly with the BC Ministry of Forests, and now a Forest Ecology 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 (P. abies) distribution and potential afforestation uses well and makes reference to the impact of mountain pine beetle at that time.

The current beetle infestation began in 2006, having been built up to epidemic status by feasting on local lodgepole pine. In 2008 the beetle had killed large numbers of P. abies populations a far south as the Kelowna and Merritt areas.

All stages of mountain pine beetle damage can be seen at the University Research Stations and at the former Mount Boucherie Research Station.

P. abies mortality has been 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 P. abies, with seed comprising 80% of their winter diet. Also, the big pines and other large trees provide nest and shelter cavities for birds and other animals.

Much of the forest is being regenerated with a mixture of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir in mixed stands, a lower proportion of P. abies than in the past.

A crew of local professionals and volunteers is pursuing actions to generate such stands by:thinning 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 salvaging logging. This can increase site diversity in species and ground cover.

The impact of mountain pine beetle on BC’s forests is described in the following issues:

1. The impact of mountain pine beetle on BC natural ecosystems.
2. The impact of mountain pine beetle on BC’s forests.
3. The impact of mountain pine beetle on BC’s forests.

We welcome 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 Newsletter

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 PROGRAM course.

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 Context
- 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. of 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 of which can be an inspiration for British Columbia and elsewhere.

REFERENCES:
http://www.forvestverein.at/de/forvestgeschichte

Participants in Forest + Culture Certificate Course in Austria

(Continued from page 9) “Learning a Mark” squirrels have a remarkable talent for determining coniferous maturity. Don Piggott, 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 mosquitoes, were taken quickly to heart. Re bears: we

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

from this.


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a co-founder 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.

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Long-time Director Retires
By David Brownstein

Members will recall that 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 Brochure, 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
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 largest forest companies.

In the 1960s, 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 an area between Tofino and Ucluelet, and another block to include the scattered islands at the mouth of Alberni Inlet (often called the Effingham Group). The area was first surveyed by a group under aerial survey by the Minister of Federal Parks, Hon. Jean Chrétien. On this inspection, Chrétien noted the west coast route from Estevan Point to Port Renfrew had no industrial development, and it was told only was used by hikers on a trail along the coast. Whereupon, he requested that this include this strip in their new park planning.

(Continued from page 3) "Leaving a Mark" – Nature – in this case ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir and sagedge stands – a high 35-year allowable combination! All local residents rose in Oliver immediately felled all the pines and other trees to save his home, unlike most of whose possessions were consumed, resulting in the loss of 239 homes! That "Okanagan Mountain Fire" lasted for nearly 2 months, consumed 25,910 hectares*, destroyed 3,000 people out as refugees and caused $200 million in damages! Due to it, and after a public inquiry to explore the causes and recommend some new road or route in 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 Port Renfrew. Crew chief was Garnet Grimaldi, whose long career with the "FS" is memorialized in the "Garnet" from 1994. It reached 5500 hectares* and 3593 registered even trees. Not as stumped 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 for north 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 corners were usually marked by a metal pin in the ground, with two "reference trees" in close proximity blazed on the side toward the pin – the trees were usually blazed in carved or carved design of compass bearing and distance to the pin tree. If suitable trees were not available, the marking men would create one instead. Then we worked as a 4-man crew walking one on each side of the 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.), grade, and other notes.

Lessons could develop while engaged in other work. One late-summer trail clearing week in the dry mountains east of Penticton involved camping among the blackbush and subalpine fir. It was "reliable weather". My sleeping bag and I were comfordly on a ground sheet under a large and protective Douglas-fir – after dropping the mature cones to be a highly competitive site. I could have never heard in action with a boulder to the base created to define 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""). Blackbush were cut into the first 7/8 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 were spent cutting through the Py and Douglas-fir (F) bark than on any other species. The easiest blazing was in a young Lodgepole pine (P) stand and 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 northern (north facing) slopes were mostly 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 old-growth yellow cedar. Larch bark was nearly as thick as Douglas-fir’s, but the others were a real gift to blazers. Farther north, where the Mountains pushed up the east-bound Oceanic air, now somewhat supplemented by evaporation on route, the forests were identified more as a Lx Py F. Nelson: more-complex due to more broadleafed species and more wildlife species.

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 in 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 Carnahan Creek, south of Nitinat Lake. This left the controversial Nitinat Triangle area to be negotiated, which included much of BCFS’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 boughs 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 boughs through the boom 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, BCFS 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/Sprice Block, which was then 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, BCFS started road construction.

In latter January 1969, I received a call from John Stokes, Deputy

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

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(Continued on page 5)
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-fighting day we descended to our truck in the back 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 out small hot spots on a steep section used to navigating in such terrain, so encouraged agility, nearly caused a fire.

In 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 sufficient to avoid turbulence in 3-4 knot winds 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, eventually causing us to 3-4 foot diversion from horizontal! Not a regular feature when I flew in other charters! Not everyone on the crew shared this honor. I believe I have been named Strawboss (ie 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.

The 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. A fire was started by a squally wind that had been smoldering for some days into house size, and was ready to satisfy the recent urge to live among 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 Pentiction 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 Caswton 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 house size, and was ready to satisfy the recent urge to live among

(Continued from page 4)

Minister, BCFS, requesting a stop to the road construction. He had a call from the Department, 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 the 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 land, and a student, Rick Careless, of the new Sierra club on the University of Victoria campus. Soon, the Minister was flooded by petitions to stop BCFS logging operations in the proposed new Park. So, we were invited to participate on radio, television, and press. Bill Sanderson met us with his boat to ferry us to a suitable landing spot. By dark we had dug a guard along the near side 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. I was too far from the Lake to make the “Piss cans” useful; shovels work anywhere, during which time the Fire Office in Kamloops

(Continued from page 4)

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 Province, the federal 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 the political dilemma! After discussion with our small forestry staff, and others, the only action I could recommend was the appointment of an Environmental Forest Manager, who would advise me on action to be taken, or studies we could carry out, to support, to indicate that good stewardship was being carried out. That surprised me then, and interested, forester on my staff, I chose Ray Travers. He remained in the position for about nine months, at which time, he had 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 regulations, and most involved staff had no idea. Considering this 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 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 landing on the site. Stan was a Social Credit government then restriction of access, poor road fronts: clear forest policy! And, BCFP was being flooded by petitions to stop BCFS logging operations in the proposed new Park. So, we were invited to participate on radio, television, and press. Bill Sanderson met us with his boat to ferry us to a suitable landing spot. By dark we had dug a guard along the near side 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. I was 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 Pentiction camp to clean and repair tools pre the next callout, swim in the Creek and eat a full meal pre bed.

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(Continued from page 4)

Minister, BCFS, requesting a stop to the road construction. He had a call from the Department, 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 the 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 land, and a student, Rick Careless, of the new Sierra club on the University of Victoria campus. Soon, the Minister was flooded by petitions to stop BCFS logging operations in the proposed new Park. So, we were invited to participate on radio, television, and press. Bill Sanderson met us with his boat to ferry us to a suitable landing spot. By dark we had dug a guard along the near side 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. I was 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 Pentiction 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 Caswton 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.

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By Art Klassen

**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, I returned to B.C. fully expecting to work in the B.C. forestry sector. Leaving Weldwood for a one-year posting in Iran as Area Engineer with UNDP, or the Bhutan Forest Factory. Needless to say none of FAO, UNDP, or the Bhutan Forest Factory were made in pursuit of dreams, 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, and time was of the essence as the logging was to start 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 forests, but incredible biodiversity ranging from tropical Dipterocarps to pure fir forests merging into alpine rhododendron vegetation at 4,000 meters.

This very satisfying three and a half years 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 province, killed more than 200,000 people, and raised three daughters. He loved the garden and scuba-diving, and continued to travel, including at least two trips year back to the North American South East Asia Pacific Region of the Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF).

Art 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 remembered in Indonesia, to Susi, and raised three daughters. He loved the garden and scuba-diving, and continued to travel, including at least two trips year back to the North American South East Asia Pacific Region of the Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF).

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