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British Columbia FOREST HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter seeking editor! Please get in touch to guest edit our next issue. Or, if you would like to assume the position on a more permanent basis. info@fhabc.org

Oral-History Fundraising. Thank you to our donors for your generous support. We were happy to host our second listening-party on July 23, 2022, featuring a session on contract logger Viv Williams. This is now online and accessible to all: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2vocI-wwyk

We also now host an additional, brand new oral history interview with Tom Brown, in Langley, about his decades in the British Columbia forest industry. This is available at: https://fhabc.org/oral-history/

Thank you for your tax-deductible support, and we hope to see you at the next listening party!

Donations: https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/forest-history-association-of-british-columbia/

Call for Victoria-based archival volunteers

David Morgan & David Brownstein

The FHABC seeks a Victoria-based volunteer (or volunteers!) to create a finding-aid (an index) for Federal forestry files held on microfilm in the BC Archives. If this isn't you, then thanks for helping to spread the word. And if this is you, then drop us a line at info@fhabc.org

According to the BC Archives website, the record series includes former Department of the Interior timber berth administration files maintained by the Dominion Lands Branch between 1896 and 1932. The Dominion Government assumed administrative control of public lands (the so-called Railway Belt extending twenty miles on either side of the Canadian Pacific Railway mainline through the province and additional land in the Peace River district) to help offset construction costs of the CPR. Completion of the railway was a precondition for BC joining Confederation. Revenue was collected by the sale of harvesting rights, stumpage and licensing fees. The BC Provincial Government inherited these records when the Dominion Government's tenure of the Railway Branch lands ended in 1930 and administration reverted back to the province. The BC Ministry of Forests relinquished these records to the Archives in 1984 and 2016.

While most of the records are on microfilm, there are also paper files which include homestead reports, correspondence, statistical records on timber volumes and maps. Unfortunately for researchers, the website points out that the paper volumes are in no discernable order. Nor do they appear to have any finding aids. The timber berth administration files (GR-1499) consist of 85 microfilm reels and 12 cm of textual records and maps. There is an index for the microfilm reels which cites the reel numbers. The records are listed by the various forest districts: New Westminster, Revelstoke, Kamloops and Peace River. However, the index does not offer a description of the specific timber berth numbers (or in some cases letters) or documents found on each reel. Unfortunately, the Archives never prepared a finding aid for these records, presenting the researcher with a daunting and time-consuming task when trying to access them. We aim to improve this.

High Lead Logging on the BC Coast in the 1920's

Allen Hopwood

The full illustrated article is on our webpage, just click here.

The great size of the trees and the ruggedness of the terrain for the most part obviated the general use of oxen and horses for moving logs out of the forests in the Pacific Northwest. By employing a steam-powered engine and overhead cables (for lift) these difficulties were (largely) overcome…

Requiem.

Paul Lawson

None forgotten
their destiny a cruel wind
whose tears rain upon us forever
with their memory – we embrace each other
in a requiem of loss and grief

The places where they have died
live forever only in the minds of us
who bear witness to their loss
otherwise beautiful and verdant
yet desolate and pleading
in our hearts

the wind
must surely blow hard
across that hallowed ground
steely grey skies would skid past
in a more defiant way
than anywhere else

We come together
in spirit like birds in winter
as the left behind souls who can't give up
with warmth of memory intact
log cabin fire on these many cold nights

Was it worth their loss?
not compared to war or greater good
some would even say wasted
but in doing what they loved so well
in vain could not be said of them
any one

fleeting memories fade
as time swallows the past
yet lives cannot be erased
without a charcoal print

not on our watch

I have considered it an honour to work in BC forestry over the past 50 years, alongside some of the best people in the world. But the sadness and grief of losing co-workers, neighbours and friends in the industry through workplace accidents has been like a black umbrella over my head - a refrain that will never let me forget. I wrote this poem in 1989 to commemorate all of those who have died working in the woods, and to the beautiful places where they lost their lives. May they rest in peace.

WHALEN PULP & PAPER MILLS – A CHAPTER IN THE EARLY WEST COAST INDUSTRY

Eric Andersen

The Whalen Pulp & Paper Mills Ltd. (1917-23) story is a key chapter in the early development of the west coast pulp industry – and not a regional but a cross-Canada story.

Figure 1: Whalen Pulp and Paper Mills, Mill Creek [Woodfibre] 1918 (Forest History Society FHS 7353).

By the early 1900s expectation was building regarding the potential of a west coast pulp industry, with the timber types and hydro power locally available and with Panama Canal construction underway. A government pulp timber lease program to incentivize investment was in place.

A start was made in 1909 with two plants, at Swanson Bay south of Prince Rupert, and at Port Mellon on lower Howe Sound, both established with British capital.

Around this time, brothers William and George Whalen from Port Arthur, Ontario arrived and set about building a sulphite mill at Mill Creek (later renamed as Woodfibre) on upper Howe Sound. Behind the new B.C. Sulphite Fibre Co. Ltd and the later Whalen Pulp & Paper Mills Ltd. was an investment partnership between elder brother James Whalen, a well-established Port Arthur entrepreneur (and early champion of "Thunder Bay"), and Montreal based financier I.W. Killam.

I.K. Killam came from a Nova Scotia family of merchants and ship owners. He was to play key roles in the development of pulp and paper industry on both coasts. Cousin Lawrence Killam from Nova Scotia would relocate to Vancouver and play a long-term role in the west coast industry.

William ("Billy") and George would later be joined from Port Arthur by younger siblings John, Ray, Ammond, Mary and Charlotte (whose husbands would join the company).

The Mill Creek plant was in production by early 1912 and shipping to Japan. George Whalen is credited with making the first Canadian pulp sales in Japan.

By 1915, the Whalens acquired timber rights and began construction of a sulphite mill in Quatsino Sound at Port Alice (named after the brothers' mother), where John Whalen would be manager. In 1916, the Swanson Bay plant and its timber holdings were purchased.

Figure 2: Swanson Bay 1918 (Tim Woodland Collection)

Whalen Pulp & Paper Mills was established in 1917, with close involvement of financier Killam. The same year a start (unsuccessful) was made on a fourth pulp mill venture at Port Angeles, Washington.

The three B.C. coast sites were isolated, without road or rail access, but enjoyed excellent hydro resources and water access to timber supply. With their construction of two mills and refurbishment of Swanson Bay, the Whalens became the largest west coast pulp industry concern.

Pulp was being shipped to the U.S. eastern seaboard and mid-west as well as to Japan, China and Australia. Investment was made in sawmilling and cedar shingle production facilities – at all three sites by 1921 – to enable better use of the spruce sawtimber and the cedar. Equipment to handle small diameter pulp logs was installed. Lumber and shingles went to the Prairies via Prince Rupert on the Grand Trunk Pacific. Cedar poles were shipped to California from Mill Creek.

Figure 3: Whalen Pulp and Paper mill and cargo ships at Port Alice ca 1920 (City of Vancouver Archives).

During the First World War, Whalen timber and sawmill operations were heavily engaged in the Munitions Board aeroplane spruce program. Davis rafts were used to deliver upper coast timber to Howe Sound.

The Whalens also featured prominently in west coast shipbuilding during the latter years of the war, having longstanding Great Lakes experience in that field.

The Whalen brothers were sportsmen. Billy Whalen's status as a very accomplished curler was the newspapers' story upon his first arrival in Vancouver. His B.C. team was to compete for the Brier. George played lacrosse and hockey. Youngest brother Ammond played pro hockey for the Vancouver Millionaires when they made a second (unsuccessful) bid for the Stanley Cup against the Toronto Arenas in 1918.

Whalen company towns were fitted with sports facilities – playing fields, a golf course at Port Alice and fine tennis courts at Woodfibre.

The Whalen pulp enterprise hit troubled times at the end of the war, with changes in markets including loss of the Japanese market, a major industry strike in 1919, increased pulpwood costs, and issues with the retooling program to handle small timber. Woodfibre and Swanson Bay were shut down during 1921, with the latter never to be reopen.

Whalen Pulp & Paper went into receivership in late 1923. I.W. Killam acquired the assets in 1925 and organized the BC Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd. to take over, with cousin Lawrence as managing director.

Whalen and Killam family members continued to be associated together and prominently within the west coast forestry and pulp industries, through over four decades and two generations.

Brother-in-law E.P Brennan was long time manager of the Woodfibre pulp mill (and his son Patrick Brennan became successful and well-known in logging). Billy's son Len Whalen pursued a forest industry safety career – and another as a trade publication cartoonist. Lawrence's son L.H. Killam launched Power Machinery Ltd. in 1947, manufacturing chain saws in Vancouver (the "Canadien") to be sold also in eastern Canada and around the world.

In 1951, BC Pulp & Paper was acquired by Alaska Pine & Cellulose, a company launched by the Koerner brothers, who had significant lumber business experience from central Europe and who had arrived in Canada as refugees in 1938-39. The former Whalen timber holdings and plants became settings for new innovation in the utilization of the previously undervalued hemlock species.

Between 1954 and 1957, ownership of Alaska Pine was transferred to what became Rayonier Canada. The last chapter in the story of the Whalen plants was the closure of Woodfibre by last owner Western Forest Products in 2006, and of the Port Alice mill in 2015.

In 2006, staff from the Royal BC Museum arrived at Woodfibre to secure a large quantity of archival material dating back to the time of the Whalens. During 2014-16, arrangements were made with Western Forest Products on the part of the **Canadian Forest History Preservation Project** partners for a major donation to UBC Rare Books & Special Collections of archival materials relating to WFP and its predecessor companies.

New historical work is now possible concerning important and interesting chapters in west coast and Canadian forest industry development.

Request for Information

Steve Hansen of Hood River, Oregon is in the process of researching the history of the Trail Tractor and wonders if any FHABC members recall their use in B.C. and/or what happened to them. Steve can be reached by phone (541) 980-4475. Or e-mail: hrwebcruiser@yahoo.com

In 1937 and 1938 the United States Forest Service Experimental Equipment Laboratory in Portland, Oregon developed a bulldozer called a Trail Tractor. The 3,000 pound tractor had a 19 HP 4 cylinder Waukesha FC4 engine.

The trail tractor was developed primarily to reduce trail construction costs. Its other uses included terracing and building fire lines.

A total of nine trail tractors were built – six for the U.S. Forest Service, one for the State of Washington and two for the B.C. Forest Service. Those tractors arrived in B.C. in 1939. Of these 9 tractors, 4 are known to exist - one in BC, 2 in Washington State, and one that is temporarily unaccounted for.

The April, 1940 edition of the U.S. Forest Service's "Fire Control Notes" describes in detail the history of the development of these tractors, and mentions that the Canadian tractors were tied up early in the 1939 season because of the Second World War.

The lead designer of the tractor (T.P. Flynn, a U.S. Forest Service employee) also helped design a similar model that was used by the USAAF Airborne Engineers during the war. That tractor was known as the Clarkair CA-1

Other "cousins" of the Trail Tractors of interest are the Western Gear Works (Seattle) Beetle Tractor and the Canadian version, the Laurentide Beetle.

Steve also shares a longer piece on the Trail Tractor, and you can find this online on our webpage.

A Personal Critique of World Forestry And Environmental Resource Management

John Howard Dick

John Howard Dick studied forestry at UBC and developed extensive international experience in the environmental aspects of large, government-sponsored mining and forestry projects. He recently completed an autobiographical book which FHABC has published on its website **here.**

The FHABC Newsletter continues its International Forestry series (started in *Issue #103, September 2019*) with the extract below from John's book, dealing with his time in Laos from 2001 to 2012.

2001 to 2012 in Laos: Consultant to the World Bank to prepare an environmental and social impact assessment, on behalf of the Peoples Democratic Republic of Laos, for the proposed Sustainable Forestry and Rural Development (SUFORD) Project

This project followed from a very successful pilot project funded by the Bank and the Government of Finland (GOF) and would expand the application of this village-based sustainable natural forest management concept to other areas of southern Laos. An environmental and social impact assessment would be required for World Bank loan appraisal, and would be based on a feasibility-level project design – and these were to be my primary responsibilities.

Of all the projects I did for the Bank, SUFORD was my favorite. As a community forestry project, it was the only example in Southeast Asia of commercial tropical rainforest management carried out as a partnership between a Ministry of Forests and local indigenous communities. In 1995 the Government of Laos (GOL) looked around the region and decided that industrial concessions were not its first choice of a forest management model. It had a State Forest Enterprise that had carried out low-level forest harvesting (largely "creaming"), but it recognized that it had outlived its usefulness. The GOL approached the World Bank (WB) and the Government of Finland (GOF) to pilot a program of community forest management to conserve forest values and enhance the welfare of local, forest-dwelling communities.

The WB and GOF jointly provided $2.5 million of grant funding (which Laos didn't have to pay back) to implement two pilot projects in the southern provinces of Savannakhet and Champasak. The pilots got underway in 1996 and finished in 2001. At that point the GOL approached the WB and GOF and declared its intention to take a Bank loan to implement community forest management in six southern provinces, representing 60% of its commercial forest area. This was the point that I became involved because I was hired to do the environmental and social impact assessment required under WB regulations. The new project was approved in 2002 with GOF providing grant funding for technical assistance. As previously described, WB has a rigorous project evaluation process involving annual audits and a mid-term review. I participated in all of these to evaluate whether the project was meeting its environmental and social commitments. The final annual audit was in November 2008 to coincide with the project's completion. We all had a little celebration and sadly said farewell to our "ideal" project. In December the GOL approached WB and GOF with the proposal to take another loan to bring 80+% of its commercial forests under community management by 2015, so I went back to Laos in March as part of a WB team to begin the process of designing a project extension into the northern mountains of Laos (more about this later).

Here are the reasons why this project is so special:

It's the first time, in my experience, that intact tropical rainforest is being commercially managed in partnership by a forest administration and local communities (as you might imagine there was considerable resistance to this from certain elements in the forestry administration and it's a tribute to GOL and some very dedicated foresters that the project happened).

Early on, significant resources were provided to train villagers in simple forest management techniques – forest inventory, growth studies and tree selection prescriptions, simple participatory forest management planning, and in reaching consensus between communities on community forest boundaries. As an incentive for this to happen, the GOL/Word Bank provided a one-time grant of US$8,000 to the village development fund of each forest community - $3,000 when the respective village forest boundaries were agreed-to and a management-level inventory completed, and $5,000 when a participatory management plan was prepared and approved.

The management plans are completely participatory and there must be a village consensus in approving the plan. The process makes provision for the delineation of "high conservation value forests" (HCVFs), which can include spiritual forests, important non-timber forest product (NTFP) areas, watershed protection forests, and areas of high biodiversity.

Sustainable timber harvests are determined in a series of steps. An initial, participatory, 15% management-level inventory is carried out to estimate total standing tree volumes by species, to provide a basis for estimating a maximum permissible level of harvest, and to divide the village forestry area into equal annual harvesting coupes. The actual level of harvest is determined by a 100% inventory of all trees over 30 cm in diameter on each annual felling coupe. Trees are selected for

harvest through the application of a set of common-sense rules intended to maintain species composition, stand structure and ecological keystones, and to limit gap-size.

Forest concessions in Laos

What makes the project work is that decisions on which trees to cut are made by the villagers themselves. One of the major economic values in these forests for villagers is the tapping of damar resin (for very high-end furniture finishes) from Dipterocarp tree species that also happen to be some of the prime commercial timber species. In other countries (Cambodia, for example) uncontrolled commercial forest harvesting activities have destroyed community livelihoods by taking resin trees without consultation or compensation. In SUFORD, villagers have absolute control over whether and when resin trees should be cut and are given compensation if they decide to allow harvest. Current wood harvests are 0.5 to 2 trees per ha per felling pass (20 years) as opposed to the 6 to 8 trees per ha common on commercial operations elsewhere in the region. The implications for the ability to restore degraded rainforests and preserve carbon retention over time under community management are obviously very significant.

Benefit/revenue sharing between Governments and villagers occurs according to an agreed-to formula (though we had some problems limiting the Finance Ministry's greed). The current formula is that, after payment of royalties, net revenues are split as follows: 5% to the national forest administration; 5% to the provincial forest administration; 45% to the district administration, from which all management costs, including the wages of villagers who actively participate in forestry activities are paid; and 45% to the village development fund.

In 2007, after several independent project audits, the international Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) agreed that there was sufficient consistency in the program that the whole project would be certified a "sustainable forest" under one certification (previously each community forest area was separately certified, which was hideously expensive). This greatly enhanced the desirability of Laos timber to European furniture manufacturers.

Laos Villagers

I was asked recently what would have happened if a community decided to simply liquidate its forest and take the money. This wouldn't have been allowed because the forests were still technically under the jurisdiction of the national government, and the community was still bound by an approved management plan. I think it's unlikely to happen for another reason. I went to one village with one of our community liaison consultants and asked her to explain to them that we thought they lived in such a rich forest area that they could increase their 20-year rotation harvest from 1-2 trees per ha to maybe as high as 3-5 trees per ha. After considerable community discussion the village chief replied through our interpreter that while they appreciated the advice, they didn't want to do this because "it wouldn't be beautiful". Then the interpreter said, "Wait, beautiful is not the right word – it's close – but it means something closer to function". It's the first time I had confirmed something I'd always suspected – that these communities who have lived in these ecosystems for centuries have a mental template of what constitutes a "beautiful, functioning forest".

In 2009 I was asked to prepare an environmental and social assessment for an extension of SUFORD. The new project would move from the moist lowland forests of Southern Laos to drier mixed deciduous forests on rather steeper terrain in the Annamite Foothills of north-central Laos - an area with a much more complex mix of indigenous ethnic groups. I returned to Laos in advance of the main party and proceeded to the provinces of Bolikhamxi, Vientane, and Xayaboury to find suitable forest areas for the proposed extension.

We started in Xayaboury, drove around the periphery of the first forest reserve proposed for consideration and saw nothing but scrub-bamboo on the lower slopes. I was assured that there were forests in the interior of the reserve and we set out on what became about a 16-kilometer walk through the steepest slopes I'd ever been on that weren't rock. The Lao don't do switchbacks and we walked straight up to the top of the ridge. Somewhere along the way I felt a serious pain in my right calf but there was no alternative but to press on.

We got to the very top of the ridge and the leader of the group said "See, there are forests over there" and he pointed to three ridges away. I asked if there were roads into that area and he replied no. I explained that the World Bank's policy was that roads would not be constructed into roadless forest areas, until there was a forest management plan and a demonstrated local law enforcement capacity to

prevent illegal harvesting – and that was the end of the discussion. The leader of the Lao team said that we would have to descend down the back of the ridge and walk out along the stream in the next valley to the village where we would be meeting our village consultation team. So we slithered and fell about 300 m to the valley bottom and then walked about 8 km along the stream with a coarse cobble bottom to the village. By the time we arrived I knew that I had done something pretty serious to my leg.

I was sent to a World Bank-recommended doctor when we returned to Vientiane, and he diagnosed a torn calf muscle. He said there was a large hematoma in the calf and recommended I wear an elastic stocking on my air trip home and thereafter until the swelling went down and the pain disappeared. Several months later I didn't think things were improving and so I asked my G.P. for a referral to a specialist. When I finally got in to see someone he asked me, with typical specialist tact, what I expected to get out of the consultation. I explained what had happened and that I couldn't seem to rebuild strength in my inside calf muscle. He said that I could only do that if I had an Achilles tendon in that leg. I said "What!?!" and he replied "Yup, I can sit here across the room and see that you have no functioning Achilles there". I asked if there was anything that could be done and he replied that he could take a piece of tendon out of my hip, graft it to my ankle, fish the Achilles tendon down from where it had retracted to, and attach it to the piece of tendon. But, as he explained, "That would be a 12 year rehabilitation. You're 70 years old and have pretty fair mobility. Do you really want to do that to yourself at your age for an uncertain outcome?" So that was pretty much the end of my active field career.

A History of Tallheo Pt. Area and District Lots 86 & 325, Range 3 Coast District

Don Avis

Don Avis is a retired Forester residing in Ladysmith. Don has been investing in and managing private forest land since the early 1990's. Through this work Don has developed a keen interest in ownership, logging and forest history of private forest lands.

Tallheo Pt. is at the east entrance to South Bentinck Arm, just west of Bella Coola in BC's Central Coast within what is now called the Great Bear Rainforest. "Tallheo" is the name of the dialect spoken by the Talhyumc or Talyumc people, a subgroup of the Nuxalk First Nation, whose traditional territory includes South Bentinck Arm (Ats'aaxlh). Please see the map on the next page.

• 1793 – Captain George Vancouver (by sea) and Alexander Mackenzie (by land) both passed through the area in 1793, missing each other by about 3 weeks. While they would have been unaware of the other's position, they probably knew of each other.

• Vancouver named many geographical features in the area. North and South Bentinck Arm were named for William Henry Cavendish Bentinck, 3rd Duke of Portland who served as Prime Minister of Britain in 1783 and 1807-'09. Bentinck was also involved in the Northwest Company.

• Bensins Island south of Tallheo Pt. in South Bentinck Arm was named later by BC's Surveyor General. Bensins is a corruption of the surname of Archibald Menzies, a Surgeon and Naturalist who accompanied Vancouver. When MacKenzie arrived in Bella Coola he was told of recent visitors by boat: Bensins (Menzies) and Macubah (Vancouver)

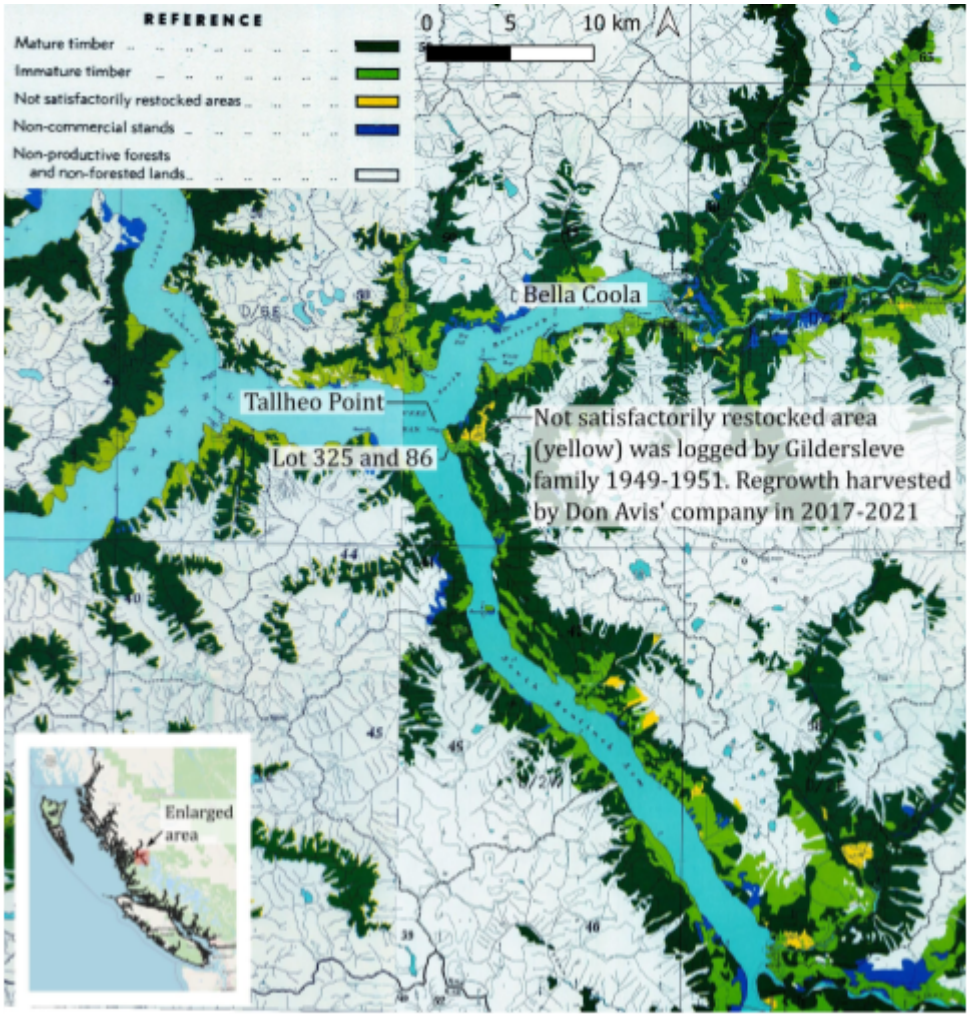

Figure 4: Map depicting Tallheo Point and Lots 325 and 86 over a base map of historical forest inventory conditions as they were in the 1950's. Basemap is from the BC Interim Forest Cover Series (1958), available at UBC Library. Map by Ira Sutherland. https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/ifcsm

• Before the 1860s there was a strong Native population of several thousand in the area near Bella Coola including Burke and Dean Channels, South Bentinck Arm and King Island. These populations were decimated by smallpox.

• 1853 – Hudson's Bay Company opened a trading post at Bella Bella.
• 1867- HBC opened a trading post in Bella Coola.
• 1882 – HBC closed its trading post; local settler John Clayton took over.
• 1893- Chicago World Fair – British Columbia had a display at the Fair and was promoting settlement and immigration on the B.C. Coast.

• 1894 – A group of Norwegian Colonists settled in the Bella Coola Valley. They were led by Rev. Christian Saugstad and were mostly from the Crookston, Minnesota area.

• 1901 – The Bella Coola Pulp and Paper Company was founded with the intent to build a pulp mill in the mid-Coast area. The BC Pulp Lease Act was created during a period of intense timber speculation on the BC Coast.

• 1903 – The Ocean Falls Pulp and Paper Company (formerly Bella Coola Pulp and Paper Company) selected Ocean Falls as the site for its mill. Site clearing began in 1906; the Hydro dam and mill started in 1912.

• 1904 – The Bella Coola Development Company (eventually becoming part of Pacific Mills) acquired a Timber Lease on Lot 39, adjacent to District Lots 86 & 325 at Tallheo Pt. Some logging of DL 39 took place after 1910.

• 1906 – 1913 – Norwegian pioneers Torger Olsen and Rasmus Livalten acquired pre-emptions and subsequently Crown Grants for District Lots 86 and 325. They were probably speculating on timber, although the pioneers were resourceful, being good fishermen, trappers, hunters, rockhounds and developers.

• 1924 – 27 – ownership of DL 86 & 325 transferred to Northern Fisheries Limited.

• 1930 – Ownership of DL 86 & 325 transferred to Pacific Mills Ltd. who took over Ocean Falls Pulp and Paper Company in 1917. Pacific Mills Ltd. was later to become a division of Crown Zellerbach.

• 1947 – Gildersleve camp towed to Tallheo Point. "Doc" Gildersleve was part of a logging family from Oregon which first set up in Nootum Bay near the mouth of Burke Channel in 1916 – 1917. The Gildersleves are remembered in geographic names, Doc Creek, Amy (Doc's wife) Creek and Gildersleve Lake, all near the mouth of Burke Channel. Doc got his nickname from his ability to deliver babies. He delivered several of his own children and also others who preferred going to the Doc instead of making difficult journeys to Ocean Falls or Bella Bella.

The Gildersleves and their inlaws, the Owens, were skilled loggers. In 1927 they took over a Pacific Mills railway logging operation in Green Bay just north of Tallheo Pt.

• 1947 – 51 The Gildersleve Tallheo Pt. logging show was an early "truck logging" operation. They built logging roads with a steam line shovel and a cat. Plank roads were constructed in wet areas. A testament to their skill in road layout and construction is that 65 years later many of the roads needed only clearing and a topping of gravel.

When Gildersleve Logging completed logging at Tallheo Pt. in 1951, they moved their steam donkey towards the beach. It remains where it was abandoned 70 years ago about 200 ft. from the beach in relatively good condition. There is still firewood stacked on the donkey.

• The ownership of DL 86 & 325 changed as Pacific Mills ownership moved to successor companies Crown Zellerbach, Crown Forest Industries, Elk Falls Wood Products Ltd. and TimberWest Forest 1 Limited.

• 1973 – Crown Zellerbach closed the Ocean Falls Pulp Mill. Weeks later the B.C. government took over and ran the mill and town until closing in 1980.

Figure 5: Eric Avis at Gildersleve's old steam donkey, 2013. Photo credit: Don Avis.

• From the 1950's through the 1980's there were continual improvements to log barge transport. Prior to this time mid-Coast logs were generally sold to Ocean Falls. The alternative was building and towing Davis Rafts across the unprotected outer-Coast waters; a costly and risky proposition. Barging technology broke the Ocean Falls monopoly and opened up new opportunities for market loggers.

• 1998 – TimberWest Forest 1 sold all their private lands in the Bella Coola area. Abana Holdings Ltd., part of the A&A Trading group, a large coastal log broker, purchased DL. 86 & 325.

• 2001 – A & A Trading conducted helicopter logging on the better remaining old growth on DL 86 & 325.

• 2002 – A & A Trading sold DL 86 & 325 to Jane Lake Holdings Ltd. -- a company controlled by the author. Jane Lake invested in the good-quality second-growth spruce/hembal/cedar which invaded the area naturally following the Gildersleve harvest. The lands also contained a fine stand of red alder which - at 50-plus years - was starting to show maturity and decline.

• 2017 – 21: DL 86 & 325 were logged by Jane Lake Holdings Ltd., repeating the Gildersleve harvest.

• 2022 – the Nuxalk Community Forest, which controls the Crown lands surrounding DL 86 & 325, now has operations scheduled on what was a part of the 1948-51 Gildersleve operations at Tallheo Point.

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There is an active Museum in the Bella Coola townsite; historical information about Ocean falls can be found online.

If you have an idea for Issue #115, please reach out to info@fhabc.com

This issue guest edited by David Brownstein.
Layout by McKenzie Will

A warm welcome to the new FHABC board, elected at the December 2022 AGM.

Kat Spencer, President
Eric Anderson, Vice President
Richard Dominy, Treasurer (and Past President).
Peter Marshall, Secretary
Mike Meagher
Ira Sutherland
Ron Bronstein
Allen Larocque
McKenzie Will
Corrie Allen
John Pichugin