



**Published by the Forest History Association of British
Columbia**

No. 97 Victoria, British Columbia June, 2015
<http://fhabc.org/>

Editor's Comments

As Editor, I apologize for the absence of Newsletters for some time. Sometime ago, Barb Coupe asked to be relieved of her responsibilities as Editor while she worked on her Master's Degree at UNBC. When I assumed the job, I had no clear idea of what I was getting into. I now take my hat off to both John Parminter and Barb Coupe for the fantastic job they both have done over the years in producing the Newsletter - they made it look easy. Looks can be deceptive! However, I now think I'm over the biggest hurdle and an issue is on its way.



Membership Dues

Because of delays in publishing our Newsletter, many of our members have lost track of where they stand on their membership fees. You can see when your fees expire by looking at the date on the mailing label. We know that many memberships expired in 2014. To simplify the renewal process we are enclosing a copy of the membership renewal forms for your convenience and use. Looking forward to hearing from everyone.



Annual Meeting – Forest History Association of British Columbia-2015

The Annual General Meeting of the FHABC will be held in Revelstoke on the weekend of September 11, 2015. This is the Heritage weekend at the Forest Museum in Revelstoke. Starting late Friday afternoon, tentative events scheduled include:

- horse logging demonstrations
- antique chain saw competition
- campfire and music
- preview of Saturday's logger sports
- loggers pancake breakfast

The FHABC annual meeting will be held on Saturday morning with the remainder of the day and evening free to take in the other events. In addition to the Forest Museum just north of Revelstoke, it is possible to visit the Revelstoke Dam, the Railroad Museum and the town of Revelstoke.

A more detailed weekend program will be distributed as soon as it is published.



CANADIAN FOREST IN KOSTELEC n. CERNYMI LESY

Personal remembrance of Professor Vladimer Krajina

by Vladimir J. Korelus

In 2012, the book Vladimir Krajina, World War II Hero and Ecology Pioneer by the Czech-Canadian writer Jan Drabek was published by the Ronsdale Press in Canada.

In detail, the book describes the life of Vladimir J. Krajina and his fight against both, first Nazism and then Communism, until his departure for Canada. Rather briefly, based on interviews with only two from quite a number of Krajina's graduate students, the author touches the importance of changes in an approach towards ecology and management of BC forests. Missing in the book is the last ecological initiative, to help the Czech forest damaged by the industrial emissions with the help of the Canadian Fund for Renewal of the Czech and Slovak Universities. My personal flashback will try to close this gap.

The “Canadian Forest in Czechoslovakia” project was initiated in the year 1990 by the late Professor Vladimir J. Krajina, Professor Emeritus, of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, when returning from a visit with the president of the Czech Republic Vaclav Havel in Prague.

At the time of my yearly regular visit of the Czech Republic in 2012, I have had an arrangement with a colleague of mine, Richard Slaby, to visit more than one hundred year old Douglas-fir trees in forests of the Faculty of Forestry. When we have seen not only old Douglas-firs but also grand firs and western red-cedars and took some photographs, I asked our guide, a young forester, if he by any chance might know what happened with Douglas-fir seedlings from the Canadian Forest in the Czechoslovakia project. He led us towards the young dense stand that is called the Canadian Forest, but he knew nothing of it's history. So I started to tell the “story”.

How did I get to know Professor Krajina?

I met Professor Krajina for the first in 1971. At that time, Professor Krajina, my countryman and expert on forest ecology, was already known to foresters of BC. Professor Krajina had a small office at the UBC in one of the huts, the remains from the WWII army accommodation.

When I came to see him, he was sitting in the white coat behind his desk covered completely with papers, books, and magazines. On the wall behind him was the framed photograph of the first president of Czechoslovakia, Thomas G. Masaryk. After a short interrogation as to who I am and what is the reason for my visit, Professor Krajina told me that he is soon going to retire and cannot take on another graduate student. I assured Professor Krajina that that was not the reason I came to see him. I wanted to meet a countryman knowledgeable of the present forest management practices, a person who is very critical of them.

At the conclusion of my visit, Professor Krajina gave me the book of his main work, "Ecology of Western North America", signed it, and wrote in a personal dedication to me. He told me to study it thoroughly. And I did it. Gained knowledge of BC forest ecology together with my almost twenty years practice and university education in Czechoslovakia became the bases for my more than twenty years forestry career in BC.

As time went by, we became first-name friends. From time to time, I was sending him forestry and ecology articles, often with my comments.

In 1982, my sister sent me an article from the Czechoslovakia official newspaper regarding damage caused by the industrial emissions to forests of the Ore Mountains (Krusne hory). The problem with industrial pollution was of an international scope.

The article was complemented by isohyets of the value of the deposits with the epicenter covering the Ore Mountains. I have sent a copy of this to Professor Krajina and he used it as a base for his opening speech at the Annual Meeting of the Czechoslovak Association in Toronto titled "Czechoslovakia's Warnings to the World". After his return, he sent me a copy of his article together with a thank you letter.

Genesis of the Canadian Forest in Czechoslovakia Project

As the "Iron Curtain" in Europe crumbled on November 17, 1989 this brought a big change in the political system in Czechoslovakia, a return from the Communist regime to democracy. Early in 1990, Professor Krajina was invited to Prague to the Castle where he received the highest Czech decoration, the Order of the White Lion, from President Vaclav Havel. On the trip home, the family discussed possibilities how to help the old country. The idea to send to Czechoslovakia seed of the BC trees to help damaged forests was born.

In 1991, onstage enters George Corn, native of Kostelec nad Cernymi Lesy. He became the first President of the newly created Canadian branch of President Havel's Fund for the Renewal of the Universities in Czechoslovakia. Mr Corn was to manage the financial part of the Canadian Forest in Czechoslovakia Project. The Faculty of Forestry in Prague was appointed to manage the project in Czechoslovakia. The first Dean of the renewed Forest Faculty in Prague, Mirjam Cech, my former classmate, prepared the first draft of the Project.

Soon, I received a copy of the project for comments. In September 1991, I visited Professor Krajina to discuss the possibility of it's realization. After that, a small working group was established that made comments for a more realistic approach. Following that, a working group was also established at the Faculty of Forestry in Prague. The proposal was worked over several times, according to our comments.

The same year, when visiting again the Faculty of Forestry, I brought 0.750 kg. of the high quality Douglas-fir seed originated from the Canadian Pacific Forest Products' seed orchards as a gift from the company I used to work for 18 years.

In British Columbia, Professor Krajina was a well known and respected person among politicians. In the fall of 1991, Mr Claude Richmond, at that time the Minister of Forests, announced in the press the donation of the 40 kg of BC forest seed (Douglas-fir, western white pine, and ponderosa pine) to Czechoslovakia to help generate forests damaged by industrial pollution. Seed was divided among the Faculties of Forestry in Prague, Brno, Forestry Research Institute, and the Slovak University in Zvolen. I wrote a brief report for the BC Forest Service comparing the forest ecological condition in Czechoslovakia suitable for growing BC species.

The Havel Fund enabled one forestry professor from Prague to visit BC for a week. I organized his tour visiting forestry organizations in Victoria and Vancouver. The faculty in Prague also received a contribution for the purchase of instruments for the tree improvement laboratory. The financial part of this project was managed by George Corn from Toronto.

In the summer of 2012, I also met with an associate professor, Jiri Remes from the Faculty of Forestry in Prague. He expressed an interest in the project with a possibility to continue there with the stand tending and following research. When I returned to Victoria, I sent him all the documentation about the project from my archive. The Douglas-fir seed donated by Canadian Pacific Forest Products to the Faculty originated from intensively managed seed orchards with known parent trees, controlled crossing, fertilization prevention of pollination by foreign pollen by a cooling system and result testing.

In the summer of 2014, I visited the stand again, this time with foresters of the Faculty forest. Under the leadership of Jiri Remes, the stand was well thinned out and sample trees were selected, pruned and measured. Records were established for future research.

Although many people, both from BC and Czechoslovakia, have contributed to the project at some time, the information about the Canadian Forest project gives credit to the late Professor Krajina, who initiated the project and to the late Jiri Corn, who managed the financial part of it. Together with them, the credit was given to me as well for my persistent contribution to a practical part of the project and to bringing it up to date, at least in Kostelec n. Cernymi Lesy. To all those who cooperated with me on the project, belongs my thanks.

Author: Ing. Vladimer Korelus
British Columbia's
E-mail: vlkor@shaw.ca

The English version was adapted from the Czech original published in the Czech forestry magazine "The Forestry Work", October 2014.

The project stand can be seen on a short Czech YouTube video by Ing. Richard Slaby:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEBWd8dnh4U>



B.C.'S NATURAL DISTURBANCE HISTORIES DIGITIZED

by John Parminter

What's happened to those old deteriorating records of our forest history? In some cases modern technology has come to the rescue and converted them to various digital forms amenable to access and analysis. Two examples are records of B.C.'s wildfires that were detected and mapped since the early years of the B.C. Forest Service and insect infestations likewise monitored by the Canadian Forest Service.

Two fire atlases document known wildfires – primarily on provincial Crown land (excluding the Railway Belt to 1930 and national parks), but also on Crown grants and some private lands. The old fire atlas was begun in the mid-1920s and covers the period from 1919 to the early 1940s. No maps exist for wildfires that occurred between 1905, when organized fire fighting began, and 1918. There is some overlap with the new fire atlas, which goes from the early 1940s to 1985. When wildfire data entry became electronic in 1989 the new fire atlas was discontinued.

The old fire atlas consists of 171 linen maps mounted on wooden dowels. The scale is usually 1:63 360, sometimes 1:125 000 (in the far north) and more rarely 1:32 000 (on southern Vancouver Island). Larger wildfires (>20 ha) were drawn with watercolour paint – red for human-caused and yellow for lightning-caused – and unique numbers and ignition dates are usually indicated. Spot fires were marked with a small black cross and the year given.

Wildfire boundaries are usually easily discernible, except where several overlap. This is most common in the southern Interior where numerous underburns or grassland fires occurred on the same ground during the period of record (potentially up to 24 or 25 years) and made differentiation of individual wildfires problematical. Clusters of spot fires are quite common around communities and along roads and railways.

Given the low population levels and lack of infrastructure in much of the province during the first half of the last century, it is unlikely that remote wildfires were detected, let alone suppressed or recorded. There were no B.C. Forest Service offices in the far north until 1950 for Atlin, 1962 for Fort Nelson and 1963 for Lower Post. The older the data, the more biased they are towards coastal, southern and central regions. Complete removal of fire detection bias probably occurred in the 1960s as air patrols began to cover the entire province.

The new fire atlas covers the early 1940s to 1985 and is at 1:125 000. It consists of about 76 map sheets, each of which has four quadrants and five mylar overlays (one for each decade from the 1940s to 1980s), making 1520 mylars (give or take a few for partial map sheets). The new fire atlas contains more detailed information about general fire cause with six classes: lightning, logging, railways, range burning, incendiary or other human-caused. With an overlay per decade there are fewer interpretation problems due to overlapping wildfires. As with the old fire atlas, wildfires larger than 20 ha are mapped and smaller ones have their location and year noted, along with a colour code for general cause

(as described above). Actual ignition dates and unique numbers are usually given for larger fires.

Individual wildfires were drawn on 1:20 000 maps by field personnel and sent to Victoria attached to the individual fire reports for transfer to the mylar overlays in the new fire atlas. A similar routing procedure was followed for the old fire atlas since about 1920. The fire reports and original maps from 1931 to 1988 exist on microfilm and microfiche and were consulted to resolve mapping problems.

Both the old and new fire atlases contain spatial, temporal and cause data primarily for wildfires detected and monitored by the B.C. Forest Service, whether subjected to suppression action or not, and other fires reported to them. Prescribed burns were not included unless they went out of control and were then declared wildfires. Some slashburns from the early 1940s on the south Coast were recorded in the old fire atlas but they were not digitized.

So the database is somewhat incomplete at both ends of the timeline. Initially because of a complete lack of data (before 1919), a partial lack of data (1919 to the 1960s) and latterly (since 1986) because the data are not easily accessed, if they do exist. Keeping mindful of these limitations, in 1997 the Research Branch of the Ministry of Forests and the Canadian Forest Service began a co-operative project to digitize the known wildfire history of B.C. From 2001 to 2006 the project was funded by Forest Renewal B.C.

Digitization of the new fire atlas was carried out at the Northern Forestry Centre (NOFC) in Edmonton. An electronic database maintained by the B.C. Forest Service's Wildfire Management Branch produced a list of known wildfires from 1950 onwards. Analysis indicated that 4898 fires >20 ha occurred during the period from 1950 to 1988. There are a few hundred more for the 1940s, making a total of about 5500 suitable fires in the new fire atlas between the early 1940s and 1985. Individual wildfire polygons were digitized from prints of the mylar overlays using in-house software, a digitizing tablet and a "puck" with crosshairs was used to follow the polygon boundary.

Digitization of the old fire atlas was carried out at the Pacific Forestry Centre (PFC) of the Canadian Forest Service. The old fire atlas was prepared by manually examining each grid on each map sheet, cleaning up ambiguous boundaries and listing the candidate wildfires. Most of the original maps were optically scanned on a large flatbed scanner and saved as TIF files. The resulting images were opened on a computer, registered over a modern base map, then the wildfire polygons viewed on-screen and digitized using a mouse. Map sheets with fewer candidate wildfires were not scanned but rather digitized with a tablet and puck.

Following digitization of the old fire atlas, its "shape files" were merged with those of the new fire atlas to create a fairly complete seamless spatial and temporal record of about 14 000 wildfires >20 ha that occurred between 1919 and 2001. These were compared with the Wildfire Management Branch's electronic fire history records, and fires larger than 20 ha without a mapped boundary were identified. Many of the needed maps were obtained by tracking down original fire reports at regional fire centres in Nanaimo, Kamloops, Castlegar, Williams Lake, Prince George and Smithers or in archives. Some boundaries were estimated from forest inventory disturbance polygons or by using remote sensing.

However, boundaries for about 500 wildfires (<5% of the total) are known to be missing. Additional wildfire maps were obtained from Parks Canada for national parks, where available.

Analysis of the data have been made at regional and provincial scales, selecting for various attributes and overlaying historical wildfire data with, for example, biogeoclimatic zones or administrative units to calculate average occurrence rates and fire cycles. The data has also been used in studies of fire impact on timber supply and of effect of climatic cycles on annual area burned.

Wildfire Management Branch has maintained the database since the early 2000s. The data are incorporated in their geographic information system and are used for wildfire preparedness planning, overall fire risk estimation and modelling the probability of wild land/urban interface fire events. New fire boundaries are obtained through GPS surveys and uploaded to the database directly, bypassing the more laborious production of hand drawn maps.

Portions of the database were shared with researchers across Canada who are interested in natural disturbances, human influences and the emulation of natural disturbances by modern forest practices. The individual wildfire boundaries acquired in this project vastly improve our knowledge of wildfire disturbance and allow for new analyses of fire shapes, patterns and probability of occurrence in relation to vegetation, climate and topography.

Digitizing of historic and contemporary maps of insect outbreaks that began in the mid-1980s was completed during 2000 – 2006. The areal extent of outbreaks of some insects, such as the western spruce budworm and Douglas-fir tussock moth, have been mapped in southern B.C. since the establishment of the Dominion Forest Service (Vernon) Lab in 1919. Annual overview surveys of all pests were carried out by the Canadian Forest Service's Forest Insect and Disease Survey at a provincial scale from 1959 – 1996. The B.C. Forest Service has continued the annual aerial overview surveys from 1999 to the present.

Approximately 110 insects and other damage agents have been mapped. The top ten disturbance agents were examined in detail (mountain pine beetle, spruce bark beetle, Douglas-fir beetle, western balsam bark beetle, Douglas-fir tussock moth, western hemlock looper, black-headed budworm, western spruce budworm, 2 year-cycle budworm and the forest tent caterpillar). There are approximately 500 000 forest insect infestation polygons for the period 1959 – 2002. The spatial database significantly advances our knowledge of the spread rates and patterns of major forest insect outbreaks.

Technically speaking, the combined B.C. Natural Disturbance Database consists of separate “layers” of data in an ArcGIS geographic information system, each one mapping the areas of forest affected by each disturbance agent in each year. In total these records constitute one of the most comprehensive databases of natural disturbances anywhere, allowing for analysis of long-term changes in disturbance rates and potential interactions between wildfire and different forest insects. These layers have been incorporated into B.C.'s public online mapping and information system known as iMap BC
<http://webmaps.gov.bc.ca/imfx/imf.jsp?site=imapbc>

We owe a debt to the people who created the old fire atlas in the 1920s and to those who kept mapping known wildfires to 1985 and beyond as well as to those who had the foresight to do likewise for forest insect activity. These days we're used to quick and easy access to reams, or rather gigabytes, of online information. We need to appreciate that it didn't get there by magic but rather due to a long chain of circumstances, important decisions (in this case not to throw out "those musty old maps") and lots of painstaking work to convert analog to accurate digital records.

The wildfire record digitizing was coordinated by John Parminter (BCFS Research Branch), Steve Taylor (CFS-PFC) and Brian Lee (CFS-NOFC) with the support of Gurb Thandi and Peter Engelfield (CFS-PFC and NOFC, respectively). The insect outbreak digitizing was initiated by Allan Van Sickle and Imre Otvos with the support of Denis Clarke and Nicola Parfett, and was continued with coordination by Steve Taylor and Gurb Thandi. Guidance was provided by former rangers Bob Erickson and Peter Koot (CFS-PFC). Insect outbreak surveys were continued by the BCFS under the direction of Tim Ebata, Resource Practices Branch.



The Evolution of Chainsaws

The Forest Discovery Centre (www.discoveryforest.com) located on the Island Highway just north of Duncan, has just opened a permanent display called "Timber Hogs and Forest Kings" which shows a trove of equipment since the chainsaw's invention in the 1930's with the earliest model, a 1936 Stihl.

The evolution of the chainsaw has played a huge role in the forest industry since the late 1930's and Canadian companies such as Industrial Engineering (IEL), Burnett Power Saws and Engineering and Canadien provided the ingenious technology that eliminated the back-breaking work of cutting trees with handsaws.

The exhibit also applauds island loggers who experimented with and tested the harvesting gear.



I AM PROUD TO BE CALLED A DINOSAUR

by Gerry Burch, January, 2015

I graduated in 1948 from UBC, in a class of seven Engineers. UBC had the only forest school west of Toronto, and we were all forest engineers because the Forestry Department was a part of the Faculty of Engineering. There were no jobs for field Foresters, only positions as cruisers with the Forest Service or larger companies. I accepted a cruiser position with one of these companies, and my main job was to assess the timber and topography ahead of the active operation in the various company's camps on the coast. It was a lonely job in a way, as the only other graduate in most camps was the Engineer who occupied one of the few married houses in the camps. Therefore, my compassman and myself would turn up at a camp and were placed in spare beds in the bunkhouse, usually, in one of the foreman's shacks.

At this time, there were many individuals in the coastal industry with great reputations, but they were not senior executives but were mainly foremen who ran railroad camps and had notoriety for producing more loads of logs per day than other camps. There was another name often mentioned, a big Swede who was a faller. His name was Carl Backman.

Fallers worked in "sets" of four men, two fallers and two buckers, and most were either Swedes or Finns. Carl was the head faller and his "set" worked in camps from Sooke to the Charlottes, and in all mainland inlets. His reputation was that his "set" earned the highest wages in any camp they worked. Of course, all falling was paid by piece work and by hand until the mid 1950's when power saws were starting to be common on the coast. But companies with cedar stands preferred hand falling crews on the basis that they took greater care in falling and damage would be less.

So, in 1947 or so, Carl and his crew wound up in the Bear Creek camp (Port Renfrew) for B.C. Forest Products Ltd., my company, who had many cedar stands. Naturally, I was interested to meet this famous faller.

As fate would have it, I was sent to Bear Creek camp around this time and was assigned a bunk alongside Carl Backman. What a story teller he was, sometimes for hours on end. I had to listen to some of his experiences in the camps and many of his personal life. We became friends and after a few years, Carl had to retire from falling so he became a bull-bucker (head of the falling crews) in the Bear Creek camp.

It was in this latter job that he told me about his only son, Arvid (Bill) Backman. I had heard of a Bill Backman who was just graduating as a Forest Engineer from UBC when I returned from my naval service and was resuming my studies at UBC. At this time, Bill was the president of the Alma Mater Society, the only Forester ever to hold this position, I believe. Of course, I had no idea this was Carl's son, although he was a large man like Carl. After graduation, Bill accepted employment with a large coastal company, Bloedel Steward and Welsh Ltd at their Menzies Bay rail camp. In time, he progressed to become Engineer of their Franklin River camp, the largest in the world at that time, and eventually became Manager there. Carl would talk for hours on how proud he was of Bill!

After M&B bought out BS&W, Bill transferred to another company, Columbia Cellulose Ltd., where he became Chief Forester. Upon retiring, he returned to UBC to obtain a Masters Degree in Forestry, which must be another first for a retiree.

My story involves a speech Bill gave to a CIF meeting about this time. The title they gave him was “My history in the Forest Industry as related by a dinosaur!” I am sure he did not pick this title, but, like his dad, he tended to ramble and after a long speech, and in his deep voice, ended the statement “I am glad to be a dinosaur!! Why? Because I came through the best times in our industry!”

This statement stuck with me over the year and now, as I look back over my last 70 years, I also can say “I am glad to be called a dinosaur”. Foresters and Engineers of my era have seen so many changes, from the establishment of new tenures, particularly Tree Farm Licences, new harvesting equipment, new ecosystem planning, enhanced silviculture (including the advancement in genetics), inventory techniques, and the increase in reforestation. We are all proud to have been a part of this historic evolution.

As to my role in the “Golden Age of Silviculture” I

- pioneered the use of prisms in cruising
- planted the first seedlings on industrial land on the west coast of Vancouver Island at Port Renfrew and Ucluelet
- established the first Forestry Crew in the industry to carry out reforestation projects
- pioneered the rehabilitation of NCC lands in the TFL
- founded the Plus Tree Board to locate better specimens of Douglas Fir in coastal stands
- established the first Douglas fir seed orchard in the industry
- developed the first Fire Index Rating System in the industry
- appointed the first Environmental Forester in BC
- organized the first Resource Planning Group and a Resource Practices Guide for their guidance
- pioneered a practice of immediate reforestation of all denuded lands on TFL and private forest lands in the Company!

So, “I am proud to be called a dinosaur!”

As to the future, the province can only return to the large silvicultural programs of the 1960-80 period if the landowner, the Provincial Government, supports area-based tenures and funds costs of intensive forestry projects.



It's Time to Share Those Hidden Treasures

(Excerpt from British Columbia Historical Federation Newsletter, No. 33, March 2011)

Every closet has a box, every basement has a trunk, every garage has a container and many contain bits of history in photographs, collectibles, invoices, programs, etc. This is a good time to relax and reminisce and to share some of this history with your local museum or archives.

Many of the local museums and archives were established in the 1950's – 1960's and often have periods of time with little history, pictures, etc. One of our new Associate members was sharing with me her childhood when she lived in Richmond and mentioned her grandparents operated a general store. In checking with the Archives, they advised they had nothing on the general store. Our new member is sharing pictures, bits of history and memories with the archives.

Another BCHF member is a garage sale addict and recently arranged a donation from an owner of five 1914 leather bound volumes of BRITISH COLUMBIA FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT by Scholefield and Howay PLUS three BIOGRAPHICAL volumes of this series. We are presently researching them for information for articles, etc. and will be donating them to libraries for research purposes.

I came across three boxes of service club memorabilia – I was a Charter Member of the Richmond Kinsmen Club in 1959. The boxes contain the Charter Group photograph, pictures of event, parades, etc. that are now 40 to 50 years old! The Richmond Archives advised they have nothing on the Richmond Kinsmen Club and were thrilled that this missing part of Richmond's history will soon be filled.

When you look at your old photographs of buildings, events, parades, etc. they could be of great interest to your local museum or archives, so talk to them about it. Old street pictures from the 1920's or 1930's often show merchants' store signs, invoices from local businesses no longer operating are local history. If you wish to keep the originals, the Museum/Archives can take copies that are often better than the originals and you can retain the originals.

When checking through your boxes of forgotten memories, share with us any unexpected item or special parts of history you have shared with your local museum or archives.

In the Chinese Zodiac, this is the year of the Rabbit, so this is a good time to HOP TO IT and start checking out your closet, attic, basement, etc.

Ron Hyde, Editor



Book Review

by Ben Bradley

Colin Cartwright, *Empty on the Swan: A Trucker and Logger's View of the Whiteswan Road* (Canal Flats: Colin Cartwright, 2007)

BC's resource roads deserve more attention from historians, as they were crucial to the expansion of the forest industry after World War Two. Part guidebook and part history, *Empty on the Swan* tells the story of the 32 kilometer-long Whiteswan Road, which leads into the mountains near Canal Flats. Colin Cartwright has worked on the road for decades, and describes how it has been used and maintained since being built in the 1950s.

The book is organized geographically, with Cartwright relating significant events associated with each section of the road and explaining the origins of place names used by logging truck drivers. This mile-by-mile approach helps illustrate the special way that those who work on BC's resource roads view their surroundings. Surprises can lurk around every corner, even for those with an intimate knowledge of a road, and for Cartwright the Whiteswan has a long history of uneasy relationships between resource workers and outdoor recreationalists who to not follow the rules of the road. Indeed, the key lesson of the book is "stay on your own side of the road!"

Empty on the Swan is highly readable, with helpful maps and pictures, and merits attention from anyone who is interested in the history of truck logging in BC. I purchased my copy from Dave's Book Bar in Invermere; their phone number is (250) 342-6511.



Request for Information

Forestry on Silver Star Mountain

The archives at the Greater Vernon and District Museum is looking for information, stories, photos or artifacts related to forest history on Silver Star Mountain near Vernon. The BC Forest Service referred to the lookout there as BX or Aberdeen. Any materials related to the Forest Service activities on the mountain, the lookout or logging and forestry activity on the mount will be appreciated.

Donations of materials can be arranged with or forwarded to Archives at the Greater Vernon and District Museum: archives@vernonmuseum.ca. Information contact person: peterat@mail.ubc.ca

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

This newsletter is the official organ of the Forest History Association of British Columbia. Please submit newsletter material and send changes of address to the Editor: Barbara Coupé, # 312 – 3033 Ospika Blvd S, Prince George BC V2N 4L5 Phone: (250) 562-1051. E-mail: bjcoupe@telus.net. Until Barb has finished her Master's Program at UNBC, Stan Chester will act as editor of the Newsletter. As such, please send all information to him.

Membership in the association is \$15 yearly, or \$40 for three years. Please send dues to the Treasurer: Art Walker, 564 Oliver Street, Victoria BC V8S 4W3 Phone: (250) 598-4455 E-mail: jaws564@telus.net

The President: Stan Chester, can be reached at 5686 Keith Road, West Vancouver BC V7W 2N5 Phone (604) 921-9880. E-mail: stanchester@shaw.ca

