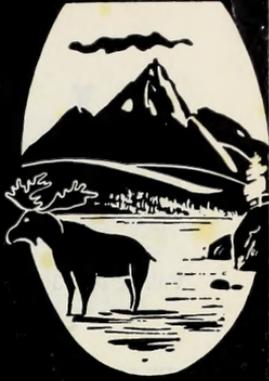


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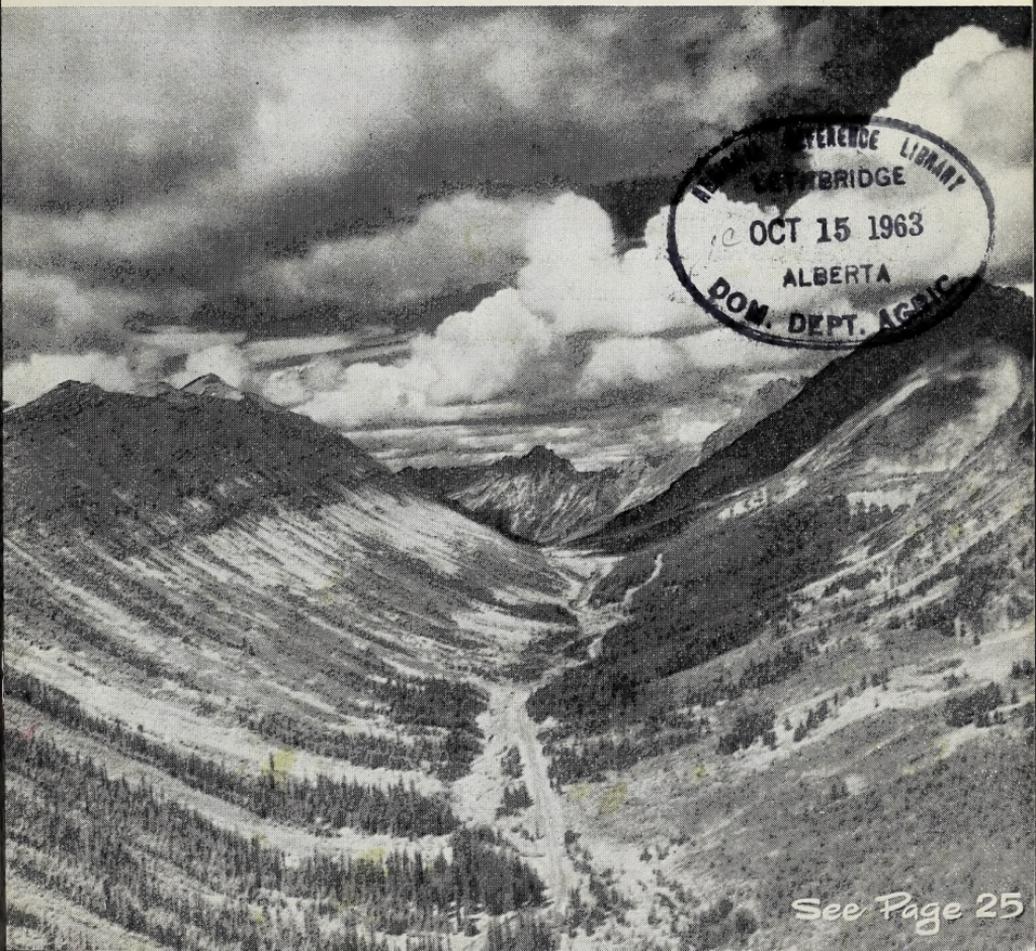
# Land Forest Wildlife



Vol. 6, No. 3

Edmonton, Alberta

August-September, 1963



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# Land Forest Wildlife

Vol. 6, No. 3

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Natural Resources Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

DEDICATED TO THE WISE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF  
THE PROVINCE'S RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES;  
ITS LAND, ITS FOREST AND ITS WILDLIFE.

HON. NORMAN WILLMORE,  
Minister.

H. G. JENSEN,  
Deputy Minister.

EDITOR—W. H. MACDONALD

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Contents	Page
Editor's Notes, (Guest editorial) .....	3
The Department .....	5
Bow Valley Provincial Park .....	22
Forestry Trunk Road .....	23
In Public Service .....	24
In The Mail .....	26
Education Exhibit .....	27

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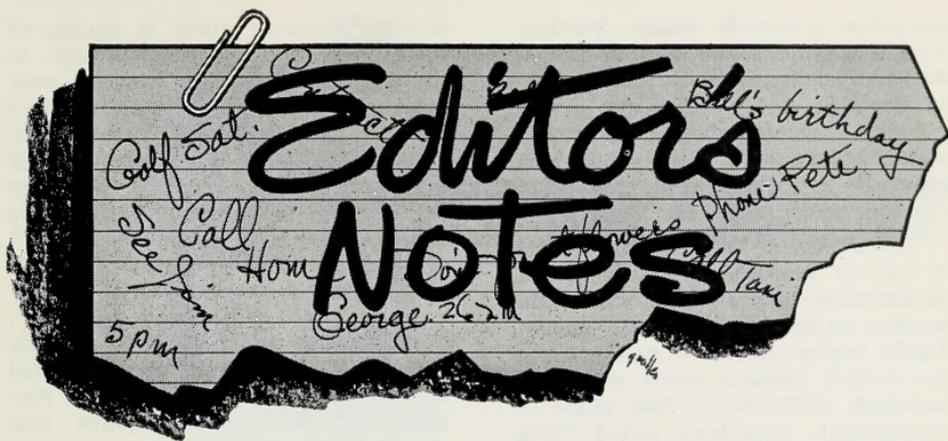
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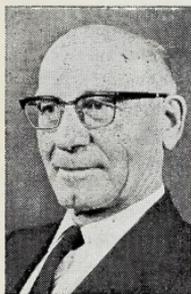
## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

by H. G. JENSEN

*Heber C. Jensen is deputy minister of the department of Lands and Forests. During the past sixteen years, while he has been jointly and successively a member of the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board and the department's deputy, he has acquired a broad perspective of major resource administration responsibilities.*

*Following are his concise comments on the subject of resource multiple use, a major consideration in natural resource administration. Multiple use policies strongly influence unit resource planning; they also sponsor co-ordinated program objectives among member agencies of this large department.*

*Editor.*



**H. G. JENSEN**

The principle function of the Department of Lands and Forests is the management of renewable natural resources of the public lands. The renewable resources are forests, grasses and other animal forage, fish, wildlife and the soils upon which flora and fauna depend.

It is recognized that all lands have more than one resource and therefore several uses. Some uses are considered more important to the local or national economy than others. The present trend of thinking by public administrators is that all resources on public lands should be used for the public benefit. It is a responsibility of government to decide which resources are most important and classify them in order of priority. In some areas forests may be most im-

portant and should have first priority, while other resources may also be used according to their importance. Forest lands may be used for grazing, both by game and domestic animals; for fishing and other recreational pursuits. Lands given priority for grazing may readily be used for fishing and hunting, for recreational use, et cetera. Some lands may be managed with priority given to watershed control. Other lands may be classified as suitable for agriculture and disposed of by various means to private ownership for agricultural purposes. The determination of priorities in the use of the renewable natural resources involves important decisions by any steward of public lands.

Management of resources is not static. A permanent and final program cannot be made. Relationships and values are continually changing. Values of resources are subject to population changes; to changes in the national economy; accessibility; supply, demand

and other man-made factors. Furthermore a specific resource is subject to changing conditions which require careful attention. A dry season may reduce grazing, a severe winter may reduce game. Management must continually adjust its program according to these ever fluctuating factors.

The increasing demand for the use of natural resources requires careful consideration to avoid depletion of the resource or damage to its environment. Highly trained men are required who can analyze resource needs and foster sustained productivity. This phase of management, sometimes called "Conservation", is the optimum use of the several resources to maintain them in their most productive condition.

The Forest Service requires highly trained foresters who continually analyze the condition of the forests. They determine the risks of damage from fire, disease and insects and advise on methods of protection. They determine the rate of growth of the forest to guide the rate of utilization. They study the reproduction of trees and recommend methods for securing regeneration. This has become a highly specialized work, and will continue to increase in importance as the value of the forests increases in our economy.

The Fish and Wildlife Service requires biologists trained to study these resources and help to maintain them in their most healthy and productive condition. Natural enemies, diseases, reproduction, climatic conditions, food supplies, et cetera, must be considered. As some lands are more suitable than others for production of game, the province must be divided into zones for most effective management. The carrying capacity of each zone must be studied, the game population must be known, so the harvest or bag limits can be determined. With migratory birds, the international factor must also be considered. Hunting and fishing is increasing in intensity, therefore increased consideration must be given to the management of these resources.

The requirements of stock producers for public grazing lands exceed the

supply. Therefore, there is danger of overgrazing and creating damage to the land. Range management is very essential. Trained personnel are required to study the range to determine the carrying capacity, possible methods of improvement and abuses in the range use. The increasing size of the cattle industry has made range management of grazing lands an important economic function of the department.

Many factors in our present economy are increasing the need for recreational areas and suitable facilities. The Provincial Parks Branch requires men skilled in the field of recreation, men who can help select suitable areas for parks and who can help to develop and equip them for picnic, camping and other recreational uses. The selection and development of such lands are important functions of land management.

Some lands are suitable for agricultural purposes. Trained men are required to classify them and lands found suitable for agricultural use are disposed of to private owners. The great demand for land requires careful classification, so that only suitable lands will be opened up for occupancy.

It seems natural that men who have a great interest in one resource should tend to minimize the value of other resources in the same area. The government is being urged to establish single use areas. However, the present trend in most free countries is toward multiple use. This requires unselfish co-operation, not only of the public who use the resources but of government agencies and others who plan the management policies. All resources should be fitted into the program of utilization. Alberta is richly endowed with a variety of renewable natural resources. A large proportion of these resources are owned by the public. It is possible in Alberta to establish policies of management by which the people of the province can enjoy these resources, and by which the resources can continue to be renewed indefinitely for future generations. This is the great responsibility of the Department of Lands and Forests.



# The DEPARTMENT



The Department of Lands and Forests is an agency within the Alberta provincial government service. Its principle purpose is to convert accepted public policies into responsible conservation and management practises for Alberta's renewable natural resources: namely, public lands and forests, fish and wildlife. Its responsibilities may generally be described as "services to the people of Alberta in terms of benefits from their natural resources". It is well to remember that these resources belong to all the people collectively and not to any person or agency exclusively. Nor do they "belong" to any government department. The department's functions may take many forms: e.g., protection of forests from fire, management of public grazing lands, protection of fish and game from over-exploitation, collection and report of statistical data for public and business reference, information services on behalf of public interest and recording transactions made with resource users, to describe a few.

Since the scope of the department's enterprise is relatively broad, its administration has been broken down into divisions and branches for more accurate and detailed supervision. Public lands form one readily recognizable category, hence there is a "Public Lands Division". So with forests, fish and wildlife, provincial parks and their related agencies. In addition to these major spheres of stewardship, the department requires special service agencies to expedite its operations. Accounting for monies received and expended needs unit supervision; thus arose the "Accounts Branch". Land surveys become the responsibility of the "Technical Division" and the vast assembly of files and correspondence, which has built up over the years and which constitutes an important record of the department's operations, is cared for by the office of the "Registrar".

Following are outlines of some of the duties of these units or branches of the service.

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*NOTE: An outline of responsibilities and functions of the various agencies within the Alberta government department of Lands and Forests is long overdue. It is painfully evident at times that many citizens of Alberta and elsewhere do not know just what services they purchase with their tax dollar. The editor of "Land-Forest-Wildlife" sincerely hopes these capsule descriptions will dispel some of the mystery.*

*To those readers who customarily seek outdoor drama within our pages we acknowledge the possibility of boredom in current manuscript. However, we should be mindful that citizens who understand how their resource agencies function will be more qualified critics and supporters in future. He is a better operator who knows how his machinery works.*

*Editor.*

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & FORESTS

MINISTER

DEPUTY MINISTER

FORESTRY

LANDS

FISH & WILDLIFE

PARKS

TECHNICAL

ACCOUNTS

REGISTRATION

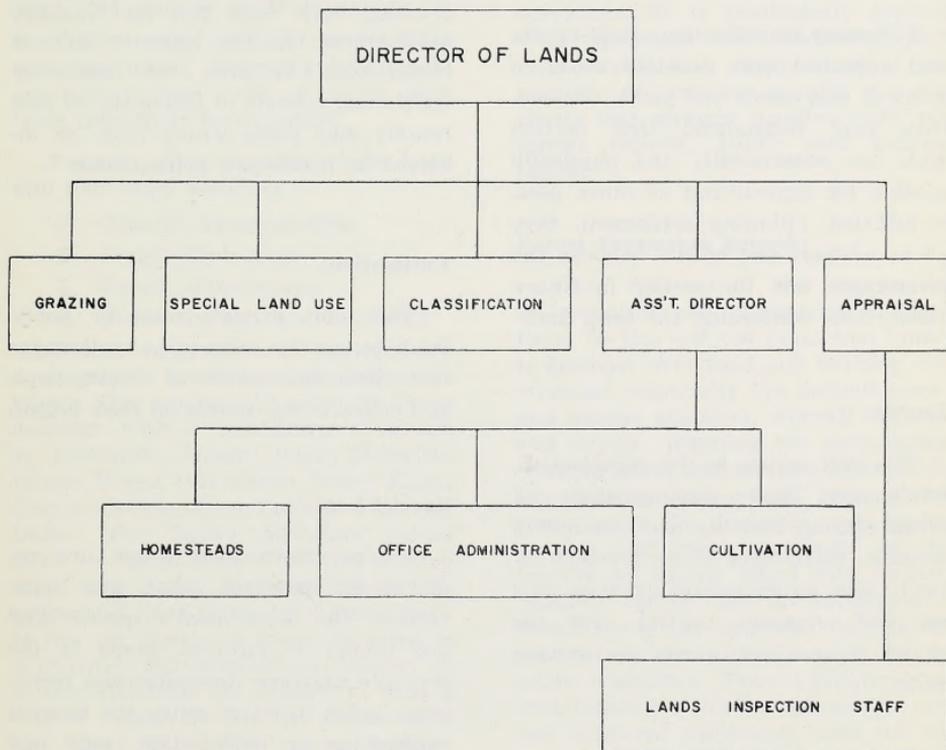
PERSONNEL &  
SUPPLIES

SOLICITOR

PUBLICITY



# Division of PUBLIC LANDS



Alberta has many square miles of crown or public lands which are available for settlement, farming, or other economically suitable uses. The control and disposition of these lands through sale and lease is a major responsibility of the lands division. In co-operation with other government agencies it also assists in the development of land use policies for the province. Its specific functions are detailed under six branches of organization; administrative pro-

cedures occupy a seventh section. In general terms these are labelled as follows:

1. Land Classification
2. Land Appraisal
3. Grazing
4. Homesteads
5. Cultivation
6. Special Land Use
7. Administration

**Classification:**

As suggested this agency classifies parcels of land with respect to types of soils, plant cover and topography. Reports are submitted to head office together with maps and plans of specified areas under scrutiny.

**Appraisal:**

Following classification, staff of the land appraisal unit evaluate areas in terms of user needs and public demand. They may recommend that certain lands are economically and physically suitable for agricultural or other uses. In addition, following settlement, they act as advisers and agents between the government and the settler in future transactions concerning the land unit.

**Grazing:**

This unit assists in the organization, development and administration of crown grazing reserves and community pastures, encourages stock growers toward range improvement and wise land use and promotes control over the spread of noxious weeds on grazing lands.

**Homesteads:**

In the dictionary a homestead is defined as "lands and buildings occupied by the owner as a home for himself and his family". Such a general definition is not quite specific enough for a public lands administration. Here it is a unit of new farm land containing from 320 to 480 acres having a prescribed minimum percentage of arable (fit for cultivation) land. These units of land are made available to settlers

in fringe agricultural regions, at minimum rental or price, for the promotion of farming in acceptable soil regions and under economically suitable conditions. Rules regarding the acquisition of homesteads are designed to encourage the establishment of family farm units and promote agricultural enterprise in semi or uninhabited rural areas.

The lands division agency established to administer these policies acts upon applications for the lease or sale of homesteads, enforces the necessary duties and collects or disburses all fees, rentals and loans which may be involved in homestead transactions.

**Cultivation:**

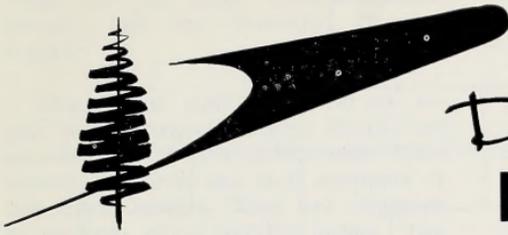
This unit handles sales of public lands by auction, acts upon applications for cultivation leases of crown lands and collects crop shares on their behalf.

**Special Use:**

Where crown land leases are required for purposes other than agriculture, the department's special land use agency is involved. Some of the principle uses are: townsites and recreation areas, right of entry for mineral exploration or exploitation, sand and gravel extraction and other licensed temporary occupation.

**Administration:**

An office administrative unit is required to coordinate branch activities within the lands division, to expedite the transcription of a large volume of correspondence and to generally assist in staff personnel matters and clerical programs.



# Division of **FORESTRY**

The largest agency of the department in terms of staff is the forestry division. Its full time staff numbers over 400, nearly one-half the total for the department. Approximately three-quarters of these work at places away from Edmonton headquarters.

Forestry administration breaks down into four main branches:

1. General Administration
2. Forest Protection
3. Forest Management
4. Forest Surveys and Inventory

Additional supervision is provided by a geographic breakdown of field operations. This employs 10 separate forest divisions with 9 headquarters located at: Blairmore, Calgary, Rocky Mountain House, Edson, Whitecourt, Peace River, Grande Prairie, Slave Lake and Lac La Biche. The Rocky Mountain House office is headquarters for two related units, the Rocky Mountain House division and the Clearwater forest. Each of the ten forests or forest divisions is a relatively autonomous unit headed by a superintendent and staffed in such a way as to provide effective liaison with the above listed four main forestry branches. Forest divisions are further divided into "ranger districts", smaller regions within the large unit, staffed by a forest ranger and his assistants (where necessary) and also functioning with a small degree of autonomy. The ranger is directly responsible for all forestry activities conducted in his district.

#### **General Administration Branch:**

Established at Edmonton office, this relatively small unit operates directly under the chief forestry administrator.

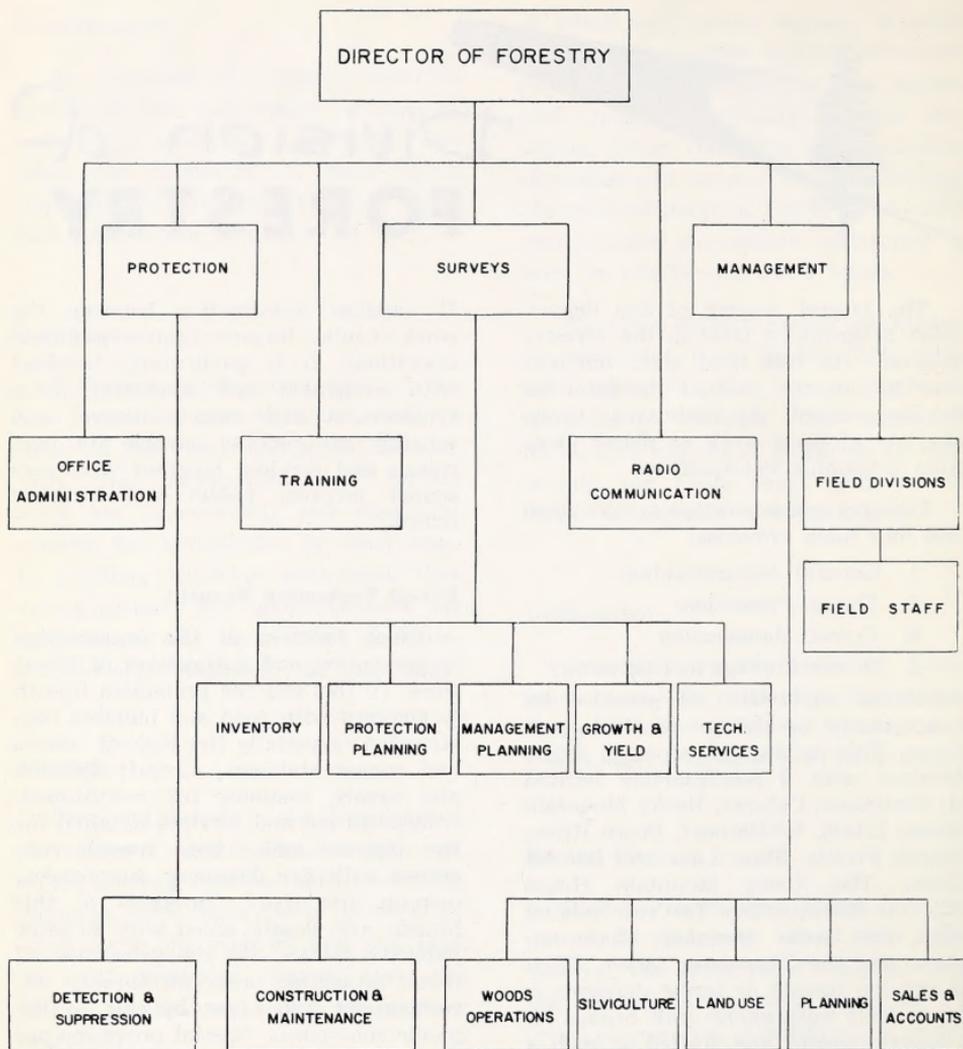
It supplies coordination between the work of other forestry branches and field operations. It is particularly involved with equipment and machinery parts replacement and supply, control and scrutiny of accounts payable for purchases and services together with personnel records, public and business liaison.

#### **Forest Protection Branch:**

Chief function of the organization is prevention and suppression of forest fires. To this end the protection branch is involved with road and building construction (especially fire lookout towers and ranger stations), aircraft dispatch and supply, planning for recruitment, transportation and services required for fire fighting and overall records concerned with fire discovery, suppression, mop-up and costs. Interests of this branch are closely allied with forestry publicity tactics, for the promotion of forest protection programs through advertisement and other appeals to the public conscience. Special programs are entertained for building and testing new and improved equipment, used for any aspect of fire suppression or detection.

#### **Forest Management Branch:**

Sustained yield forest use is the principle motive of this branch of the forest service. It deals in the regulation of commercial forest enterprise, assures the collection of dues and royalties, issues timber permits and applies forest inventory data on behalf of the health of timber resources. Silviculture methods and associated regulations are planned and executed by professional foresters on the staff.



Guidance is provided to other forest land users (petroleum and gas companies) by consultation and practical enforcement of designed regulations.

#### Forest Surveys Branch:

A principle responsibility is the accurate evaluation of Alberta timber resources, in broad terms throughout the forested area and, in detailed analysis, on specific "management units". Evaluation is provided in terms of volume, age, height and condition of the forest. Involved are techniques of

aerial photography and photogrammetry, mapping, timber cruise and mensuration, statistical compilation and recording. In addition to supplying volume and other data to the forest management branch, "surveys" also photograph and map locations and sightlines for new fire lookout sites, as required by the forest protection branch. Special map and chart illustration jobs are undertaken for the department as well.

Two service units augment the work of the four main forestry divisions.

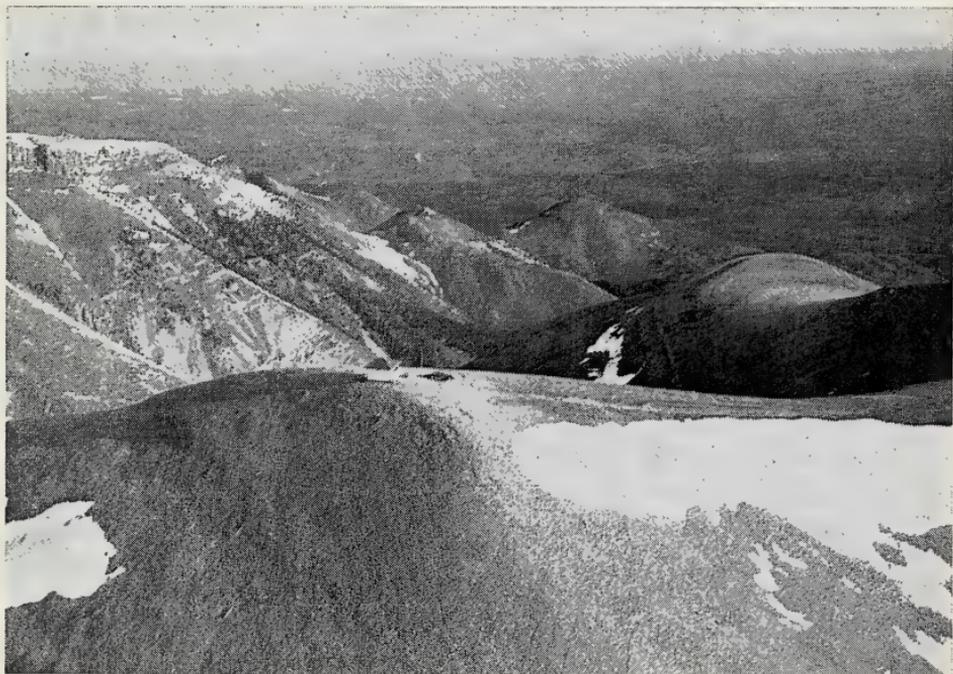
These are the Radio Communications Branch and the Forestry Training School.

Installation, supply, and service repair of the communications system are provided by Alberta Government Telephones; operators are staff members of the forest service. They are equipped to perform minor service duties. The system which involves both teletype and radio communication is used extensively by the whole department of lands and forests and, to a lesser degree, supplies emergency service to other government agencies. Its primary service rests with forest protection and fire fighting messages receive transmission priority during seasons of high fire incidence.

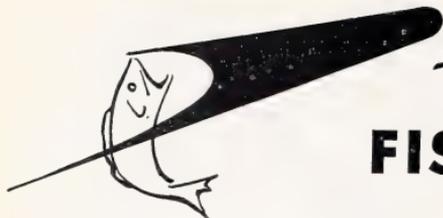
The forestry training school is located at Hinton, Alberta. Modern quarters sufficient to accommodate about 20 students and staff are pro-

vided in a building erected for this purpose by the government's Public Works department. School staff live at Hinton but, during class semesters, instructors are brought in from Edmonton office, the university and elsewhere. Both forestry and fish and wildlife school "terms" are held annually; each is from two to two and one-half months in duration. Instruction is limited to service personnel and Junior Forest Warden groups of youngsters which visit the school briefly in mid summer. Various other short refresher courses are organized and presented to selected groups of in-service trainees from time to time. For example, lookout and tower men are entertained at classes of one week's duration every spring. Free lodging is provided to all students and, in most cases, the continuous complement of guest instructors is similarly accommodated. The full time staff numbers about four members.

## FOREST SENTRY



Dwarfed by surrounding terrain, a forestry lookout perches on top of a mountain in the Canadian Rockies.



# Division of **FISH & WILDLIFE**

This organization breaks down into two obvious fields: one fish and the other wildlife or game birds and game animals. Secondary division is required to specify research, enforcement and (to a limited extent) management through the use of hatchery stocks. An administration unit designed for pay accounting, supply and correspondence exists at Edmonton office. Field staff enforcement supervision and non technical personnel administration also falls under the chief administrator. Fisheries research and management, including operation of the fish hatchery and rearing

ponds is supervised by the chief fishery biologist. His staff is composed of professional biologists and their assistants. Wildlife research is organized in identical fashion, also under a chief biologist.

Principle responsibilities are organized under a broad management concept. Angling and hunting harvests are regulated each year in response to known resource conditions and anticipated sport needs or pressure. Control measures supported by government acts and regulations are enforced by appointed peace officers. These regular staff members, over sixty in number and called fish and wildlife officers, receive some assistance from the R. C. M. P. and Inspection Service Officers of the Attorney General's department. The division's enforcement staff, spread throughout the province, is separated into four subdivisions. Each of these fourths has a supervisor in charge. Subdivision offices are located at Calgary, Red Deer, St. Paul and Edson.

Research activities in both fish and wildlife are designed to give long term account of their particular resources as well as supply short term or annual information for administrative facility. Investigations are conducted in commercial fishing and fur bearing resources as well as in angling and hunting conditions. Census in the form of species population counts and estimates is an important factor in this work.

Two special duty units are attached to the administrative unit. These are "beaver control" and "fur market inspection".

Beaver in Alberta, as elsewhere, are both a help and a hindrance to wise land use, depending on their location. In most wooded regions their "dams" provide an acceptable means of con-

## **FISHERY MANAGEMENT**



**A catch of perch and trout from a once barren Alberta prairie lake.**

DIRECTOR FISH & WILDLIFE

FISH

ADMINISTRATION

WILDLIFE

PROFESSIONAL &  
TECHNICAL SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL &  
TECHNICAL SERVICES

ENFORCEMENT STAFF

TRAPLINES-BEAVER  
CONTROL

HUNTER EDUCATION

trolling stream flow and sustain water supplies throughout a stream course for long periods of time, restricting floods and preventing damage by erosion to stream beds. From the viewpoint of total resource management these effects are generally good in virgin areas of forest and other non agricultural lands. However, unhindered expansion of beaver colonies, which may be sponsored by successive years of heavy precipitation, invites them to establish on farm lands with limited tree cover. Here their activities interfere with farm management, transportation and watershed control. Their removal is required for economic reasons and, while farmers are encouraged to trap beaver found in this environment, some assistance is provided by an agency of the fish and wildlife service. Sometimes beaver are "live-trapped" and moved from a farm-

ing region to a suitable part of the forest lands.

Fur inspectors check against unlicensed or illegal traffic in fur. A significant proportion of this work is also handled by all fish and wildlife officers and a number of forest officers. The headquarters agency checks on furs as they appear in transit to market centres which eventually they must do if the trapper is to profit. Edmonton is the fur trade centre in Alberta. In addition to enforcement, a close scrutiny is obtained on trapping and market conditions, variations in prices offered and the general health of the fur industry.

A third unit was recently added to fish and wildlife administration. An office has been established for coordinating public efforts in hunter training

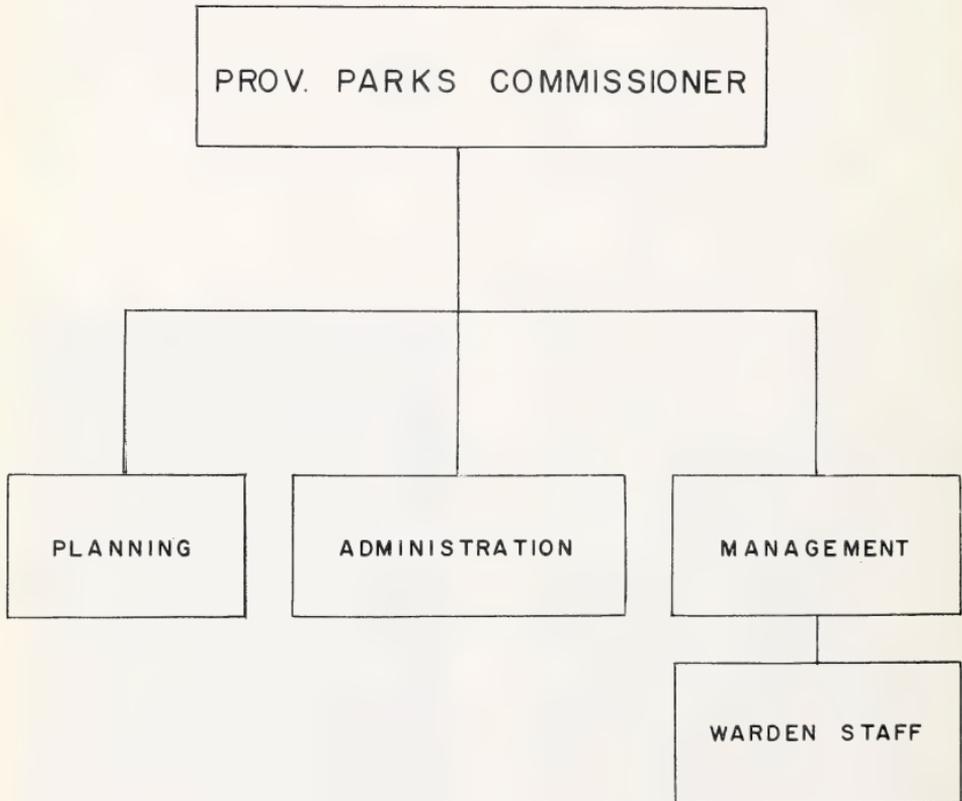
programs and to provide leadership, guidance and information assistance to local organizations who sponsor hunter training and education clubs.

A liaison conservation officer, meeting with seriously interested district representatives throughout Alberta, as-

sists them in the formation of programs aimed at increasing hunters' knowledge of field and stream, safety and survival measures and laws of hunting and fishing. A major objective is an improved public philosophy toward these recreational pursuits.



# PROVINCIAL PARKS Division



A fast growing "youngster" in lands and forests is the agency responsible for establishment, development and maintenance of public recreation areas called provincial parks. Transferred from the department of agriculture in about 1950 this service has expanded

rapidly in response to similar growth in holiday and week-end recreation travel by citizens of Alberta and visitors to the province.

Policies for parks establishment and development and, to a lesser degree, administration, are established under

recommendations of a three man provincial parks board. The board is made up by directors of lands, forestry and the technical division, all from the department of lands and forests. A parks commissioner, who is also assistant director of lands, is the chief administrator. Service is divided into three classifications: general administration, planning and management.

The administration unit is chiefly occupied with clerical work including budgeting, purchase accounts, inventory, correspondence, publicity and personnel matters.

The parks planner works closely with the board (above), attempting to anticipate and design for long range park development and facilities. Crown lands, chiefly lake shore sites, which might someday be required for public access are considered for reservation. Studies are made of new concepts in park management, including the protection of installations from abuse,

space alignment and optimum use, traffic and public recreation trends. Collaboration with other authorities in this rapidly expanding occupation is important to model park planning.

The management branch of provincial parks is intimately associated with works projects, and the supervision of park staff. Park operation includes public relations and liaison with other land uses, such as stock grazing, permitted on parts of large park reservations. Enforcement of timber and wildlife protection regulations, boating and swimming safety and control, fire protection and general courtesy within operational limits are all important park management duties. A permanent core staff is engaged throughout the year, half of whom are established in the field, at or near large and important park regions. Staff is augmented each summer by the addition of several "wardens" to supervise activities at many of the nearly 40 provincial parks in Alberta.

## HOODOOS AT WRITING-ON-STONE PARK





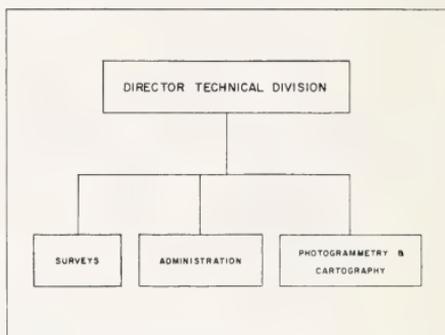
# Division of TECHNICAL SERVICES

Any agency that deals in large measure with lands, their use and disposition and the plants and creatures that live on them must have constant need for land descriptions. These are supplied on behalf of the department of lands and forests by the technical division through its survey, photogrammetry, and mapping facilities. Ground and aerial surveys, the preparation of land disposition documents, production of aerial photos and mosaic photo composites, cartography, and miscellaneous drafting assignments and the provision of advice and consultation to major public land lessees; all are functions of the technical division staff. In addition regular counter sales of aerial photos, mosaics and maps are made daily. A price list covering such purchases is available.

For facility of operation the technical division breaks down handily into three major units. These are the surveys section, general office and technical administration branch and the aerial photo, photogrammetry and cartography section.

The surveys section is staffed by surveyors and their assistants. They perform legal surveys on crown lands for a variety of special uses, such as subdivision township plans, park and recreation sites, roadways, sand and gravel leases and survey monument restoration projects. In coordination with the mapping section of the division survey crews also obtain ground control information for use with aerial photographs in contour map preparation.

The administration and technical branch collaborates closely with staff of the department's lands and forestry divisions in the preparation of documents



and descriptions to control public lands disposition. An examination of all public land plans requires meticulous plotting for area estimates, to minimize disputes between lessees or others who gain right of entry upon these lands for exploration or commercial enterprise. Office records of equipment purchase and inventory are kept together with wage and other personnel records for the branch. Map sales at the division's counter are handled by staff of this agency.

Production of aerial photos and maps is the principle duty of the third section of the technical division. This includes the preparation, rectification and enlargement of aerial photos and the production of photo mosaics. Photo developing and printing is handled as well as photostat and ozalid copying. Planimetric and contour maps are prepared for printing in both plain and color negatives, using stereoplotting and scribing techniques. Many small drafting and illustrating duties are performed on behalf of other divisions of the department. A photo library is kept and aerial photo counter sales and other photo requests are attended to. Supplies inventory and purchases, and minor equipment maintenance are regular staff duties.



# ACCOUNTS Division

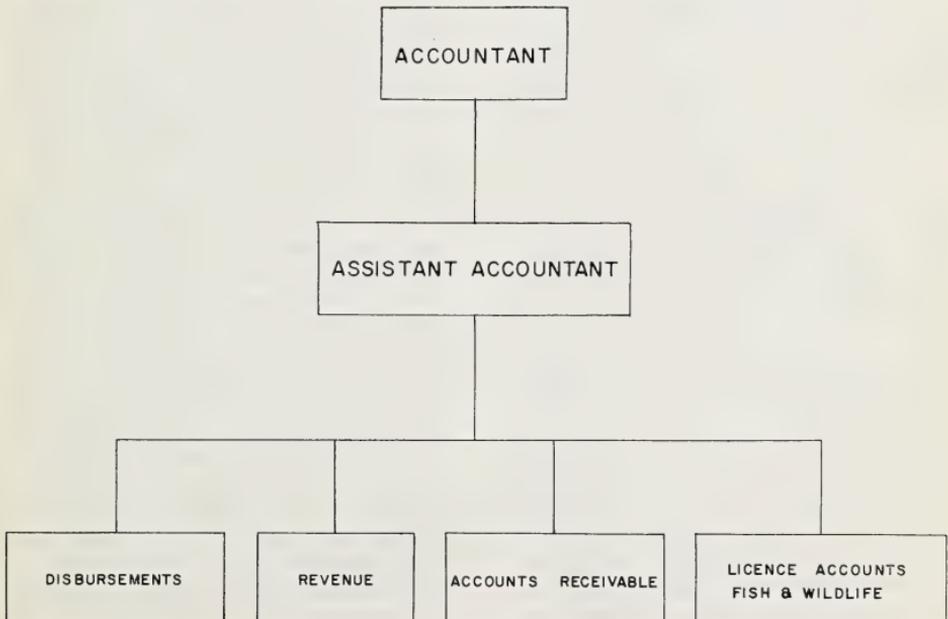
Several millions of dollars in both expenditure and revenue are involved in lands and forests' transactions each year. Accounting for these monies to the department, the provincial treasury and its auditors and Alberta citizens in general is a responsibility of the accounts division. Records are provided of all receipts and expenditures whether from department budget funds or trust accounts.

Three broad accounting functions divide the services of this division. These are disbursements or expenditures, revenue, and accounts receivable, including receipts from use of public resources administered by lands and forests.

Under disbursements is the recording of expenditures made by all divisions of the department in accordance with previously agreed estimates. A complete in-

ventory of all departmental equipment is kept. Necessary licences required to authorize patrons of resource use are issued and adequate insurance protection supplied for department activities. Employee wages, salaries and deductions are accounted for and dispatched. Invoicing as required is issued.

Accounts receivable is, of course, just the opposite to expenditure and equally as important. Receipts in the form of royalties, rents or dues are collected from commerce for the use of such resources as timber, grass, public lands and sand and gravel deposits. Included in these collection duties is the responsibility for making the necessary taxation refunds from receipts to other government authorities registering legitimate claims. Closely allied with receipt of accounts is the special section of this



division which distributes all hunting and fishing licences to vendors throughout the Province and collects associated fees and royalties in return.

A revenue section deals in codification and reporting of all monies received. Statements are issued from time to time

which record financial balances for the convenience of senior staff and division directors. Fund balances and reconciliation with bank statements are obtained on behalf of government auditors. Such correspondence as may be necessary to satisfy accounts is conducted.

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## REGISTRAR

The original and most important duty of a registrar's office is the registration or recording of all major public transactions entered into by its parent organization. The registration branch of the department of lands and forests performs these functions and has acquired some others. In addition to filing documentary evidence on behalf of the department's negotiations with respect to timber sales and land assignments, reservations and cancellations, the registrar provides a standing record of crown land disposition for ready public reference.

This office not only makes the proper records of transactions but operates a file transfer system within the

department that permits staff to refer to filed documents which may be related to current business. A staff of five employees is constantly engaged in supplying files to departmental offices as needed and returning them to shelves for future reference.

All departmental mail services are handled by registration staff; this requires book entires of items of cash received through the mails and distribution of mail to departmental offices. Composite township plans of oil producing areas are drafted to supply illustrated record controls, augmenting filed records of miscellaneous leases issued to cover pipeline, drilling and other right of entry on crown lands.

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## PERSONNEL OFFICER

Complete records of the department's staff are maintained by the personnel office. A staff of five is required to record changes in staffing and pay rates and, in cooperation with central government personnel offices, submit advertisements of position vacancies and route job applications and applicants to the proper authorities. A job of liaison between senior officials of the department and the government's central personnel is an important duty. A chief objective of this function is the distillation of applications for particular duties to the point where senior departmental officers can make a reasonably accurate choice of new staff from among the best applicants. An equally important duty of the personnel officer is the interpretation of government personnel rules and regulations to the department's staff. He may also be required to provide technical and professional advice on matters of discipline.

Assistance in planning staff organization is provided to all division directors who seek it. Staff counselling is also available for all members of the department if circumstances of their employment indicate the need for professional advice.

In addition to regular personnel duties, the officer in charge supervises the activities of the department's stationery and supplies agency. This office orders printing and advertising as required by all sections of the department. It maintains and distributes supplies of office equipment as required both at head office and in the field. It carries out special packaging and distribution assignments where the quantity of material to be handled is beyond regular mailing room or divisional office capacities. A table-top offset printing machine is operated to supply departmental notices and special correspondence in quantity.



complex as the commerce that it guides. The government services of the department of lands and forests attempt to keep abreast of the devious channels of progress in resource use; to anticipate, to exert reasonable restraint, to encourage where necessary and to explore in both the fundamental field of nature and the pressing atmosphere of human indulgence. As a result the branches of employment are numerous and constantly growing.

Some other results bear consideration. Contrary to the popular vision of the narrow minded, disdainful naturalist, people who deal seriously in natural resources usually acquire an enviable breadth of knowledge and understanding. This is not so strange for their studies and endeavours operate on the threshold of the roots of life; a realm where fundamental behavior patterns, important bases for human motivation, are exposed to an elementary degree. The integrity of primitive life is a useful yardstick if understood and applied to more super-

ficial activities. Employee ranks of the department of lands and forests are not without examples having these characteristics; their value is thereby enhanced. This, of course, is not to say that the great majority of 800 lands and forests employees have been so well conditioned for their enterprise. Hardly—but as leaders arise within those civil service ranks they include men who have been closely associated with elemental pursuits. Their influence is inescapable and their associates are thereby infected.

As might be expected from a staff whose interests lie close to earth, a relaxed and casual attitude is charmingly apparent: strikingly so in the field and to a lesser extent at head office. While the independence of spirit, fostered at grass roots levels, becomes the staff member who must act often on his own initiative, it has presented a few problems in the co-ordination of technical forces under such rules as might be imposed, for example: in radio communication. Earthy vocabulary is not tolerated



At head office, nearly 400 lands and forests employees gather to blend their voices in caroling every Christmas.

by communications monitors and efficiency depends partly on universally accurate broadcast procedure.

On the other hand a relaxed and confident worker is usually a good one, especially in emergencies. A relaxed man need not be unpoised and is in fact often better prepared to leap into action than his more highly strung counter-part. Many lands and forests employees dwell quite literally "somewhere between earth and sky", often with little supervision, and relatively few bonds. This freedom is infectious and even office bound staff retain or have acquired an equally casual and nonetheless willing

approach to their duties. While not exactly disdaining the privilege of authority to guide their working behavior, staff of lands and forests are, as a whole, unintimidated, self-assured, remarkably capable and loyal to all but specious doctrine and unworthy discipline. Few are the timid, brow beaten "Tom Cratchits", of Dickens' Christmas story. Most are well oriented, pleasant, industrious people; secure in the knowledge and reflection that their responsibilities are based on some important facts of life. It behooves them to act accordingly and they do, with a most creditable record of accomplishment.

## "Outdoor Infection"



# BOW VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK



On July 5th, Norman Willmore, Minister of Lands and Forests, conducted an official opening ceremony at the new Bow Valley Provincial Park beside Alberta highway #1, about 60 miles west of Calgary. The 2,400 acre park site lies just west of the confluence of the Kananaskis and Bow rivers. Its location, on the busy trans Canada highway, makes it an ideal stop-over site for both out of province tourists and week end picnickers. Its facilities are being developed to a great degree with the itinerant camper in mind. The scenery is mountainous and captivating.

Careful planning at Bow Valley park has provided excellent accommodation. There are 53 segregated tenting sites, each served by a short driveway and each containing a wooden tent platform, picnic table, stove and refuse receptacle. Tenting sites are located adjacent to a main thoroughfare which cuts a circle through a well wooded area of the park.

Each such campsite is attractive, shaded and secluded; conditions not often available at tourist wayside stations.

A focal area of the park contains a modern washroom building with complete sanitary facilities, (wash basins, toilets, showers and electric outlets). A coin operated laundry is also available; it contains sinks, washers and a large clothes dryer.

Fourteen trailer stalls, two semi open camp kitchens, drinking water outlets, a number of random picnic tables and small picnic stoves are situated conveniently within the focal area.

The official opening ceremonies were attended by representatives of the Provincial government, the National Parks Service, Members of the Legislative Assembly and park tenants of the day. Following formal dedication, Al and Eva Guinn were hosts to the official party at their nearby Rafter 6 ranch.

# CEREMONY MARKS COMPLETION FORESTRY TRUNK ROAD

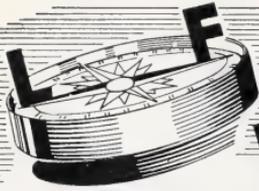


On a bright, warm August 17th afternoon, Norman Willmore, Minister of Lands and Forests, officiated at a novel road opening ceremony at Brazeau river bridge, north of Nordegg on the forestry trunk road. Mr. Willmore was accompanied by about one hundred interested spectators: forestry officials, holiday travellers and district civic representatives who came to mark completion of the last link in a 600 mile forest road that extends from Grande Prairie to Coleman (see "Land-Forest-Wildlife", Vol. 3, No. 1).

Following his comments on the history and characteristics of the trunk road, Mr. Willmore stepped from the speaker's platform to a large gate which had been erected for this function. As he did so, a forestry helicopter,

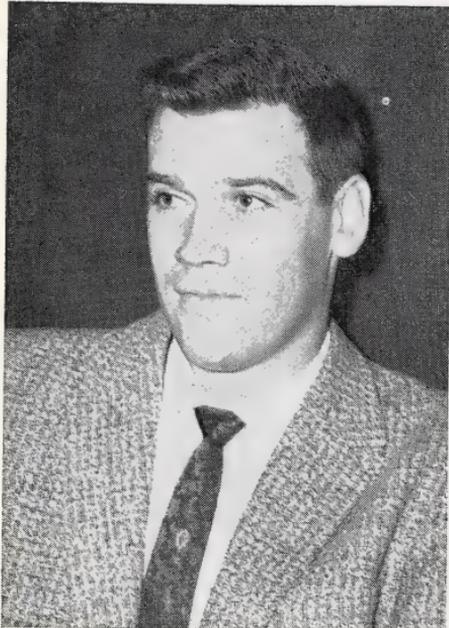
hovering overhead, lowered a hook and cable attached to the aircraft's winch. Mr. Willmore placed the hook on the proper gate bar and stepped back as the helicopter lifted this final barrier from the now completed roadway.

Major portions of this very scenic byway have been constructed by the Alberta Forest Service. A few links, notably near Kananaskis and Entrance, have been formed by municipal road construction. One or two substandard sections remain to be improved but the 30 foot grade has received a gravel surface throughout and is quite passable to automobile traffic at this time of year. A program of improvement and maintenance will continue to be a major item in future Forest Service construction plans.



# IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Department of Lands and Forests



**GORDON R. KERR**



The well-known seclusion of Alberta's mountain goat population is being invaded these days by a young new member

of the Alberta Fish and Wildlife biologist staff. The intruder of this alpine privacy is Gordon R. Kerr, a native Albertan from the Crowsnest Pass, and a student of mountain goat ecology.

Gordon was born and raised at Coleman, Alberta, where his father Jim Kerr now operates the Chinook Motel. The elder Kerr was once a well-known guide and outfitter in the "Pass" mountain regions.

Gordon Kerr graduated from Montana State University in 1961 with a degree in wildlife technology. In 1962 he entered the University of Alberta and is presently completing a thesis leading to his Masters degree.

Mr. Kerr joined the permanent staff of Alberta's fish and wildlife service in April, 1963. He had worked as a student research assistant for the service during three previous successive summers. He married Marilyn Collins of Calgary; Gordon and Marilyn have a two-year old son.

Gordon was recently transferred from Edmonton to the city of Lethbridge, from which point he will be assisting southern area biologist, Bob Webb of Calgary, with wildlife management and research in all of southern Alberta. His familiarity with game habits in south west regions, established during his youth in Crowsnest Pass, will undoubtedly prove valuable to this special field of endeavour. The move suggests that mountain goats and their neighbors in south Alberta mountain ranges will continue to come under the scrutiny of this energetic young biologist.

## HYPO PETS

In New Zealand, tranquilliser kits for dogs and cats are being issued free. The object of this is to prevent animals from getting lost on holidays. One dose is for the car journey; one is to aid familiarisation with the holiday site; and the final dose is for the return journey. These kits are provided by animal protection officials.

# ALBERTA

Note:

*The following poem was kindly sent to us by R. M. Reid of Edmonton. We are pleased to publish Mr. Reid's charming verse with the hope that friends at the Coast will not be greatly offended.*

*Editor.*

Any man, who talks about a mountain  
With silver peaks, etched in an azure sky  
And tumblin' streams, with finny sport aboundin'  
Or flocks of fleecy cloudsheep grazin' high.

Any man, who speaks of storm clouds risin'  
Low, in the west, toward a harvest moon,  
And distant lightnin' on the far horizon  
The hauntin' eerie laughter of a loon.

Any man, who dreams of misty valleys  
Of trout rods, or of tangled fishin' lines  
Of Jackpine ridges, and of autumn salies  
To rustic huntin' cabins in the pines.

Any man, recountin' long past forays  
In mud, or driving sleet and fadin' light  
Describes, like soldiers telling of past glories  
The whistle of a mallard's wings in flight.

Any man, who sees in yonder ocean  
Just sullen waves, beneath a leaden sky  
Then his heart's full of only one emotion  
He's homesick, son, the same as you and I.

*Repatriated.*

## ESCAPE AND PROGRESS

Man has no prospect of a machine that will fly him away from himself. Though he were to become so entirely a product of machinery that he could subsist on Coca Cola and protein tablets, they still come from the earth that he came from and is bound to. Actually, hardly an individual wants to escape the earth, but regard the mass of us: We spend our prime energies building cities and then spend what's left trying to escape the progress we have made.

—J. Frank Dobie.

Reprinted from:  
WYOMING WILDLIFE

## COVER PHOTO

The photograph on the cover of this issue is an unusual shot of a well known site. The scene is the summit between the Kananaskis and Highwood river drainage in Alberta's Rocky Mountain range. The view is westward and the road shown is a section of the forestry trunk road winding its way upward from the Highwood basin to reach its highest point near the centre of the photo. This site is the highest mountain pass encountered along the 600 mile forestry trunk road (see elsewhere in this issue). In fact, this portion of the road, at an altitude of 7,234 feet, is said to be the highest graded thoroughfare in Canada.

Forestry's Frank Platt took the unusual shot while on a helicopter lookout site survey. He used a K-20 aerial camera and infra-red film.

## CROWDED

### Population Could Overrun Earth

In a 38-page report on the sensitive issue of the population explosion, the National Academy of Science warned that "the problem of population growth can no longer be ignored" because it is undermining human welfare. "Other than the search for lasting peace, no problem is more urgent," the report stated.

Continuing, the report said that the world's population is now "somewhat in a record pace of about two per cent a year. Had this rate existed from the time of Christ to now," it said, "the world population would have increased in this period by about 70 million billion. In other words, there would be about 20 million individuals in place of each person now alive, or 100 people to each square foot."

Reprinted from:  
Colorado Outdoor.

# IN THE MAIL



Letters to the editor will be published under a pseudonym if requested but they must be accompanied by the writer's proper signature and address. Letters are welcome and particularly so if they are brief and deal with a topic currently being treated in Land-Forest-Wildlife or with one of general interest in the field of renewable natural resources. Land-Forest-Wildlife reserves the right to decide whether any letter shall be published in its columns and to condense any letter.

Editor:

I must congratulate you on the "RAVEN REARING STATION" which is replete with good information and accounting. However I am sure you won't mind my adding to your historical account for the record—firstly you are kind enough to mention my name as follows "Geo. Spargo past manager of the Alta. Fish and Game Association was one of its earliest advocates". I might say that it was as Director of Fisheries I was primarily responsible for acquiring the site. I was invited by Garfield Thompson and others to view the site as at that time we were committed to construct rearing ponds from Canyon Creek in the north to Lees Creek in the south; the Raven became a must. I obtained this site thru Mr. W. F. Wallace's instruction, and prepared the order in council for the purchase from the C.P.R. at some \$3.00 per acre having had the assistance of the Hon. Dave Mullen and Mr. J. R. Sweeney, Deputy Minister of the Dept. of Agriculture. Afterwards we were pleased to note that the late Premier Aberhart viewed the site together with the aforementioned officials and we were congratulated on our foresight. The purchase was made by Mr. Alfred Aspinall of Innisfail

then agent of the C.P.R. So history was made.

Later the Hon. Mr. Fallow as Minister of Public Works contacted our Minister and offered us many of the huts on the Bighorn River, earlier used as an "Unemployment project", for a start on a hatchery. We used the open pasture field of Curley Wren to get the two huts into place just were Mr. Wren has his home now. The temporary huts were serviced with all kinds of equipment also donated by Mr. Fallow's dept. and we were away. The old road can be seen down to the present site.

I am instructed by the Alberta Fish and Game Association to review a history of the association, (and by the way the association donated some \$300.00 for the electrifying of the Garfield Thompson building). Therefore I want to let you know of the foregoing so there will be no error in this history. It is hoped that in due course the central Fish and Game Picnic Association will be able to build a cairn closeby with the names of those who contributed to this very big achievement.

G. M. Spargo,  
Calgary, Alberta.

*Thanks once more George for keeping the record straight and adding these touches to the Raven story.*

# EDUCATION EXHIBIT

## TESTS WOODS LORE



Three thousand children between the ages of 6 and 15 entered the Lands and Forests "nature recognition" contest at the Edmonton Exhibition and the Calgary Stampede this summer.

The booth display, (shown above), exhibited a combined total of 30 trees, animals, birds and fish. On a prepared "dual choice" contest form, entrants were required to identify the 30 specimens. From among tied top scorers a winner's name was drawn and prizes in the form of helicopter rides were presented late in August.

Remarkably high calibre scores were registered in all of the 5 age groups represented. In every group except the 6-7 year olds, perfect scores were obtained by at least one entrant in both

cities. In a few casual tests, tried on adults, no perfect scores were registered. Naturally, in any group of 3,000 individuals, someone is bound to guess correctly. Nevertheless some of the winners knew that they were right in their identification and group averages surprised contest organizers.

The display, designed and built by Edmonton artist Meredith Evans, was purchased by the Alberta Forest Service. It was operated by staff of the forest and fish and wildlife services of Lands and Forests. Forestry's Bell helicopter provided short flights for prize winners. Runners up received cheques to the amount of \$3.00 each. Flight winners were kindly entertained by Happy Valley Recreation staff in Calgary and admitted to Storyland Valley Zoo in Edmonton.

# THRILLED COMPETITORS



Susan Williams and Glen Jameson, both of Calgary, board the Alberta Forest Service helicopter for their prize winners' trip (see page 27).

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