THE OOLICHAN RUN — PART TWO

Red Bluff becomes busy hive as cooking, drying of fish commences on Nass banks

It takes a few nettings before the shore bins are filled ready for the cooking of the oolichan and the rendering down for the oil and while the men man the boats the women are on the banks of the river getting the fuel for the fires ready and generally preparing for the first load.

Red Bluff, where many of the Port Simpson people did their fishing, was named after the red deciduous trees and the red rocks of the nearby mountainside. There are half a dozen cabins with storage bins, smoke houses and boilers nestling beneath high mountains on the north bank, which are high and snowcapped on both sides rising to 2,000 feet. It is similar to the country bounding the Skeena River between Prince Rupert and Terrace.

The river is about a mile wide at Red Bluff, which is about 16 miles from the Portland Inlet into which the Nass River runs near Kincolith.

After a breakfast on board we went ashore and saw the fish bins partly filled ready for the cooking which would take place in a few days. People from Port Simpson had been fishing here for about two weeks before we arrived. Nearby fish hung from trees — the famous "oolichan tree" — and strung on wires like clothes lines. The dried fish can be eaten one day after drying.

The gillneters are unloaded by hand when they come in from the nets in the stream using boxes or baskets to carry the fish to the storage bins; and also by more modern methods such as boom cranes and skips on rails.

Each cooking box holds two days catch, each of which may render down to 12 tins of oil, each holding about 40 pounds weight of oil.

The yield varies from season to season and in a very poor one may only provide one tin of oil to the bin. The only way of knowing whether it is a good or bad season is after the cooking is completed.

The fish are boiled for some time and then the fire is allowed to go down while the oil firms on the surface of the water and is skimmed off with pans and dippers for packing in tins.

At low tide the mud banks of the river were exposed and showed just how tricky navigation here actually is. Shallow draft outboards are naturally very popular forms of transport up there.

Millions or birds collect on the mud banks and turn the sky into a wild, white, weaving mass of birds fighting and screaming over the oolichans. The sound could be described as a 'seagull symphony." The black, bald-headed eagles flying high in the sky contrast sharply with the white gulls in the bright sunshine.

Sea lions moved through the channels between the banks rising high out of the water as they broke for air.

Night brought a period of peace and quiet as the birds settled down for the night and we settled down on board the Beaver.

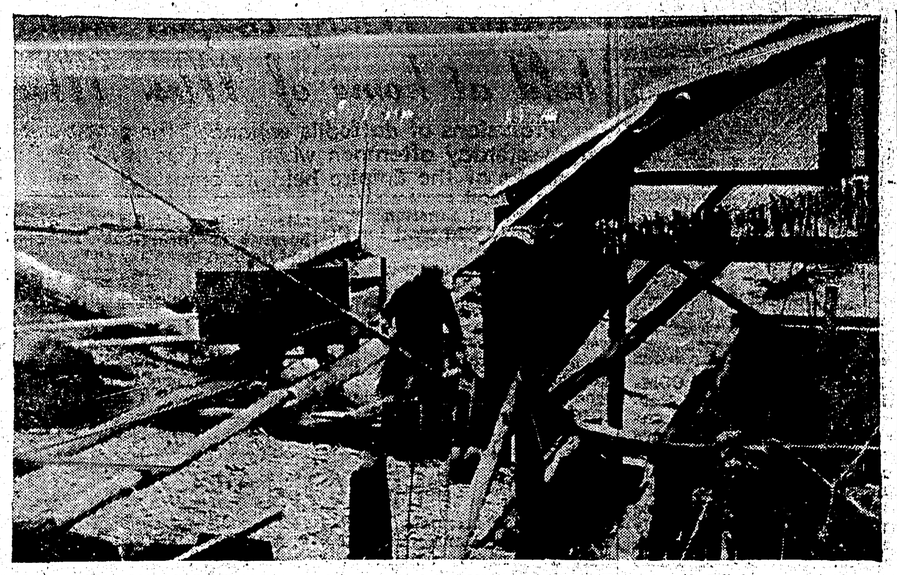
In the morning, in bright sunshine, the first step in catching oolichan took place, that of "sweeping" the bottom to see if the fish were there. Four boats near us were staking their nets. The sweeping is done with a long thin pole swept back and forth near the bottom and the fish can be felt hitting it as they make their way against the currents.

The nets are checked frequently about every five or 10 minutes to see how rapidly they are filling. Last year one man lost all his nets and catch because they filled so quickly they were too heavy to be loaded.

As our nets were not doing too well, only a few fish being caught in an hour and a half, we gave chase to some sea lions which were sighted coming downstream towards us hoping to drive them onto a sandbar. Instead, we only just avoided getting stuck on the sandbar ourselves.

Shots fired at them went wide and we didn't get any sea lion liver for supper.

As we waited for the turn of the tide to head for Port Simpson the sunset turned the snow-capped mountains a glowing pink and also the white feathers of the flying gulls and we headed downstream through the changing lights and colors and with the settling cries of the seagulls making an overture for the night.—**Ted Auckett.**



OOLICHAN HANG DRYING on a line at Red Bluff on the Nass River as the fish run gets into full swing. The "candle fish" are rendered down for their oil content and also dried or smoked for eating. The run has now been in progress for some weeks and Indians from throughout the north have gathered to net the myriad fish as they make their way to their spawning grounds.

HOME AGAIN

TOULON, France (Reuters) — Jean Chavier, 50-year-old house painter, was so comfortable in St. Roch prison here that when he had served his sentence for theft and was released he decided to get back. He fired a stone through a store window and now is awaiting sentence.

Relics found in Antarctic

By A. R. JENSEN

WELLINGTON, N.Z. (Reuters) Relics of the Scott and Shackleton Antarctic expeditions which throw new light on the lives and activities of the explorers have been found by New Zealanders working in the Ross Sea dependency.

The workers, members of a department of scientific and industrial research party, were renovating the hut erected at Cape Royds by Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1908-09 expedition and another erected at Cape Evans by Captain R. F. Scott and his 1911-13 expedition.

While the Cape Royds hut already had been cleared of ice and snow by previous working parties, the Cape Evans hut was two-thirds full of ice and compacted snow. The party removed 250 cubic yards with pick and shovel before leaving the hut clear and tidy and more or less as it was in Scott's time.

During their work, they found stores of food and clothing, particularly in the Cape Evans hut, which was occupied from 1915 to 1917 by a section of Shackleton's abortive trans-Antarctic expedition.

MEN STRANDED

Ten men were stranded there when the ship Aurora was blown out to sea, and seven survivors lived in the hut for two years short of fuel, clothing and other supplies.

The clothing found in the Cape Evans hut belonged mostly to Shackleton's men, and this and other discoveries made by the working party as they hacked through the ice constituted a pathetic record of the explorers' privations.

There was rough clothing of all kinds made out of canvas and old sleeping bags, and even footwear soled with case wood There were defunct New Zealand periodicals and some English newspapers and books.

Everything was black from the smoke of the seal blubber which the marooned party had to use for fuel and there were masses of blubber on the floor.

Pinned to the door of the photographic darkroom in the hut was a letter from Captain J. K. Davis of the Aurora which was left behind when the ship rescued the men from the hut in 1917. It was addressed to the next people to visit the hut and recorded the fact that the party had been rescued.

GROWING NATION

Average height of Japan's 15-year-old boys and girls has been increasing .39 inches every 10 years for the last 50 years.

BIG CITY

Calgary has grown from a little community of 506 inhabitants in 1884 to a city of 243,428 today.

PORT SIMPSON ROUNDUP

Church affairs take residents to Stewart

By TED AUCKETT

The opening of a new United Church at Klemtu took two well-known identities away this week. They were Mrs. William Kelly and Paul Price. They left on the Canadian Prince last Friday for the dedication service. It is expected they will be back tomorrow.

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On the same vessel was the Rev. Herbert Schuberg. He intends to spend a week at Stewart where he will attend to United Church business and he will also be returning to Port Simpson tomorrow.

✣ ✣ ✣

Now back in Prince Rupert after a few days in Port Simpson are Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wesley and daughter Lucille. They spent a few days with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Mather.

✣ ✣ ✣

An addition to the village population was reported last week from the Prince Rupert General Hospital. Mrs. Herbert Bryant gave birth to a healthy baby boy last Thursday.

Charles Alexcee arrived back last Friday after a stay in Vancouver where he has been undergoing medical treatment. He was met at Prince Rupert by his wif who made the rest of the trip with him.

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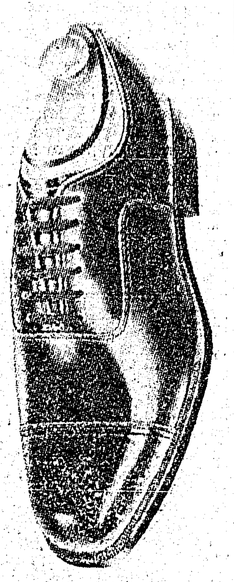

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FACES SPY CHARGES — Thomasz Biernacki, 37, an electrical engineer who came to Canada from Poland a year ago as a landed immigrant, was recently charged in Montreal with syping for an unidentified foreign power. Under provincial police guard, he listens to the charge. He was ordered held without bail. — CP Wirephoto

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DIVIDING LINE

The Mason-Dixon line, generally accepted as the division between North and South in the U.S., was defined 100 years before the Civil War.

Car licence figures up

The number of registered vehicles in Prince Rupert this year more than doubles the total recorded in 1950, according to statistics released by the Motor Vehicle branch office here.

As of February 28, the end of the motor vehicle year, there were 2,667 passenger and 666 commercial vehicles registered for licence plates in Prince Rupert.

This amounts to a total of 3,333 vehicles, or based on Prince Rupert's 12,000 population, more than one vehicle per four persons.

The figures show that since 1960 there has been a small increase of only 178 commercial vehicles but a large increase of 1,720 passenger vehicles.

Passenger vehicles have an average increase of almost 200 per year while commercial vehicles have an average increase of less than 20 per year.

In February this year, more than 60 per cent of the total number of licence plates were sold.

The motor vehicle branch sold 1,621 passenger and 402 commercial for a total of 2,023 licence plates, during February.

For the motor vehicle year ending February 29, 1960, 2,445 passenger and 640 commercial licence plates were registered. Almost 60 per cent of that total was sold in the final month.

Motor vehicle figures for the past 11 years with passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles and annual totals listed in that order are: 1952: 1,317, 605-1,022; 1953: 1,371, 556-1,027; 1954: 1,404, 604-2,008; 1955: 1,669, 647-2,316; 1956: 1,938, 589-2,527; 1957: 2,050, 548-2,598; 1958: 2,244, 623-2,869; 1959: 2,445, 640-3,004; and 1960: 2,667, 666-3,333.

Fish industry protection call

TORONTO (CP) — A vice-president of the Fisheries Council of Canada Wednesday called for government aid to protect the Canadian fishing industry from a "maritime revolution" in Russia, Japan and China.

R. L. Payne of Vancouver told the 16th annual meeting of the council the fisheries of the three Eastern nations are expanding at enormous rates.

"The vast commitment of capital and personnel to these endeavors is changing the complexion of ocean harvesting the world over," he said.

"This is a maritime revolution."

Mr. Payne said the Soviet Union plans to fish south of the Aleutians this year. If it does so, he said, the Japanese will likely follow suit.

Mrs. A. K. Hansen buried Friday

The funeral for Mrs. A. K. Hansen, who died April 4, took place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church April 7. The service was conducted by Captain G. E. McInnes.

Pallbearers were: Conrad Stordale, Johan de Greef, Olaf Mostad, Joseph Niemand, Otto Mostad and Egil Rasmussen.

Hymns sung were "Nearer My God To Thee" and "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Interment was in the Sons of Norway plot at Fairview cemetery.

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Ella Fitzgerald and comedian Bob Newhart share top honors of the year from the recording industry.

They walked off with top awards Wednesday night at the third annual Grammy awards of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Ella won for best female vocalist for "Mack the Knife," and for best album for a lady singer "Ella in Berlin."

Menon attacked

Indian Parliament Wednesday approved a boost in the defence budget after a bitter debate during which the opposition charged Defence Minister Krishna Menon with neglecting security against Communist China.

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9	25	31	57	68
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5	18		54	69
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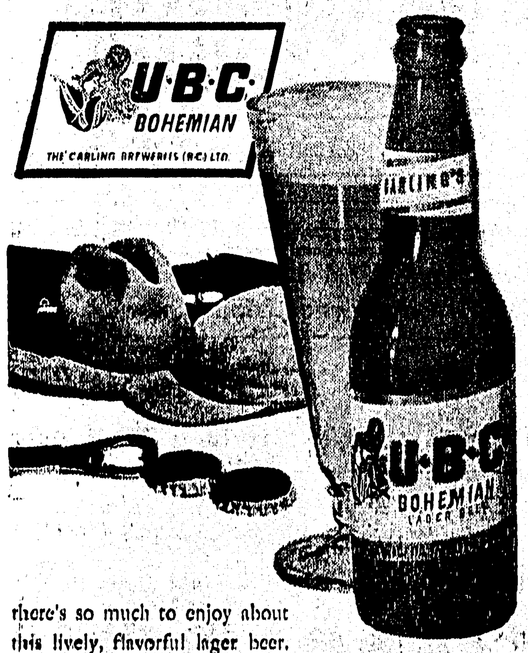

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