Highways Personnel Carry Out Rescues, Save Lives

by Land

Six Highways Department workers were credited with saving the lives of two seriously injured men on September 28 in northern British Columbia after a van went off the road and plunged 60 feet down an embankment.

The accident occurred on the Stewart-Cassiar Highway 8 miles south of Dease Lake. The highway workers were Don MacPherson, Senior Road Foreman; Dale Nordstrom, Ross Doody, Ted Skubovius, Joe Jackubowski, and Rod Gillis.

MacPherson, foreman at the Dease Lake yard, was first alerted about 12:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 28. The accident had apparently occurred late Monday. Don rounded up the Highways personnel and headed down Highway 37 to the scene, where a trucker who first spotted the wrecked van was waiting.

The Highways people clambered to the bottom of the cliff and found Ken Spooner, 23, and Garry Wirth, 30, who by this time had been lying injured nearly four hours.

Spoonar was carried unconscious up the cliff and was rushed to hospital in Cassiar with a fractured skull. He later recovered.

Wirth had a back injury and had to be carried up the bank on a sheet of plywood after MacPherson had received instructions by radio from the Cassiar hospital when the injuries were described.

The RCMP said with temperatures going below freezing at night the pair would probably not have survived without the prompt action of the Highways personnel. Highways and Public Works Minister Alex. V. Fraser, in a letter to each of the men involved in the rescue, commended them for showing "such concern for the saving of lives."

by Sea

The Cortes Queen ferry crew carried out a difficult rescue operation in heavy seas on October 30 and probably saved the lives of two people.

The ferry, under Capt. H. G. Cunningham, went to the rescue of Nora and Jimmy Blaney who were adrift in a 16-foot open boat with a dead outboard motor and no life-jackets. Winds were about 35 knots and the sea was rough.

Crew members were Barry Walker, Relief Mate; Tom Rodger, Seaman; Ed Phillips, Chief Engineer; and Jerry Enns, Seaman. Rodger and Walker at one point jumped into the sea to rescue Jimmy Blaney when he fell into the water trying to climb a scramble net from his disabled boat. He was brought on board with great difficulty and later given mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and first aid by Phillips and Enns. The small boat was eventually towed to Heriot Bay with Nora Blaney still in it, because it was considered too dangerous to try to transfer her to the ferry from the small craft.

The crew radioed for an ambulance and when the ferry arrived at Heriot Bay the rescued couple were taken to hospital for treatment.

In his report to the Ministry of Highways and Public Works, Captain Cunningham commended the crew, whom he said "acted in a competent and seamanlike manner."

As part of their regular training, crews on the Cortes Queen drill every seven days and check all lifeboat and safety equipment.
MINISTER’S MESSAGE

Two recent rescue operations by Highways personnel deserve mention here, not because the initiative and dedication shown by these men is unusual, but because it is not. It is, in fact, fairly typical and I don’t doubt that any number of similar, though perhaps less dramatic incidents take place throughout the Province each year and go unnoticed. Both these events, some 600 miles apart and involving very different circumstances, required a great measure of extra effort, hardship, and even risk by the men involved. The details described on page 2 show a kind of service and human concern which go beyond the mere conditions of employment and hours of work with which the public sometimes associates us. I would like again to commend the Highways crews from the Dease Lake area and the crew of the Cortes Queen, who took part in these dramatic operations which probably helped save the lives of four people.

ALEX. V. FRASER
Minister

How do you steer a 4-ton truck through such a narrow space? Very carefully. Typical of truck “rodeo” events in several districts, this “offset alley” at the recent Cranbrook District rodeo is maneuvered by contestant Dave Roe. Second set of barrels is offset 10 feet from the first set with a clearance between barrels of one truck length plus 4 feet. Judge with back to camera is G. J. Sutherland, Regional Construction Engineer from Nelson.

COVER PHOTO

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Don Johnson ............ Quesnel
Brian Hunter ............ Vanderhoof
L. M. Wagar ............ Burns Lake
W. R. Ball .............. Prince Rupert

Much of the copy for the current Road Runner issue was edited and in type before the new “Ministry of Highways and Public Works” form was officially adopted. For this reason the old “Department of Highways” title appears in a number of items and captions in this edition.
PROMOTIONS . . .

The three most senior executives in the Ministry of Highways and Public Works together have nearly 100 years of service to British Columbia behind them. Top left, Deputy Minister R. G. Harvey began his career in 1948 as a instrumental man after coming to British Columbia from his native Scotland and then was appointed District Engineer at Nelson in 1959. Top right, J. A. Dennison, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Highway Engineer, began as Resident Engineer on the Hope-Prince in 1947 and then went to New Denver as District Engineer in 1958. Bottom right is A. E. Rhodes, Assistant Deputy Minister, born in Merritt, who began as a clerk in the B.C. Forest Service, rose to Chief Accountant, then to Comptroller of Expenditure for Highways and Public Works. Newly appointed to their present positions, all have served in the military, are all family men, and all now share the responsibility of running the Ministry on behalf of Highways and Public Works Minister Alex V. Fraser.

DON CHATER, who started with the Department in the Courtenay District Office in October 1974, has won through competition the position of District Office Manager at Terrace in July 1976. Don is married and has two children. He enjoys fishing and camping. Before joining the Department he was an office manager in private industry.

NAOMI SCHROEDER won a competition in September and joined the staff of the Design and Surveys Branch in Victoria as a Technical Assistant 2. She came from Prince George to attend Camosun College where she completed a course in map draughting before joining the Forest Inventory Division of the Department of Lands. Her hobby is painting and she enjoys church work.

MARIA HAWORTH won through competition the position of Clerk 2 in the Terrace District office. She was previously with the Department of Finance. Her hobbies include most outdoor activities and handicrafts. Maria is also a member of the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

JILL WATSON recently won through competition the position of Clerk 3 with the Traffic Branch in Victoria. Jill began work with the Mental Health Branch in 1974 before starting with the Traffic Branch.

Other recent promotions include WALTER VAN DE VEE , Mechanic 2, Surrey; to Mechanic 3, Cloverdale; R. G. HAWORTH, Engineering Aide 2, Nanaimo; to Engineering Assistant, Grand Forks; BRYCE FILIPOWICH, Engineering Aide 2, Vancouver to Engineering Aide 3, Burnaby; W. J. McLEAN, Engineering Aide 2, North Vancouver, to Engineering Aide 3, Burnaby; R. A. JOHNSON, Engineering Aide 2, North Vancouver, to Engineering Aide 3, North Vancouver; JOE MCGOWAN, Engineering Aide 2, Terrace, to Engineering Aide 3, Design and Surveys; K. E. MCKENZIE, Engineering Aide 2, Squarnish, to Engineering Aide 3, Nanaimo; BRUCE LINTOTT, Machine Operator 3, Penticton, to Machine Operator 5, Burnaby; J. M. CULLINANE, Engineering Aide 3, Prince George, to Engineering Assistant, Terrace; SCOTT PARKER, Engineering Aide 2, Kamloops, to Engineering Aide 3, Burnaby; M. J. SUTHERLAND, Machine Operator 3, Prince George, to Machine Operator 3, Nelson; DAVE ALDRIDGE, Engineering Aide 1, Prince George, to Foreman 1 (Road), Prince George; G. C. CRAWFORD, Engineering Aide 2, Quesnel, to Engineering Aide 3, Prince George (Paving Branch); N. J. GREGG, Engineering Aide 2, Saanich, to Engineering Aide 3, Saanich; W. G. LAWRENCE, Engineering Aide 2, Nelson (Design and Surveys), to Engineering Aide 3, Nelson (Design and Surveys); JOHN COOK, Machine Operator 3, Cloverdale, to Foreman 1 (Road), New Westminster; F. A. HART, Engineering Aide 2, Kamloops, to Engineering Aide 3, Nelson; REYNOLD EPP, Engineering Aide 2, Kelowna, to Engineering Aide 3, Kamloops, J. R. O'FLAHERTY, Engineering Aide 3, Saanich, to Engineering Assistant, Port Hardy; D. F. DODSWORTH, Engineering Aide 3, Cloverdale, to Engineering Assistant, Victoria; D. G. BLANCHET, Engineering Aide 3, Salmon, to Engineering Assistant, Cloverdale; J. S. SCOTT, Engineering Aide 2, Mission, to Engineering Aide 3, Mission; B. C. PELL, Engineering Aide 2, Delta, to Engineering Aide 3, Duncan; G. E. BIRCHAM, Engineering Aide 2, Mission, to Engineering Aide 3, West Vancouver; R. J. THOMPSON, Engineering Aide 3, Nimpkish, to Engineering Aide 3, Cassiar.
TRANSFERS

CHRIS GARRETTPETTS, Technical Assistant 2 with the Design and Surveys Branch, Victoria, recently transferred from the Contract Documents Office. He joined the Department two years ago after completing a 10-month course in map draughting. Chris's hobbies include long-distance running, "heavy metal" rock music, and he also has an interest in flying and sky-diving.

D. H. HUTTON, Technician 2 in Fort St. John, has been appointed District Highways Manager in Burns Lake. R. M. McMLLAN, District Highways Manager in Kelowna, and W. J. McDONALD, District Highways Manager in Terrace, have exchanged positions.

PETER IRELAND recently joined the staff of Design and Surveys Branch, Victoria. Peter, an Engineering Aide 3, transferred from the Saanich District Office where he was employed in field and office duties since joining the Department in 1969. Peter and his wife are renovating a 60-year-old home in Oak Bay when they are not out in their boat fishing or scuba diving.

JIM DEUTCH is now working in the Headquarters Design and Surveys Office as an Engineering Aide 2, having transferred from the Construction Branch in Terrace. Jim is married with one son. While he enjoyed living in the scenic north, he is enthusiastic about the move to Victoria. Jim's hobbies are tennis, swimming, and hiking.

ROBERT WINCE McLARNEY, Bridge Foreman, Quesnel District, retired in April 1976 after 26 years' service. Bob commenced employment in July 1949 as a Bridge Foreman and held that position until retirement. His hobby is carpentry.

LEE AINSWORTH, Mechanic, Lillooet District, has transferred to 100 Mile House where he takes over a similar position. Lee and his family will be missed in the Lillooet area, especially for their contribution to community activities.

MONTE PENNINGTON, Machine Operator in the Vernon District, recently transferred to Hudson Hope. Monte commenced work in Vernon District on October 19, 1971, as a Labourer.

STAN MORSE retired in April 1976, as Yardman for Vernon District. Stan started work with the Department in April 1972. Stan and his wife are now enjoying gardening, golfing, and camping.

STAN DAVIES recently transferred from Dawson Creek to Vernon. He was Mechanic Foreman in Dawson Creek and will continue in the same capacity in Vernon. Stan commenced with the Highways on March 6, 1961.

RUBEN SEIBEL recently retired from the Department of Highways in Vernon where he had been employed since April 1973, as a Machine Operator.

OBITUARIES

J. W. (BUD) BOTHAM of the Geotechnical and Materials Branch, died on October 11, 1976, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife Tannis, two sons, and two daughters. Bud joined the Department in 1965 and worked his way up from Driller's Helper to Foreman and was appointed Superintendent in 1973. In his extensive travels with the Drilling Operations he got to know many of the District and Regional Maintenance and Mechanical staff throughout the Province as well as many of the regional officials. In his exploration work for bridges, highways, and landslides he was among the first to take heavy equipment into some of the new frontiers of the Department, the areas of the Stikine, Bell-Irving, and Fort Nelson Rivers.

Bud was born in 1915 and grew up and spent much of his early life in the Hudson area of Northern Ontario where he worked in road building, trucking, and fishing-lodge operation. He was a keen fisherman and loved the outdoors. He was also a keen bush pilot and had his own plane. His positive, cheerful, and hard-working nature will be greatly missed.

F. T. BROWN, Chief Engineer for the B.C. Department of Highways from 1956 to 1963 died in Edmundston, N.B., November 23. He was 66. Mr. Brown had retired in October as a special consultant to the N.B. Transportation Authority.

GEORGE ANDERSON, Road Foreman I on Quadra Island in the Courtenay District, died on July 30, 1976. He was 62. George began with the Department in 1965 at Fort St. John. He transferred to Likely before moving to Quadra Island in 1975.
ABOUT PEOPLE...

CARL S. SHAW, District Highways Manager for the Golden District since 1965, commenced with the Department in 1947 and has worked in the Cranbrook, Merritt, Lillooet, and Terrace Districts. He is married with two children and three grandchildren. Carl is an active Shriner and ham radio operator.

R. P. THOMPSON, Voucher Clerk in the Golden District office since May 1971, is a native of Perigord, Sask. Rachel has lived in Golden since 1962. She is an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion. Her main interests include sewing and dancing.

JENNY NIEMAN, Clerk-Typist 2 with Traffic Branch, Victoria, recently was reclassified from a Clerk-Typist I. She came to Traffic from Contract Documents Branch.

DOUG ELLIOT is a new Engineering Aide I in Vanderhoof District. He is an avid sports enthusiast, excelling in golf, curling, and hockey. With his wife and young son, Doug is experiencing the joys and worries of a new home-owner.

WILLIAM SUNDERWOOD, Regional Maintenance Management Technician, Prince George, has worked for the Department for 17 years. Prior to his present appointment he was the Senior Road Foreman at Revelstoke. Bill enjoys Prince George's long winters and the hunting and fishing in this area. He is married with two children.

JESSIE M. WASKETT, Timekeeper in the Golden District office since 1973, comes from Winnipeg, Man., and has lived in Golden since 1971. Prior to moving to Golden, Jessie has lived in Toronto, L'amp Borden, Ottawa, and Victoria. Married with two daughters and four grandchildren, she spends her leisure time with family activities, dancing, and bingo.

KENT LEE, Technical Assistant 2 with Traffic Branch, Victoria, began with the Department in 1973. Kent is married with two children and spends most of his spare time remodelling his home.
JOSEPH HAMILTON has been a Clerk 3 in the Rossland District office since June 1975. Her husband is also a Government employee and their hobbies are golfing and curling.

DOUG CARABETTA, Engineer-in-Training with the Geotechnical Branch in Victoria, has joined B.C. Rail as a soil design engineer. Doug, who was well thought of by his fellow workers, was presented with a briefcase and a "Dease Lake Emergency Kit."

MRS. BARBARA HARVEY joined the staff of the Maintenance Branch in June 1976 in the office of P. B. MacCarthy, Senior Maintenance Engineer. Mrs. Harvey came from the Department of Human Resources where she was in the office of the Director of Income Assistance for three years. Her hobbies are animal welfare programs and gardening. She replaced Jean Corless, who retired earlier this year.

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"Go Slow," indeed, particularly if people are going to stop in the middle of the road to take pictures! A scene on the Malahat Drive, 20 miles north of Victoria, Vancouver Island, probably about 1919. (Note cars and sign on left side of the road. Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland changed to right-hand drive in 1920.) The "Automobiles, Go Slow Here" sign incidentally was placed, as were directional signs, by the Victoria Automobile Association, not by the Government.

Part of the Vancouver Island Highway along Mill Bay around 1918. Section was called "Malahat Drive," although today people in the Victoria area usually think of the Malahat as just the mountain section north of Goldstream. Car and passengers are probably the same as those shown on page 11 of the July 1971 edition of the Road Runner, although the date was then thought to be about 1920.
A forgotten episode in British Columbia history is recalled in this file photo turned up recently. It shows a group of German nationals interned in 1915 during the First World War and used as labourers on British Columbia road construction. This work was at Six Mile Creek on the road between Mara Lake and Sicamous. Note armed Canadian soldiers guarding the workers. The internees were confined in a fenced tent camp east of Vernon in Monashee Pass area.
**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Larry Patterson, Engineering Assistant with the Traffic Branch, recently won the Group A Slalom Championship for Vancouver Island. Capt. Joe Patterson of the MV Galena was his crew chief for the B.C. Hillclimb Series. Larry became active in the sport while obtaining his diploma from BCIT.

**SERVICE AWARDS**

Having lived in Scotland from July 1975 to July 1976, Edith Silver (formerly office manager at Vanderhoof), who retired from Government service in May 1975, missed the annual dinner for long-service employees in Victoria last December. The gold watch she would have received at that time had been held in safe-keeping awaiting her return to Canada, and on September 13 a group of former co-workers gathered in the office of the District Highways Manager where Edith was belatedly presented with her watch. Pictured are, left to right, Brian Hunter, District Highways Manager; John Smith, Mechanic Foreman; Edith Silver; Alec Meier, District Stockman; Terry Brewster, Timekeeper; and Nat Reinke, present office manager.

Fred Langeler, Stockman in the Quesnel Depot, recently received his 25-year continuous service award.

Josek Gach, whose retirement this year was reported in the last issue, is shown with the meritorious service award presented to him by Roger McKeown, Rossland District Highways Manager. Josek had 30 years of continuous service with the Department.

Prince George Department of Highways Shop and Maintenance Crew team was entered in the Government Employees Slow Pitch League this season and finished in first place with only one loss all season. Left to right, back row, Chuck Friebe, Jim Phillips, Jeanette Knell, Lea Aldridge, Mike Aldridge, Judy Martindale, Roma Picard, Harold Harshman, Ted Robinson. Front row, Ron Demers (with trophy), Marian Robinson (with Tony), Jim Martindale (with Wade). Missing from photograph are Judy Friebe and Doreen Worthington.
A new manual for flagpersons has been published by the Training and Safety Branch. This pocket booklet is the first available as a ready reference for the personnel of Highways and Public Works. It is available after applicants have completed a short course on flagging procedures, to be conducted by the region, district, or branch.

The content is brief, but outlines the duties, equipment, dress, signals, and systems. It recognizes the responsibilities and places the Flagperson in proper perspective of importance.

The concept is not new. We have long had Flagpersons and flagging procedures with the prime objective of protecting fellow workmen and all users of the highway system from the dangers imposed by disruption of normal conditions. This information has been and is available within Departmental manuals and directives, and the Workers' Compensation Board Regulations.

The booklet, however, puts it all together, makes it easier for the Flagperson on the job, and helps to maintain a consistent and effective system of manual traffic control throughout the Province.
TRUCK ROADEOS

- DEASE LAKE
- CRANBROOK
- COURtenAY

1. Dease Lake Highway District winners, left to right, back row, Glen Loepky, Good Hope Lake, 1st in 4-Ton; Ted Skabrovich, Dease Lake, Special Event; Joe McNabb, District Highways Manager, 1st in Pickup Event. Front row, Gordon Odian, Atlin, 3rd in 4-Ton; John McPhee, Dease Lake, 2nd in 4-Ton; Dale Nordstrom, Dease Lake, 2nd in Pickup; Mark Reid, Bob Quinn, 3rd in Pickup.

2. Employees' children are also part of the action in isolated establishments. Prince George Regional Driver Trainer, Vic Barrett, shows his frustration with the younger crowd who found other uses for traffic cones.

3. Cranbrook Highways District winners in the 4-Ton event, left to right, Hank Friesen, 1st; Ed Wonnacott, 2nd; Les Beller, 3rd.

4. Cranbrook winners in the Crew Cab class, left to right, Jim Sturritt, 3rd; Karen Tkachuk, 1st; Orben Steinwandt, 2nd.

5. Don McPherson, Road Foreman, Dease Lake, ensuring that he is first in line for the food. Left, Bunny Hoover, cook at Dease Lake; right, May Myatt, cook at Bob Quinn Lake.

6. Do they really know the score? Judges at the Cranbrook radeo, left, Terry West and Al Kernaghan, recording marks.

7. Jim Lawrence, right, Regional Personnel Officer in Burnaby, presents trophy to Fred Woods of Sointula in the Courtenay District.

8. First and second place finishers in the Courtenay Roadeo, left to right, Bob Tool, Purser, 1st in the Crew Cab event; Don Bowen, Engineering Assistant, 2nd in the Crew Cab event; Lesley Hutchinson, Clerk-Typist, 1st in the ladies' ½-Ton event; Fred Woods, Sointula, Machine Operator, 1st in the 4-Ton event; Linda Demoskoff, Labourer, 2nd in the ladies' ½-Ton class; Bob Munroe, Labourer, Courtenay Bridge crew, 2nd in the 4-Ton event.

9. Cranbrook Shop crew, winners of the best over-all score, left to right, Fred Benhagen, Bill Phair, Ed Wonnacott, Ken Kingston, Garry Hansen, John Volk, Karen Tkachuk, Jim Oddie, Bill Desjardin, Neil Koel, Jerry James, Harry Lancaster.

10. Concerned contestant Robert Rutherford, Cranbrook, at the finish line, even inches can mean points gained or lost. The vehicle should be stopped within 12 inches of the line. Judges, Ron Mack, Grant Bateman, and spectators, Armando Maruggi and Orben Steinwandt.

11. The ladies of the Courtenay District office, whose hard work before and during the truck roadeo helped make the event a success, left to right, back row, Lesley Hutchinson, Clerk-Typist; Pat Doonan, Clerk-Typist; Ethel Roswell, Clerk 3; Joan Lussier, Clerk-Typist; Ann Foden, Clerk. Front row, Susan Taylor, Clerk-Typist; Dot Thompson, Timekeeper; Frieda Tool, Clerk-Typist.
ON THE JOB...

The Edgewood road crew here doing winter sand-screening. From left to right are H. Fehdrau, T. Bohan, W. James, W. Williams, and A. Milne.

Rossland Highways District patching crew, left to right, Darryl Pettitt, Johnny Williams (Foreman), and Ed Davies. They are working on Highway 22 from Rossland to Trail.

Dawson Creek Highways District bridge crew assembling a multiplate culvert which will replace a wooden culvert installed by the American Army at Mile 25 on the Alaska Highway. Shown is Tony Bieganski operating the bridge truck HiAb Crane.

Part of the Dawson Creek Highways District crew from the Alaska Highway area at the end of a successful day. Left to right, Joe Hiebert, Machine Operator; Henry Bratt, Machine Operator; George McDougall, Area Foreman; and Gordon Morehouse, Machine Operator.
Behind the Scenes
PAVING BRANCH—REGION 1
Regional Paving Laboratory

Regional Stores

THE CONTROL

One of the basic needs of the Paving Branch is summed up in the word “Marshall.” No, not a law enforcement officer, but the term is analogous because the Marshall process involves precise control of that sticky mix put on roads.

Every region incorporates into its organization a regional laboratory for research and development of pavements and to monitor the quality of pavements used for the surfacing of our highways.

In Region 1, the Senior Laboratory Technician is Bela Varady, who works out of 3928 Regent Street in Burnaby, and working for Bela is Lubo Macho, Engineering Assistant; Bruce Filipowich, Engineering Aide; and Lynn Stapleton, Engineering Aide.

THE SUPPLIES

These are the people who ensure that all Departmental crews in the Paving, Bridge, and Construction Branches have the equipment to perform their duties, and this means buying, servicing, and expediting. If there is anything you need, they have it. Heading this section is F. H. (Bud) Laursen. Bud is up front sizing up each and every order. Ken Best is his assistant and ensures that all equipment is in stock and operational. These boys know their business and are fast on the draw.

Patching a section of Yellowhead Highway 16 east of Terrace are, left to right, Billy Allen, Grader Operator; Joe Skarra, Patching Foreman; and Derek Vandevelde, Truck Driver, Terrace District.

Ken Best, Headquarters stores and workshop on Cassiar Street in Vancouver, repairing an asphalt extractor that came in from the regional laboratory in Kamloops.
Two views of a 2,400-cubic-yard slide which blocked traffic on the Squamish Highway at 2:10 a.m. on August 25. The slide occurred 12 miles north of Horseshoe Bay. There were no injuries and the road was opened to traffic at 10 p.m. on August 26. Lou Garay, Construction Technician; Jim Sawatsky, Senior Road Foreman; and Tony Tonkinson, Construction Foreman, are seen on the left side of the bottom photograph.