

# Will Dorey recalls Ymir and area from 1926

November 16, 1997

Mr. Dorey came to Salmo in 1926 or 27. His father was a sawyer and had owned a mill in Kitchener which later became part of Crestbrook's holdings. Will worked in the bush all through high school and knew how to timber cruise, horse log, scale logs and mill lumber. At one time he owned 12 draft horses and 7 pack horses. He worked as a packer and spent 9 months working in the Bayonne Mine. Another time he ran a dairy with 32 head of cattle, delivering milk to Salmo, Sheep Creek, and the Reno Camp.

Will Dorey played ball on the Ymir ball team in 1933. His son Brian played on the Ymir team in 1970.

In the 1950's Swan Lundgren and L. Mousoura cut fence posts up Bear Creek. Swan had come to Ymir to work at the Yankee Girl Mine in the 1940's. Later, Swan worked up Stuart (Stewart?) Creek.

In the early 1960's Will Dorey had a sawmill at 14 mile on Porcupine Creek. A contractor from Fernie had a timber licence in the area and logged, mostly white pine. Trees were 3 to 5 feet through the butt end, and it was like walking through a park in some areas.

At that time there was just a trail up Porcupine Creek and over to Tye. This trail was also used to get into the Bayonne and Spokane mines.

Much of the land up Porcupine Creek belonged to the Great Northern Railway - it had been granted to them in 1893 when Corbin built the railway to Nelson. The road (to the millsite) was in rough shape and they had to fix it up to get in there. Later, Edith Van Marion pushed the road over the top of Porcupine with a twin motor Euclid cat.

There used to be a flume down Boulder Creek to bring logs to Frank Rotter's mill there.

Mr. Dorey did some horse logging up Erie Creek. He used to walk three miles up to the site to tend to the horses. One day a cougar followed him all the way in and all the way out - a creepy feeling!

Louisiana Pacific had a mill on the Salmo River at Porcupine near the bridge.

Noble Gould worked up Porcupine Creek in the 1960s, operating a TD9 caterpillar. He also drove logging trucks for many of the contractors in the area, including Frank Rotter.

### Names in the local logging community

John Oreskovich logged with horse and crosscut, and sold the logs to Max Zeeben. Mostly white pine

around 1954 - 55? He originally used a horse named Ruby which belonged to Tony Giza and later he purchased his own horse called Queenie. This operation was called Silent Logging.

1951, Andrew Bowolin operated a sawmill at approximately 10 - 12 miles up Porcupine Creek.

1952 - 1956, Grotowski brothers operated a sawmill further up the road. C.J.A. Logging and Milling?? Transporting crews to work up the rough Porcupine road in a brand new 1956 Monarch.

Around 1955 Allan Kmiecik came over from Fernie and set up a mill at approximately 14 Mile. Logging and milling up there a couple of years. A fellow by the name of Koenig had a Planer Mill at the base of Porcupine Creek and contracted to plane Kmiecik's lumber. Kmiecik later moved the mill down to the bottom of Porcupine, next to a Great Northern Railway spur. At this time he employed about 25 - 30 men logging, milling and planing. Also there was a family by the name of Parrish that lived up Porcupine and he hauled logs for Kmiecik. This operation lasted up to the mid sixties.

Swan Lundgren had a logging show and logged in the area from 1950 - 1965.

Lyle Dickie hauled logs for Swan in the early fifties.

Max Zeeben bought a mill from Louis Robinson and operated from 50's - 70's.

L.D. Moore logged in Porcupine drainage in 60's.

Stu Leverington - Porcupine 50's.

Tony Fernandez logged Porcupine 60's? He owned a pink Cadillac!

Bill Firsty logged Porcupine 50's.

Clark and Hansen logged Porcupine 19--?

Frank Rotter logged Porcupine 19--?

John Waselinko was a well respected local faller and later a miner.

John Dailey - excellent faller, working for local contractors.

Len Zachow hauled logs for area mills 60's.

1970's logging was happening at Dunlop Creek, Oscar Bear Creek, Stuart Creek.

Noble Gould logged in the local area.

Bert Carolson logged in the local area.

1952 - 53 August Williams and Scotty Allan worked the Good Hope claim up Porcupine.

Dates are approximate only and all names may or may not be correct. Use this information to fuel your memory of all activities reminiscent of Ymir from 1897 - 1998.

Submitted by Rudy and Nick Bowolin



Ymir Firehall circa 1955. Many may remember this building when it stood on the edge of the ballfield behind the current hall. The hoses were hung in the tower to dry.

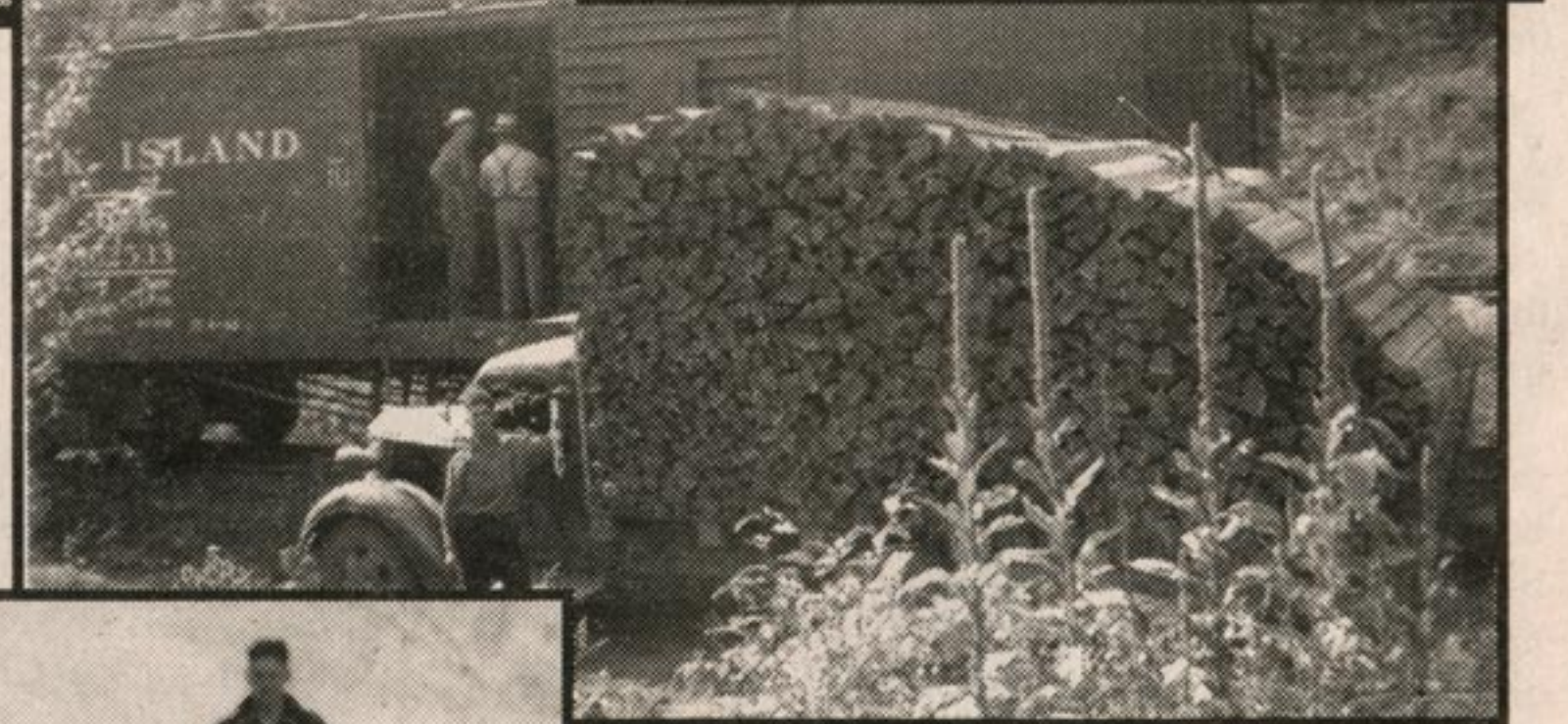
Elsie Turnbull photo courtesy of Salmo Museum

Below: Ted Tedesco hauling poles for Swan Lundgren in the 1950's photo courtesy of Liz Lundgren



Pictured at right is Am Tedesco with his father's truck (Jim Tedesco) at the Porcupine Siding, unloading cedar fence posts in 1943.

Florence (Slako)Hodgins photo



Pictured at left is John Slako standing on the log with Steve Denusik in the background. They had been grubstaked by Ymir businessman Smith Curwin.

Florence (Slako)Hodgins photo



## Darkwoods in the forestry business in area since 1967

The Darkwoods property began as a crown grant to the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway (later to become the Great Northern Railway) in the late 1800's. It has had six previous owners before 1967. The majority of the tree farm, which can be accessed by five main roads, drains into Kootenay Lake. Forest management plans must be filed with the Chief Forester of the British Columbia Assessment Authority, to whom Darkwoods pays taxes.

The land forms a part of the Southern Columbia Mountains Ecoregion, supporting three biogeoclimatic zones. Cedar-hemlock forests dominate lower elevations, while Engelmann spruce sub-alpine fir forests are prolific at higher elevations. Alpine parkland and tundra occur at the highest peaks. The property supports numerous species of wildlife, which have been aided by a longstanding no-hunting policy and controlled public access. The company has participated in grizzly bear research as well as cooperative efforts to enhance the woodland caribou population. Other ungulates, small and large mammals, and various birds of prey and song are a few of the many species that call this property home. Kokanee spawn in Cultus Creek and trout can be found in the many creeks and some of the 50 mountain lakes dotted throughout the managed forest.

Darkwoods Forestry is a division of Pluto Darkwoods Canada Inc. which is owned by an old German family, the House of Wuerttemberg. Duke Carl von Wuerttemberg, the present head of the family holding company, was personally involved in the acquisition of this land 31 years ago. In 1967 Darkwoods Forestry made a long-

term investment in the vibrant British Columbia forest industry with the purchase of a large tract of undeveloped private forest land.

"It has been with honour and pride that we took up the challenge of demonstrating the benefits of private land management. Respect for the land and nature has been the cornerstone of our corporate philosophy. We try to work with and not against nature. We have renewed overmature stands, we have protected oldlife, and we have supported the local economy. Our long term planning has designated over 33% of our total land area as protected environmental areas and our earlier reliance on natural

regeneration has been replaced by an extensive reforestation program. These measures, along with various other silviculture systems used in our productive forest areas, ensure the continued viability of this well-managed ecosystem."

**JOHN CARROLL**  
MINING BROKER

Agent for Canadian Fire Insurance Company

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