

Ex-Forest Service Squadron Vessel Collection

Dates of Creation: 1941-2000

Physical Extent: 25.0 cm of textual records; 154 photographs; 8 negatives; 1 logbook

History:

The British Columbia Forestry Branch was created in 1912. They started out with three wooden boats (launches) that were used to patrol the Canada-US border to prevent the illegal export of logs, inspect timber applications, examine hand loggers' licenses, deal with timber theft, and enforce the Timber Mark Act.

Due to an increasing workload, six custom built boats were ordered in 1913 from the Hinton Electric Co. of Victoria. The Forestry Service later began building their own boats at the Marine Station at Thurston Bay and later on the Fraser River. Over a hundred boats were built between 1924 and 1968. Other boats were acquired and extensively rebuilt to suit the changing needs of the Forestry Service. Over the years, boats were built or acquired for timber cruising, inspections, transporting equipment and tree seedlings, and as accommodation for inventory and other crews.

The fleet reached its peak in the 1950s and 1960s, but wooden boat construction began to decline in the 1970s with the advent of fiberglass, steel and aluminum vessels. The Ministry of Forests held the first large sale of their wooden boats in 1974.

The Ex-Forestry Service Squadron was formed in 1992 after a reunion of Ex-Forestry Service vessels in the Pender Harbour Area. The Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron consists of Ex-Forestry Service vessels that were once used by the B. C. Forestry Service. Vessels that also served in Fisheries, Public Works, Police, Coast Guard and Hospital/Mission may also join the Squadron as Associate Members. Its purpose is to maintain the history of these vessels and their personnel. At its AGM on July 2, 1994, the Squadron decided to retain its informal organizational structure that includes:

- Managing committee, Anchor Watch
- Trust Committee
- Squadron Archives

A statement of purpose and membership categories/qualifications further guides the Squadron. The Squadron holds Rendezvous, at least once a year. At these meetings, vessels are displayed to the public.

Scope and content:

The collection consists of Ex-Forestry Vessel Squadron Association documentation, such as textual records, photographs, personnel and vessel lists, reports regarding the physical condition of the *Dean Ranger*, logbook of the *Dean Ranger*, and newsletters. Collection also contains

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manuscripts, proofs and galleys, illustrations and photographs used in *Forest Ranger, Ahoy!* by Michael Coney (Sidney, B.C. : Porthole Press, 1983).

Notes:

Source of supplied title: Title based on collection.

Immediate source of acquisition: On June 20, 1993, the Trustees of the Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron transferred their archives to the Vancouver Maritime Museum to be held as a collection for research and curatorial purposes. The trustees were: Tom Edwards, Ken Morely and William Young. The records were collected from various sources. Since this date, various members of the Squadron have donated items to the Vancouver Maritime Museum.

Arrangement: Records arranged by Archivist.

Finding aid: A box-file file list is available.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Ex-Forest Service Squadron Vessel Collection

Box / File List

- PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 1
File No: 1 **Date:** 1941-1948
Title: Logbook of M.V. Dean Ranger
- PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 1
File No: 2 **Date:** 1992-1996
Title: Materials from VMM events and other vessel rendezvous
- PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 1
File No: 3 **Date:** 1968-1994
Title: Vessel restoration
- PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 1
File No: 4 **Date:** 1993
Title: Forest Ranger personnel lists
- PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 1
File No: 5 **Date:** 1967-1969
Title: Dean Ranger launch condition and repair reports
- PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 1
File No: 6 **Date:** 1993
Title: Vessel lists and finding aids (related collections)
- PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 1
File No: 7 **Date:** [19--] - [200-]
Title: Ex-forestry vessel photographs
- PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 1
File No: 8 **Date:** 1981
Title: BC Forestry Service district organization
- PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 1
File No: 9 **Date:** 1995-1998
Title: British Columbia Forest History newsletter

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PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 1

File No: 10 **Date:** 1997-2000

Title: The Anchor Watch: a publication of the Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron

PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 2

File No: 11 **Date:** 1983

Title: "Forest Ranger, Ahoy!" manuscript, vol. 1

PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 2

File No: 12 **Date:** 1983

Title: "Forest Ranger, Ahoy!" manuscript, vol. 2

PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 2

File No: 13 **Date:** 1983

Title: "Forest Ranger, Ahoy!" proofs and annotations

PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 2

File No: 14 **Date:** 1983

Title: "Forest Ranger, Ahoy!" pencil and ink drawings used in book

PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 2

File No: 15 **Date:** 1983

Title: "Forest Ranger, Ahoy!" photographs and notes

PartOf **Ex-Forestry Service Vessel Squadron Collection** Location: Box 2

File No: 16 **Date:** 1983

Title: "Forest Ranger, Ahoy!" negatives