

Final

Donald B Fisher Logging Ltd

An Albertan by birth, young 9 year old Don Fisher was dropped off to grandparents in Sultan WA (near Monroe) where he had excellent mentors and love, and did well in all sports through high school and into university football, boxing and track and field decathlon. He took all the small logging jobs he could and excelled at that too.

When he tried to join the Marines he was arrested and sent home to Vancouver in charge of all others arrested on the train! Such were his obvious leadership qualities.

After his years as an R C Air Force officer, and his discharge in 1945, Donald, now married to my mother Mary Graham from Calgary, and they expecting their first daughter Donna, took the position of logging camp Manager at Juene Landing late 1945. Their second daughter, me Carol, was born there too in May 1947.

In 1952, after managing a logging operation for 7 years for Gordon Gibson Sr, at Juene Landing (next door to Port Alice), which included the last two years of an impossible forest fire that could not be quenched due to its burning in the peat bog each winter, the Fisher family left, and then after two years in New Westminster in sales for Finning Tractor, Don Fisher, age 39, moved his family to Mount Currie to begin a power line clearance (but some other logging contracts occurred first). We briefly resided at Ab and Minnie Gramson's 10 Downing Street resort property, and next at Owl Creek.

This power line contract was made with Emil Anderson Company and covered an extensive clearance from Mars Crossing toward D'Arcy. My dad, Don Fisher employed many First Nations workers on this project. Bob Walker used Don's cat to build access roads there. Others sub-contracting are now unknown to me and my research is not turning up more names. My sister and I had our first summer jobs picking up small debris for the lunch time fire on the job site. We were quite young and fell asleep over lunch on the first day!

Unfortunately, this very lucrative contract turned sour when only 50% of the agreed amount was paid out, and a lengthy court case ensued. That summer we spent a month at Tenquille Lake as our dad loved to prospect, and a month in Vancouver with the lawyers and court.

During that idyllic alpine summer month, I walked around the lake at age 10, alone and picked and armful of wildflowers for my parents. Two months later my dad and Bob Walker were prospecting again, and they startled a grizzly mom and her cub, who in turn charged down the shale slide on the lake and my dad shot both of them with a pistol. I had always believed they were blonde bears, but Bob Walker tells me now that they were a darker mom and blonde baby. He carried out the mom's head, very heavy. These hides, suitably prepared, left Pemberton on a freight train that was shunted to a side line and these hides unfortunately rotted there.

Don Fisher cleared the land today known as Riverlands for Dr Dill, who was from Manilla where he had a hospital. Pamela Dill and I became fast friends at school in Pemberton. He had other logging contracts here but most of this past is not known to me now.

My husband Peter Shore told me that he and Bud Fraser were falling and bucking some timber for my dad near Owl Creek in the mid 1950's.

Bob Walker remembers logging for my dad at Spetch (White) Creek around then, in big fir along with Max and Henry Menzel. Jack Jenson and Peter Sinnes Sr were there too, and these men and their families came to Pemberton following my dad from Juene Landing. Don Fisher had a big cat with an arch and the loading was at the railroad right at White Creek.

Don Fisher (and who else?) used their cats to clear the land above the village for the first site for the Rod and Gun Club, its land for target and clay pidgeon shooting and competitions. The first Forest Ranger here, Jack Carradice, who arrived in 1957, became a good friend of the Fishers. He and Don both were regular

buyers at Harkley and Haywood's sporting goods store in Vancouver. Don collected rifles, pistols, watches, fountain pens, and unusual cars.

With Bob Walker, in the '60's Don Fisher ran a drilling machine in Ryan Creek for Fleetwood (later named Cascade Logging, initially George Walker's Co and this name remains today with David Walker). My dad loved to work on inventions, and he designed a better drill bit that would not get stuck when reversing it, but plans to patent it failed, after he left his only sample at Ospal Steel's office in Vancouver for them to take a look at it. Later they could not find it, and soon they had such a bit in their stock! (Don worked many years on his pressure test small kit that every man could have rather than the big factory equipment to test ballistic pressures in hand-loaded bullets, for marksmanship use). His invention was clever, not patented either, but the market for this item would have been very small. His own hand-loading equipment has been handed down to a nephew Bryan Shier of Squamish many years ago.

Many loggers blasted rock without any official training nor certificates in the early years.

It seems very few blew themselves or anyone else up. My dad blasted a swimming hole in the little creek behind our home at Sanderson's Birken property, debris flew through the air over a huge area, and we had a pool! But icy cold! We kids thought it was just marvelous but our mom gasped for air and screamed each time she took a dip. Today I wonder about the trouts' future, after the blast, and we had enjoyed catching and eating them for Sunday breakfast.

When the highway was being built between Whistler and Pemberton, Don Fisher and Peter Shore and any others here with caterpillars were busy making road, which was opened in the later 1960's. My father changed from an old tractor to a new one at this time, with a bank loan, easy to do in those days. His many close friends guided him then and supported him when his wife Mary, my mother, died of cancer at Mt. Currie in June 1963. The payments were \$5000/month, daunting I remember as the 16 year old daughter planning to do her father's bookkeeping. He later took this tractor to the Queen Charlottes to work for Pat Wiley, from Lillooet. Later he worked again in coastal logging camps in the 70's but did not do so well missing Mary for 25 years in all, till his death to prostate cancer at age 74.

Carol (Fisher) Shore July 2012

Peter Shore Logging Ltd. (1952)

Peter born at home and one of seven children of Lillian and Lloyd Shore, still lives today in his family home in Pemberton, at age 79. He is active in running the Farmhouse B&B (in its 17th year, now in 2012).

After finishing high school at Squamish, (some of his siblings went to school in N Vancouver and Bralorne as there was not a high school here), Peter Shore could not make a go of farming with brother Gary and he turned to logging. His first job was peeling cedar poles for Bud Fraser and Seymour Wallace at Lillooet Lake.

Several years later Peter bought an Alice Chalmers HD16 (equivalent to a Caterpillar D7) and began clearing land in Pemberton for many farmers, including Tony Van Loon, Elmer Hellevang and John Ronayne.

In 1966., Peter and Jim Collins formed C&S Logging from a timber quota they bought from Van West Logging and this continued for about 20 years. See a separate story on C & S Logging.

Peter Shore and many others (?), volunteered to physically build and provide materials for the first Legion likely on its present site, but only a third as large as it is now.

In the 1980's Peter Shore Logging Ltd entered into a partnership with 4 others and bought a parcel of land on the right side of Anderson Lake on the south end, just uphill from Indian Band land. This investment he selectively logged for the fir and planned to remove the pine also, but the partnership was dissolved and the land sold prior to that happening. Today this land, visible from the Red Barn campgrounds and the boat launch, is attractive and grown back. Later Japanese owners ran fallow deer there, for restaurant sales.

In the D'Arcy area, early 1990's Peter logged land for Ilene Brotherston and Dave .(?) and also sold him a railway flatcar bridge, first installed over the Cadwallader River on the Bralorne logging sites.

The company bid successfully on small timber sales including one in the Haylmore at Darcy BC.

His company also logged some ski runs on Whistler and Blackcomb for Greyhold. Peter also cleared some lots of trees for development for CME Excavating on Lorimer Road up till 1991.

This company's last endeavour was rather ambitious – buying and logging Bralorne lands. Half a dozen parcels of land were purchased, two with silent partners, and logged and all sold later as recreation land. Some private parcels were logged for owners, and a larger one at Carol Lake, on the edge of Carpenter Lake for Kathy Temple (and her

partner Keith Norton) . When this contract was broken mid-way by the land owner, Peter Shore Logging Ltd was forced to cease operation in mid 1997. Ironically, Peter had bought a new Caterpillar D10 at this time. It was returned to the Kamloops sales lot, and Peter did not log again, retired at age 64.

Loggers are a tough breed:

Peter Shore was inventive iconoclastic a demanding employer, respected by many over the years for fair pay above union wage, his talent in the area of logging generally, his ability to access a timber sales value, to know what was right, and to maybe save his own or another's life in the woods long prior to the days of a helicopter coming in to save a logger.

Men were very tough here then. Peter has large tracks on one arm from a powersaw accident and a crooked lower leg once badly broken, both testament to the hap-hazard repairs to major logging injuries done when docs thought loggers did not need nice surgeries. This was somewhere around the 50's to 70's.

Tough loggers include Lexi Ross who worked falling till age 65, and in younger years ran up the mountain to Tenquille Lake with his little boys frequently! Raye Shier is still falling trees with his crew now, so he wants to join the old boys club, meet or beat Lexi's record.

Morgan Miller may have logged to supplement farm income, but if he didn't he was still the epitome of tough guys here in Pemberton, because he saved his own life when he walked out of the woods (hunting/logging?) holding his intestines in his arms!

There are other fine stories of courage, and sadly of death, recently Dave Valleau who died alone in the woods, about 2008, one who would have got out if possible.

It should be mentioned that the logging, as well as the farming, wives did provide considerably to the success of every endeavour.

Carol Shore July 31 2012

August 9 2012

C & S Logging Ltd.

Sometime in 1969, Jim Collins and Peter Shore formed C & S Logging Ltd.

At the time, Jim Collins sold his pole business and a John Deere 450 Cat to Bob Gilmore and Larry Hamula. Bob Gilmore ran this John Deere 450 yarding at the first C & S Logging site. Bob Menzel and John Hjelt were there on day one, too.

This new logging company had contracts with Richmond Plywood, who were contracting with the huge Canadian Pacific Co (of railroads and hotels). The first logging was in the Ryan Creek area behind Lexi Ross' house. Some equipment was bought from Van West including a ship's mast used as a steel spar!

Some first loggers in this new company were Bob Spetifore Jr, cat skinner, Lex Ross, faller, Les Doherty was the foreman who likely operated some equipment. John Hjelt was on the high lead and Bob Menzel set chokers.

Art Tutty trucked the logs to the railhead in Pemberton out through Ryan Creek Road. He had Pacific trucks (maybe 6 in later years) bright red and green.

Lex Ross bought a new pickup truck at the end of that year logging there, a lucrative contract he claims.

Next, C & S entered into a much bigger contract with Richmond Plywood which lasted about 5 years, from 1970 onward, in the Mackenzie Basin. Today this area has many, many mountain bike trails, heavy summer use of Mosquito Lake and the para gliders two launch pads, all due to the logging there.

C & S Logging benefitted too from the early Gold Rush road rather well built, also called the Cariboo Trail, and they improved it for their extensive log hauling to Pemberton where the wood was loaded onto railcars at an area near where the present secondary school is now, or maybe also out of Osher siding behind Pemberton Plateau.

However much road building was needed and landings built to service logging the trees. Peter Shore did this with an Alice Chalmers HD16. Gene Blanchet cleared some Shore hillside with his D6 Cat and likely worked here too. Billy Williams was a phenomenal rubber-tired skidder operator, awesome to watch!

Ed Gilmore ran a loader in the landing, and was a cat skinner too. Leo Nelson was a hooktender, and Pat and Bill Nelson and Pat and Lloyd Williams all had landing jobs, bucking, choking etc. Stu McNolty, Bob Menzel setting chokers, and John Hjelt were here too.

Art Tutty had the trucking covered with his colourful trucks! To the rail loading at Creekside (where Continental Pole is located now, in 2012). Don Blundell came from

the Island and lived in a camper through 1970 after which other family joined him and they trucked extensively for C & S Logging and Perkins Bros Logging.

Francis Gabriel was the yarding engineer. Bill Jameson ran a loader at the railyard maybe at Osher siding (Pemberton Farm Rd E now). More likely at

Fallers, many were Lex Ross, Brian Ross, Peter Staehli, Jack Ronayne, Dick Green, Bud Fraser and George Bikadi.

In the Mackenzie basin, the pole co guys, Bob Gilmore and Larry Hamula took out the poles and Don Menzel worked with them here, soon after high school.

Bob Menzel claims he worked 17 hour days and bought a truck with a season's wages! The good old days.

A slash fire in May one year burned very long and deeply in an area above Mosquito Lake, and can be seen to this day to only support small brush, which the deer love. However it was costly to have water bombers come in to put it out!

Concurrently, about 1972, C & S Logging was logging at White (Spetch) Creek where Don Fisher Logging had previously logged in the 1950's. Billy Williams and Bud Fraser were falling, Donald Menzel on the landing, Bill Jameson loading at the railcars right there, even though the highway was open to trucking. (It seems likely that some companies continued to use the railroad as a better economic alternative).

Bud Fraser and Billy Williams were falling. Don Menzel was on the landing bucking.

While the date is vague, C & S Logging took a private contract to log the small mountain now known as Pemberton Plateau and those logs were shipped out on the railcars at Osher siding, behind the hill and next to Blundells. (Pemberton Farm Rd E.)

Also some loggers remember logging the hillside behind Peter Shore's family land, but it might not be part of the C & C Logging story, but it could be, So it will be included here and in Peter Shore Logging also. Gene Blanchet had a D6 Cat working here, Bill Jameson was on a 950 loader, Fallers not known maybe Peter himself, and Bob Menzel and Dean Oberson were the buckers and chokermen. Talbots may have trucked this wood to the spur by Frank's Mill for loading to railcars.

The next biggest contract with Richmond Plywood was at Rutherford valley and hillsides, about mid 1970's. Weldwood had been in there earlier and some logging roads were still accessible. Weldwood left Pemberton around 1973, (Some Pemberton loggers followed for jobs in Powell River, namely Marvin Shier and family, hiswife and my sister Donna Fisher and children.) Also A & R (Arnett Logging) had done some logging there earlier.

This too was a very lucrative contract, with many employed for a few years. Gene Blanchet was building roads into the logging areas, Brian Wray and Andrew Cook were yarding, a new Washington grapple yarder was purchased for 150,000 - 200,000, at about this time. There was a 90 foot steel spar (tower) used in the Rutherford too. Bill Beyers ran the grapple yarder. Wayne Shier ran a skidder.

Donald Menzel and Dean Oberson were bucking on the landing. Peter Staehli, George Bikadi, Billy Williams, were falling. Many more too, likely but all the details are hard to dig out! At Echo Lake, on a left (south) saddle this logging show could see south into the Soo Valley nearby. Dean Oberson was setting chokers for a cat or skidder there. Later into this logging operation 7 miles into the Rutherford, Dean was bucking on a landing where Bill Jameson was loading to trucks.

The trucking contract was with Blundell Trucking who had moved from Vancouver Island to Pemberton about 1970. I think they must have trucked out on the highway some time soon, as well as to the railcars at Tisdale. Don and Ron Blundell came here first with two trucks. Dave Blundell worked later, and Terry carries on his dad Don's legacy still trucking in Pemberton, to this day.

Bill Jameson also loaded these logs from the Rutherford, after they were trucked north about a mile to Tisdale, to railcars. Again, this was after the highway was open, and details are not available on how much was trucked directly to Squamish and how much was loaded twice, in the logging landing and at the railcars. It doesn't make economic sense to load the logs twice, unless the highway between here and Whistler was no in very good shape, from 1965 to the early 70's.

C & S Logging had a contract in the Duffey Road area but no details are available at this time.

The date of sale of C & S Logging to Blakey Logging are not certain, but it was likely about 1982. Peter Shore was out of the company then and Jim Collins formed a new company with Les Doherty and others briefly.

My many many thanks to all the loggers and others who gave me their time and details to enable me to put this information together.

Carol Shore August 10/ 2012