

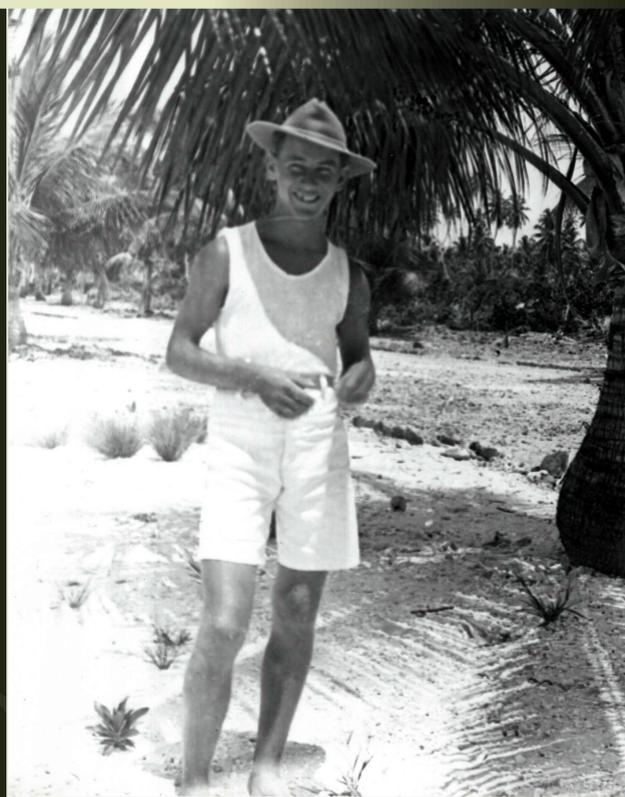
The Life and Legacy of R. Bruce Scott

Cable Operator: A Gentleman on Imperial Service

Robert Bruce Scott was born in 1905 in Sidney, Australia. In a 1973 interview with Brian White, Scott described going on walks at the age of seven, with his father to Narrabeen, 14 miles north of Sydney. When his father would ask if he was tired, young Scott would grit his teeth and say, "No, Dad". One day he made the mistake of admitting his fatigue. His father's reaction was to catch the next tram available. "Well that was the end of that," Scott confided. "And he never took me again...that taught me two lessons...to never admit I was tired and to never give in."

This philosophy seems to have defined Scott's life. "...it had laid the foundation of my enjoyment of walking. I could walk all day and not get tired...and...probably laid the foundation for when I arrived in Bamfield."

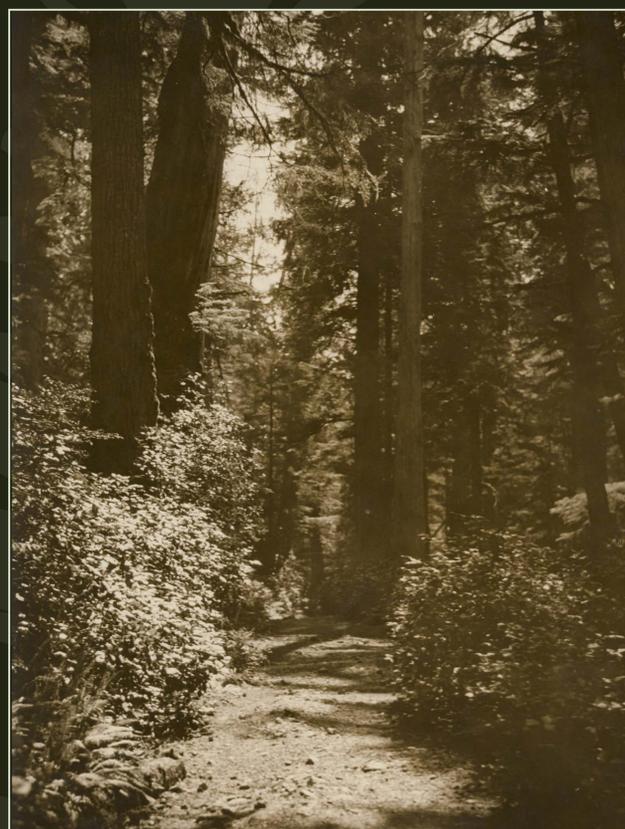
At the age of 13, after the death of his father, Scott answered an ad for "submarine telegraphers". He came under the employ of the Pacific Cable Board, in Sydney



Scott at the age of eighteen, circa 1923. Courtesy of S. Scott.



Southport Class of 1920. Scott is furthest right, standing. Scott Collection



One of the local trails in Bamfield, circa 1930s. BCMA photo. Wallace Collection.



Scott, centre, with two friends on one of the local beaches, circa 1930s. Courtesy of S. Scott

Ray Salmon, son of cable operator Les Salmon, told to the Bamfield Historical Society in May, 2016: "Incidentally, in our first years there, I recall that he was known as Bob Scott. I remember that at some time later he announced that he preferred to be Bruce."

Unhappy with a desk job, Scott took various transfers. "I had gone up to Queensland, northern Australia, where the training college was, and came back to Sidney... volunteered for a transfer to Fanning Island, which is a small coral island in the mid-Pacific. I spent two years there and then back to Sidney...I was transferred to Auckland, New Zealand, which I loved. And then back to Sidney after that, and it was at that time that I volunteered to come to Bamfield."

"Up to that time, life to me somehow had not fulfilled its promise and I seemed like a lost soul, seeking something I knew not what exactly, and so in that spirit I applied for Canada which always had a romantic appeal to me. And I was accepted and transferred to Bamfield on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, in March 1930."

"When I stepped off the boat at Bamfield, it was a case of love at first sight. I might add that when I did step off the boat, I was dressed just as I would have been as a man about town in Sidney: a bowler hat and tie and a silk scarf and walking stick and this sort of thing. And I can imagine what the other cable men on the dock must have thought. But they didn't say anything - they must have grinned, but they didn't say anything. Anyway, within an hour of getting off the boat I was changed into old clothes and I was exploring the forest trails, which I did every day thereafter for all the time that I was at the Cable Station. From five to ten miles a day on the trail and just living every moment of it."



Scott and three lady friends in a canoe in front of the Cable Station, circa 1930s.



Scott and friend skating on the pond, near Bamfield, circa 1930s. Courtesy of S. Scott.

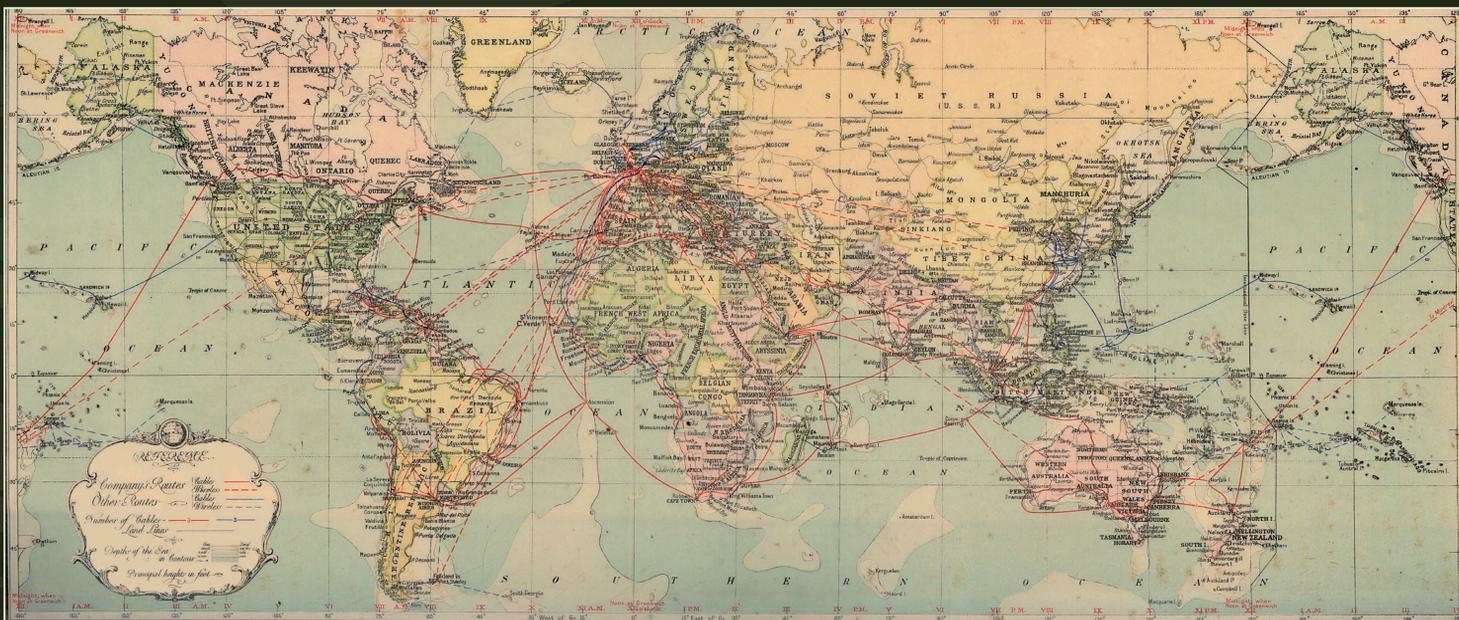
The Life and Legacy of R. Bruce Scott

Cable Operator: He Did His Duty Well

Of the Cable Station, Scott told Brian White in his 1973 interview: *“Well it was like living in a country club. We had everything. Living in an isolated place of course, the company had to provide the staff of with every means of enjoyment. In recreation we had beautiful concrete tennis courts; we had a library; we had our own cinema club; and a dance orchestra and we could live an outdoor life...boating, hunting, fishing - anything you liked we had it. And we used to have big dances – well half a dozen big dances throughout the year and everyone from around Barkley Sound used to attend our dances, even from Port Alberni – dancing all night, then returning next day.”*



Portrait of Scott at age twenty, while he was living in Sydney, Australia. 1925



Cable and Wireless Limited map. Note Fanning Island to Bamfield; Bamfield to Montreal routes. BCMA, Syd Baker Collection

The Bamfield to Fanning Island section of the All Red Route was the longest underwater cable, and the line from Bamfield to Montreal was the longest above ground section. Bamfield was a relay station between these two points. Scott commented in an interview with June and Kirk Kerstetter in 1979:

“Oh yes, those signals were extremely difficult to read, being the longest cable in the world there was no definition to the signals at all, they just wandered up and down and you had to be a really good judge of distance in order to be able to read each letter without making an error. Now we were only allowed to make a certain number of errors in a certain number of words that we handled; I forget what the percentage was, .06, or something like that and if you made a certain number of errors, you lost your increment for that year. So it was a very hard task master and in the event, the PCB, the Pacific Cable Board operators were the best in the world because they made the fewest errors. Now some men could handle half a million words in a year without making a single error; now that is quite a feat really.”

Hearing this remark, the interviewer interjects that, *“Pauline (Scott’s wife) has just commented that Bruce is the gentleman that transmitted and received or relayed the half million words a year without error, and this particular feat was commented on in Time magazine as a result of an article which talked about the electro-mechanical and the electro-static recording of these messages and he brought out that human error entered into these transmissions as well and made a point that Bruce had accomplished this on, I assume, more than one year in which he handled this many words.”*

In an interview with Imbert Orchard for the CBC in 1966 Scott told of when Prince Edward was asked to send a message round the world to demonstrate the cable’s potential. Scott was the only human relay and admitted to being very nervous until he began the relay. The message went round the world in 30 seconds without error.



Cable operators at Bamfield. BCMA Wallace Family Collection.



Cable Station staff wearing party hats while dining. The photo was labeled “Mess dinner, January 1952” BCMA Wallace Family Collection

“There was keen competition among the cable operators at each station to have the best record of transmissions with no or few errors. Even so, it took three interviews before Scott told me he’d transmitted over half a million words one year without errors. “It was nothing to boast of,” he added, “it was our duty.” Paula Johanson, Islander Magazine, Times Colonist, Sunday, March 13, 1994.

Scott retired in 1959, when the cable by-passed Bamfield and the station was closed. He was there when the last message was sent on June 20th, 1959: *“Farewell from Bamfield before closing down after fifty-seven years of operation and leaving it to the shades of the past.”* Scott volunteered to stay on to wind up affairs and dispose of assets of the station.

“In 1965, the Bachelors’ Quarters, still in good state of preservation, was demolished—ignominiously pushed over by a bulldozer! Twelve houses previously accommodating married staff, were put to the torch and destroyed.”

“Visiting Bamfield at the time, I could not bear to watch the destruction of that beautiful building, in which I had lived for twelve years as a bachelor, but observed it in passing out of the corner of my eye.” R. Bruce Scott, Gentlemen on Imperial Service.



Pacific Cable Board Band. Dan Griffin, Saxophone; Don Schutz, Banjo; Billy Wells, Drums; Peter Crackanthorp, Keyboard; Bart Fletcher, Saxophone. BCMA

The Life and Legacy of R. Bruce Scott

Bamfielder

Bruce met his bride-to-be, Pauline Head, when she came to Bamfield aboard the Princess Norah during World War II. He tells the story to Brian White in 1973. *“Bamfield was the first place in Canada to be blacked out. When the Japanese submarine shelled Estevan Point it was thought, at least on the news, on the BBC and also in Victoria that it was the cable station being shelled, but that was not so. Anyhow, we were blacked out and everyone was looking for submarine periscopes. But we never were really in danger. While I’m on the subject, that’s how I happened to meet my wife. She was a tourist on the Norah, and it came in one evening and the passengers weren’t allowed up the hill because it was guarded. But the captain came up the hill with Pauline on his arm and he, being known to the guards was allowed to come up. We were having an impromptu dance in the library at the time. So, that’s how I met my wife...during the war.”*

“The bachelors always used to go down to the ship in peacetime and look over the girls and pick out the one they liked best and they’d offer to show them over the cable station, which was what every tourist wanted to do anyway. So, then they’d take them up to the station and show them through the station and then they would make a date for the return journey when we used to entertain passengers to a dance in our hall.”



Pauline Scott, nee Head, on the beach in front of the couple’s home at Aguilar Point the year they were married, 1942. S Scott Collection

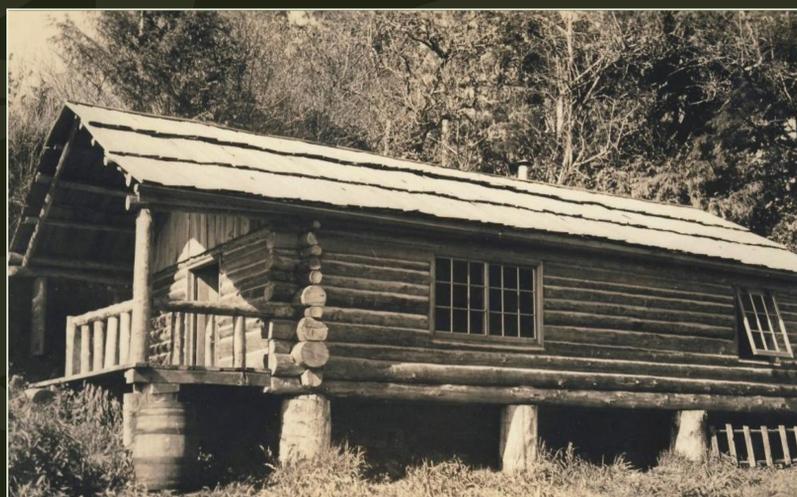
Scott had built a small log cabin on his property on Aguilar Point. In his 1973 interview with Brian White, Scott explained:

“Yes, well, I had no intention of building a house off of the station. I was just occupying one of my small tourist places until such time as the station became available. But it so happened that as the years progressed, most of the men on the station became younger men and these younger men more or less controlled, by their voting power, what happened on the station. We used to do it in a democratic way and have an annual meeting and various subjects were brought up and voted upon. Well, on this occasion the younger people voted that instead of the most senior men getting the next house available on the station, the man who lived off the station longest should be entitled to the next house. So although I was the next senior man, I then went to the bottom of the list and had to wait a long while.”

“So my wife had been pressing me to enlarge the house so I had to give into her, and although I was appalled by the idea, I considerably enlarged the house. And it meant working two days in one for two months. I’d work on the building from 8 o’clock in the morning until about 4 o’clock in the afternoon, have a shower and dinner and go to work from 6pm until 1 am in the office. However, I did get a good night’s sleep, but this had to be maintained for about two months while the house was built.”

Scott’s property on Aguilar Point had been the former site of two Huu-ay-aht (formerly Ohiaht) long houses at the beginning of the 1900s. Scott always said that he and Pauline felt they didn’t own the property, but were merely caretakers. He kept an open invitation to all First Nation peoples and others to come and enjoy the property as they wished.

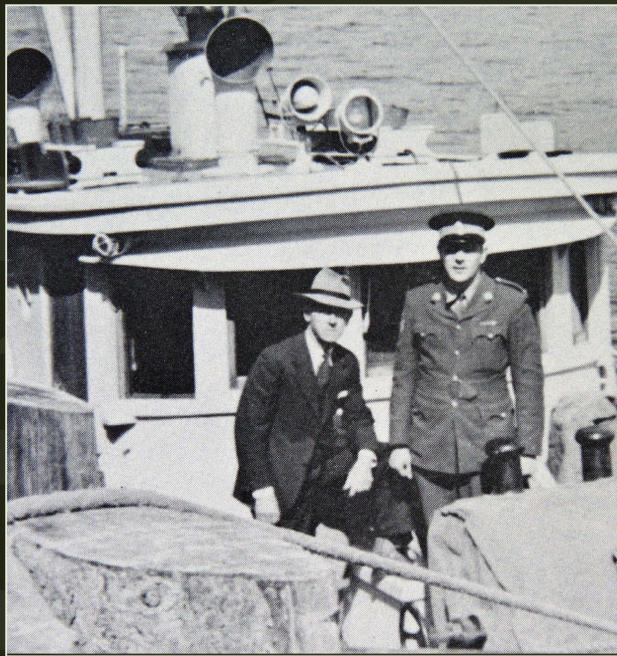
Shirley Rose, cableman Les Salmon’s daughter, recalled Pauline didn’t like to row over to the station but Mum loved the water and would go to her - as a young child I was intrigued with Pauline’s loom - she did such beautiful weaving.”



The small log cabin Scott built on his property at Aguilar Point.



Scott loved to walk the trails around his home in Bamfield. He also took many photos and eventually used them to promote his vision of a west coast park to many groups and government officials. S Scott Collection. Circa 1930s.



Bruce Scott, left and Corporal Brooksbank right. Scott was Stipendiary Magistrate in Bamfield from 1948 until 1958.



The opening of the Bamfield Red Cross Outpost Hospital, 1939. Bruce Scott was a director at the time. BCMA, Riley Collection

Scott assumed many different roles within the Bamfield community. These are a few mentioned in his interviews over the years.

- He was on the Bamfield school board for a number of years.
- He was on the original Red Cross board when they secured the building on the boardwalk in west Bamfield which housed the Red Cross hospital and nurses’ residence for many years.
- He was chair of the Rate-Payers Association for a period of time.
- In separate interviews with Imbert Orchard in 1966 and Susan Bannerman in 1986, Scott recalled being approached by Corporal Brooksbank, of the British Columbia Provincial Police about becoming a Stipendiary Magistrate with a rate of \$2.50 per hearing which was paid only if the accused was found guilty. While it involved mostly fisheries violations, Scott recounts in his book, *Bamfield Years: Recollections*, an instance where he had to reluctantly impose a fine of \$100 on a still owner. The community instantly raised the fine for the benefit of the accused.

The Life and Legacy of R. Bruce Scott



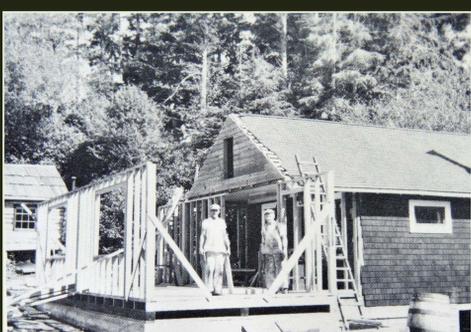
Pauline and Bruce Scott as they appeared on their Christmas card in 1942, the year they were married. BCMA, S. Scott Collection

'Bamfield's future undoubtedly lies in the tourism, for which it is eminently suited. It may one day be the principal seaside resort of western Canada with access to so many ocean beaches and good salmon fishing. It is the northern terminus of the West Coast Lifesaving Trail, now ranked as one of the best in the world, with thousands of hikers from all over the world traversing it each year.' Article, *Bamfield holds fond memories*, by R. Bruce Scott. The Islander, Times-Colonist, Sunday, April 11, 1993.

Tourist Accommodation Operator



Scott began writing about and promoting the area early on, as in an article for the Victoria Daily Times on Saturday, April 3, 1937 titled, *Coastline Scenery--Our Undeveloped Asset*.



When it became evident that the Scotts wouldn't be moving back on-station, Pauline insisted that Bruce enlarge their cabin. He worked during the day building, and then worked the night shift at the Cable Station. 1947, S. Scott Collection. This later became tourist accommodations.

When the cable station closed down, Bruce and Pauline relocated to Victoria so their daughter Susan could go to school. Scott continues the story in the White interview, 1973. *"Well then, when it came time for me to retire I couldn't sell the property because there was no road into Bamfield and people were not interested when there was no road access. So I said, 'Oh alright we'll just walk out, the place can rot as far as I'm concerned'. So I just wrote it off; packed up and moved to Victoria."*

Retirement didn't suit Scott very well. *"I tried, let's see, selling mutual funds, but I was not a salesman, and I didn't like it so I gave it up. Well then, one summer my daughter said she would like to go back to Bamfield for a holiday. I had said that I didn't want to see it again. But I relented, because I felt like a heel not letting my daughter revisit the scene of her childhood. So I said alright, we'll go back for three weeks. So we went back and of course nothing in the house would work. After having been vacant for two years, the water wouldn't work, the engine wouldn't produce electric light, and nothing would work. So I worked hard with my sleeves rolled up all day, every day for three weeks and was thoroughly happy. It was something to do. And while there one day waiting for lunch, I suddenly got a brain wave, it just hit me out of the blue - why not run the place as a tourist resort? I'd been trying to sell it to other people for that purpose but it had never occurred to me to do the same, myself."*



Bruce and Pauline continued to invite local First Nations people to come and enjoy the property. In 1982 he donated \$1000 towards the establishment of the Chief Louie Nookemus Scholarship for Ohiaht (Huu ay aht) students with their *"roots in the Bamfield, Sarita or Pachena Bay area"*.

The Scotts began operating one of the first tourist facilities in Bamfield. *"Oh, they thought I was crazy. Most people did. Even my friends thought I was crazy to invest in Bamfield and buy property, but that's alright. But I was still thrilled and enthusiastic. I still believed that one day it would become one of the principal seaside resorts in western Canada."*

Eventually the Scotts sold the property to Bob and Florence Peel. In the meantime, several other accommodations started up. Scott continues the story with Brian White. *"Yes, we laid the foundation and it paid for itself right from the very start. We were surprised. We didn't make a fortune, but all I wanted to do was to cover expenses anyway and it did that right from the very first. So we feel like we laid the basis for tourist places in Bamfield and we think that that will be the main source of revenue for the people of Bamfield - will be tourists and I think it should be oriented in that way."*

On July 21st, 1968, Alec Merriman wrote of the area in his column, *Outdoors With Alec Merriman - Blow Hole, Warm Seas Make Pachena Tops*. It is one of several articles that promote the beauty of the Bamfield area as a tourist destination. Merriman makes a stop to stay with his friend, Bruce Scott, who had been promoting the area to him.

"I hope they never bring the road to this part of Bamfield. It is nice as it is," says Mr. Scott. Trails take one to the points of interest on the Cape Beale headland. Mr. Scott has been the big pusher to have the whole of the Cape Beale headland preserved as park, and he has been partially successful. A great deal of it is now held in park reserve..."



The Scott's home on Aguilar Point which Bruce added on to and later developed as tourist accommodations.



Sign welcomes visitors to Aguilar House

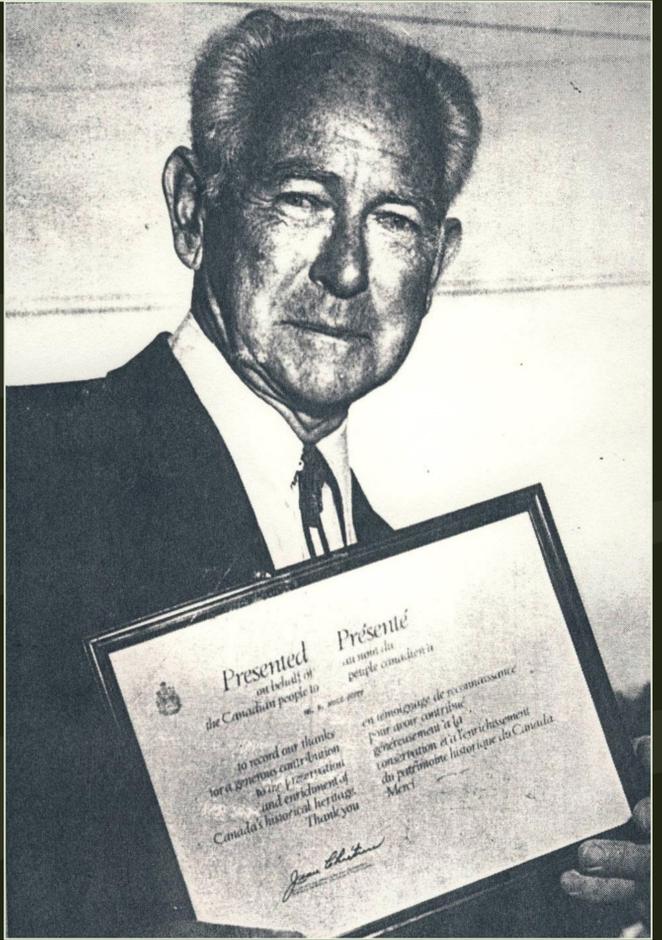
The Life and Legacy of R. Bruce Scott

Advocate: Mission-A West Coast National Park

'He envisioned a park on the west coast. The coast lines were being bought up by Americans and he felt there would soon be none left for Canadians so he began advocating a provincial park. This was in 1933. He wrote articles for the *Victoria Times* and *The Islander* and he submitted photos which were published. "I was," he remarks, "a voice crying in the wilderness." There was no parks branch then and at the time the federal government had envisioned a park from Sarita to Port Renfrew and this Bruce was campaigning to have developed. He heard, one day, that beaches in this area were up for sale and, making inquiries, he learned that the provincial government would not grant mineral rights in the region, rights which were demanded by the Feds.

Scott then campaigned on the provincial level. He thought that Cape Beale headland would make an ideal park. A freeze was placed on the area after Ches Lyons and Bob Ahrens were sent to investigate Bruce's suggestion and they agreed it should be a park.

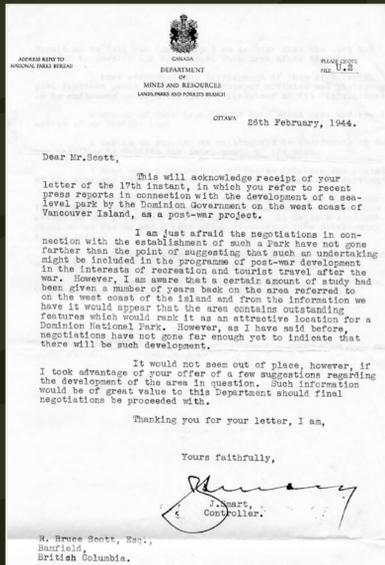
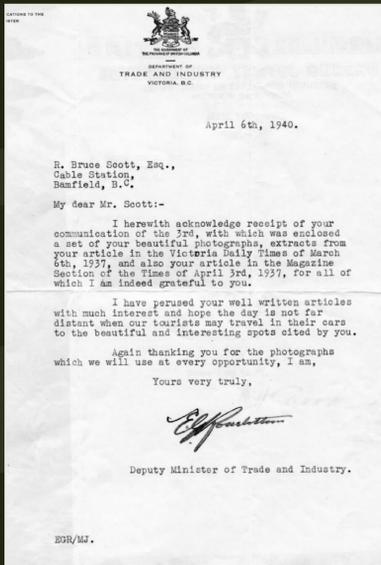
In 1967, he submitted a brief to the Hon. W. K. Kiernan and he also presented it to the Amalgamated Conservation Society, the Outdoor Club of Victoria, Fish and Game Club, the Victoria Natural History Society, the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Victoria, the Victoria Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Boy Scouts Association. In addition he wrote letters to all municipalities, asking them to endorse his brief to the government.' Margaret Williams, *Bruce Scott, The man and his dream* The Islander, date unknown.



Bruce Scott holding the certificate that Jean Chretien would eventually present to him on behalf of the Canadian people, in honour of his enormous contribution to the establishment of a west coast park.

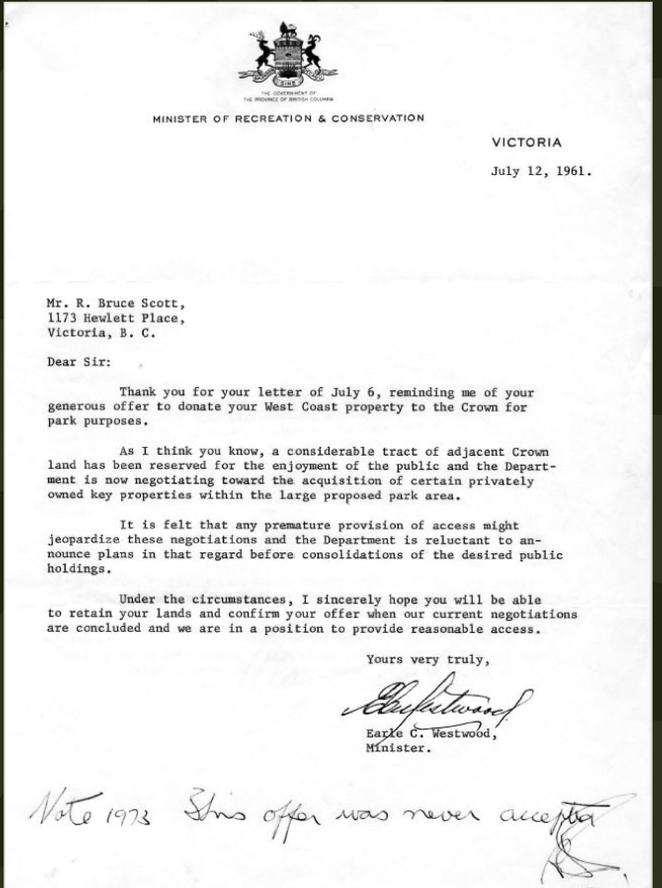


Scott promotional slide

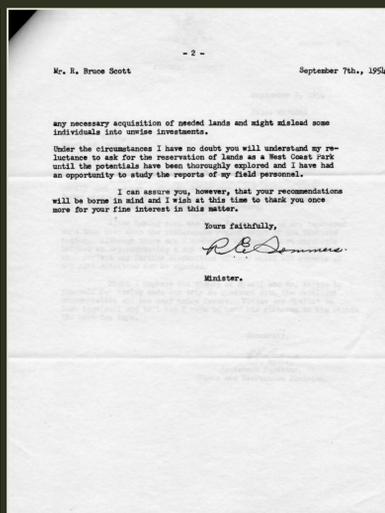


Two pieces of the earliest correspondence. He subsequently submitted a document to the Dept. of Mines and Resources outlining nine suggestions for development in the area, as requested in the letter on the above right.

In the 1940s Scott began writing to Federal and Provincial government officials and agencies about preserving lands on the west coast. His research materials at Pacific Rim National Park show decades of correspondence. "When I first went there in 1930, I found that the whole area, from Port Renfrew to Sarita River, 230 square miles had been preserved for a National Park and this was what prompted my writing those articles. Well towards the end...in 1939 or 1940 some land in that area was sold and I then found out that the Federal Government had abandoned the idea because the Provincial Government would not give up the mineral rights of the area. So, the Federal Government withdrew." White interview, 1973.



At some point prior to the above letter from the Provincial Minister of Recreation & Conservation, Scott had offered to donate lands to the Crown for his vision of a park. As Scott writes later at the bottom of the letter, his offer was never accepted.



Scott must have felt things were finally progressing with the province in the mid fifties (See documents above). Brian White interview, 1973:

"...but perhaps I should go back and tell you that the first one who was enthusiastic or at least at least interested in the park area was Bob Sommers, the Social Credit man who was later prosecuted. I had recommended this Cape Beale Headland as a small park area. I thought better to go for a small park area than a large one at that time. And he sent off two men, one of whom was Bob Ahrens and the other was Ches Lyons and they stayed with me and I acted as a guide and took them around, and they were very enthusiastic and agreed that it should be reserved as a park area and they recommended that this be done to Robert Sommers, and he agreed, and reservation was placed on it. It wasn't given park status but a land reservation was placed on it by Robert Sommers and I would like to give credit to him for being the first one to accept the idea."



Two of Scott's early promotional slides.

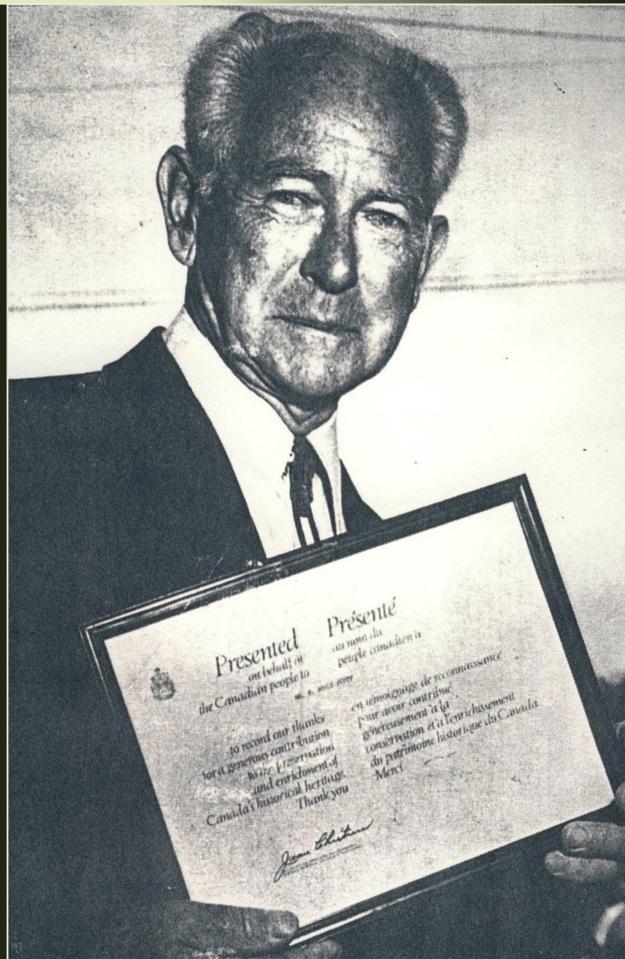


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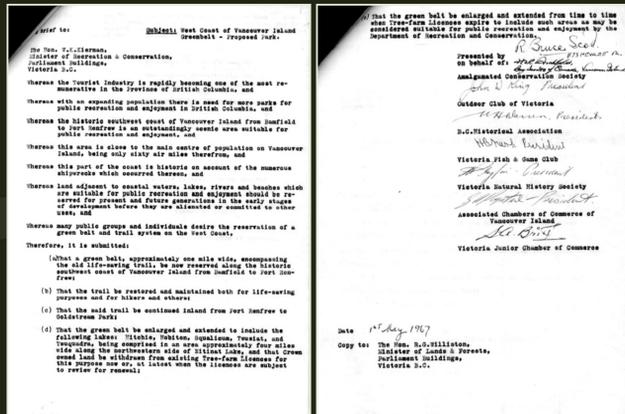
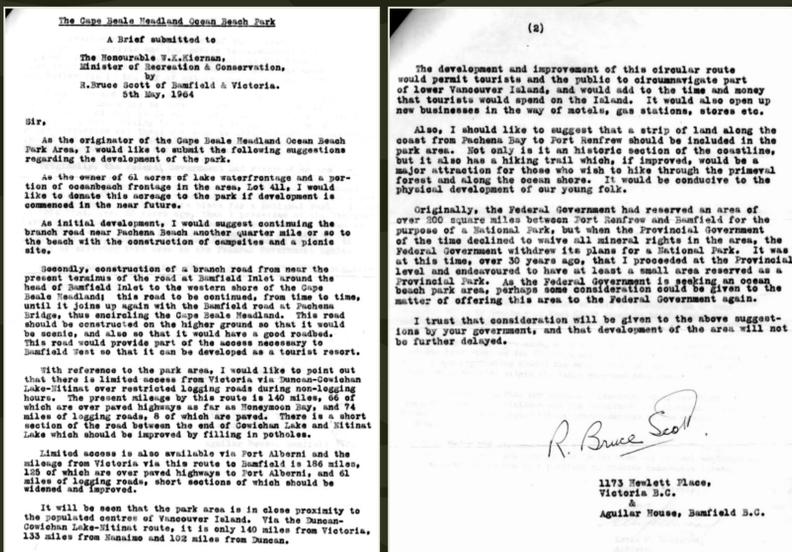
Advocate: The Long Journey to National Park Formation

It would still be a long time before Scott could claim the victory in his efforts. He continued to reach out for support:

- February 15 1962 - Alan Macfarlane, MLA
- May 8, 1963 - Arthur Laing, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources
- June 10, 1963 - Bob Ahrens, Provincial Department of Recreation and Conservation Parks Branch
- June 26 and July 30, 1963 - Earle C. Westwood, Provincial Minister of Recreation & Conservation.
- October 31, 1963 - P. A. Gaglardi, Provincial Minister of Highways
- May 5, 1964 - Scott outlines his vision for The Cape Beale Headland Ocean Beach Park. He reconfirms his offer of land.
- Between April 26, 1963 and February 18, 1966, Scott entered into correspondence with the Department of Recreation and Conservation, Parks Branch, the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation and Thomas S. Barnett, MP, in an attempt to secure lands at the old cable station for community use. In the end it was to no avail.



Bruce Scott holding the certificate that Jean Chretien would eventually present to him on behalf of the Canadian people, in honour of his contributions in seeing the establishment of a west coast park.



Various organizations show their support for the proposed green belt.



Boy Scouts came on board and supported the preservation of the lifesaving trail.

- January 21, 1967 - February 8, 1968 Scott writes to David Groos, M.P. concerning preservation of the old lifesaving trail. He then enlists the support of: The West Coast Fishermen's Union; the Pacific Trollers Association; the Victoria Outdoor Club; the Oak Bay Marina. This in turn generates responses from many government M.P.s, M.L.A.s and officials.
- At the same time, Scott is visiting various groups in the Pacific Northwest to show his slides and give talks about the Bamfield - Port Renfrew area.
- He is also writing to many groups to lobby for their support. The Associated Chambers of Commerce of Vancouver Island adopt the proposal "That a green belt, approximately a mile wide, encompassing the old life-saving trail, be preserved along the historic southwest coast of Vancouver Island from Bamfield to Port Renfrew; that the trail be restored and maintained both for life-saving purposes and for hikers and others; that the said trail be continued inland from Port Renfrew to Goldstream Park."



Bruce Scott photo



The Victoria Daily Times reported, on Tuesday, April 21, 1970, 'It will be "a red-letter day in the life of Bruce Scott of Victoria who has devoted the greater part of a lifetime to help promote this idea along with many other people who recognize the unique value of a West Coast park.'

Scott's extensive correspondence file continued to grow, showing support building with groups such as the Boy Scouts coming on board. As well, the directors of WCUMBO, the Corporation of the District of Oak Bay, the Regional District of the Capital of British Columbia, the Corporation of the District of Saanich, the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, the City of Victoria, the Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt, among others, were all approached by Scott and all supported the preservation of the lifesaving trail.

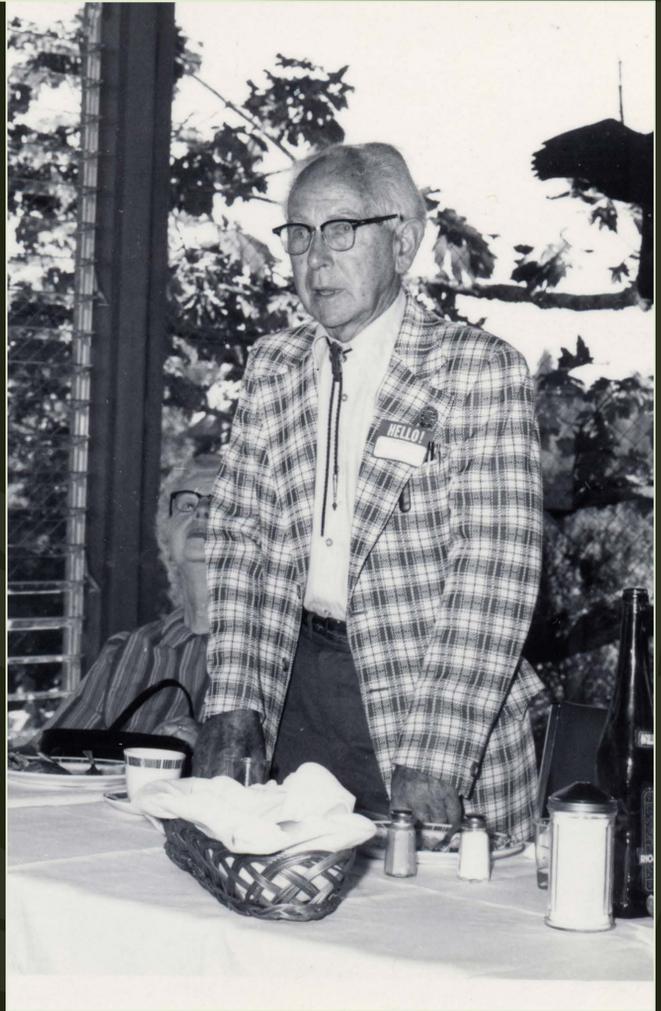
'Things came to a head when the Victoria Fish and Game Club was holding a luncheon in honor of Jean Chretien, the minister who had jurisdiction over parks. When he saw Bruce's slides he was very interested. "The government doesn't create national parks," he said. "It is people like you who create sufficient public interest in the government." He then got a helicopter, flew to Carmanah Point lighthouse and then walked part of the trail. When he returned to Ottawa he enthusiastically reported to the next cabinet meeting so that when Trudeau came to the coast he did the same thing and agreed that the region should be preserved.' Margaret Williams, *Bruce Scott The man and his dream.* The Islander. On April 21, 1970 the park was signed to existence by federal and provincial cabinet ministers in Victoria.

The Life and Legacy of R. Bruce Scott

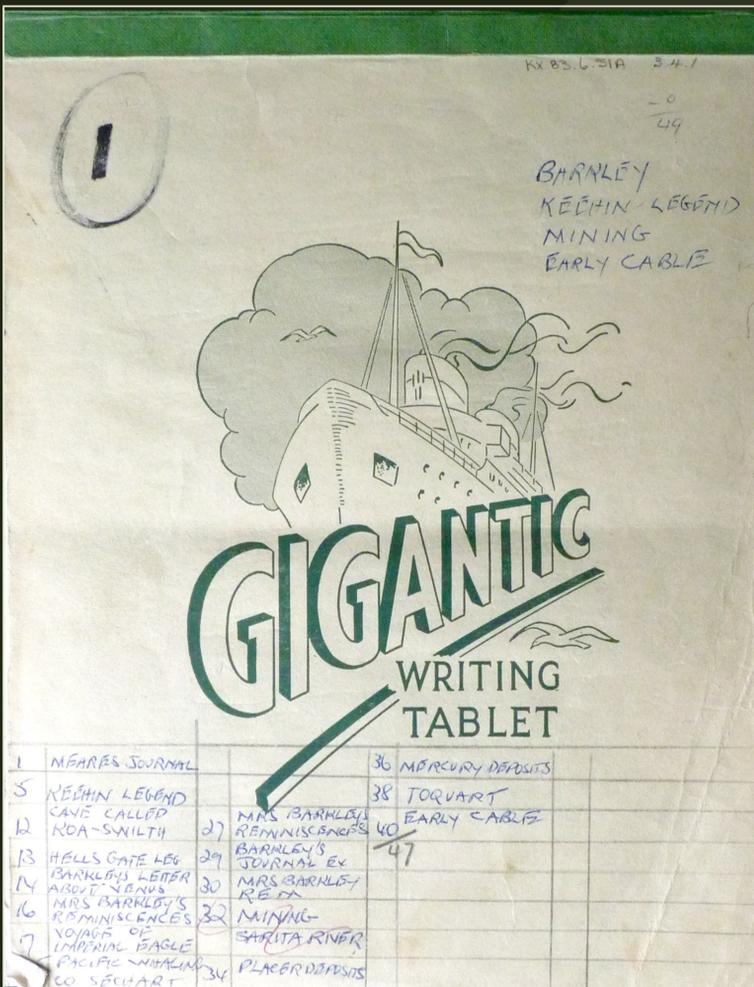
Journalist and Historian

When he took up permanent residence in Victoria after leaving Bamfield, Scott turned to research, then writing:

“Well, it was just my feeling of depression when I came to Victoria. I didn’t know what I had to do or how I could overcome it. But a little bird or a little voice told me that, ‘Keep looking for something which is interesting.’ It said, ‘You will know what it is because it will be interesting’. So I kept looking and trying various things. And eventually I gravitated towards the archives. And there I found what I’d been looking for in delving into the past...it was fascinating. I forgot this world and I was in another world in the past. And I wrote up the material by long hand and in five winters...I got enough information for three books. And it was then that I got the idea of illustrating the historic nature of the south west coast by writing books...I remember some executive of General Motors I think it was said that, ‘When you don’t know what you’re doing, you’re doing basic research’. Well that’s how I was, I didn’t know what I was doing, but I was gathering information. What I was going to do with it I didn’t know, but eventually, when you gain sufficient information, the information takes over and tells you what to do with it. And that’s what happened.” White interview, 1973.



Bruce Scott speaking at the cable veterans’ reunion July 24, 1977.



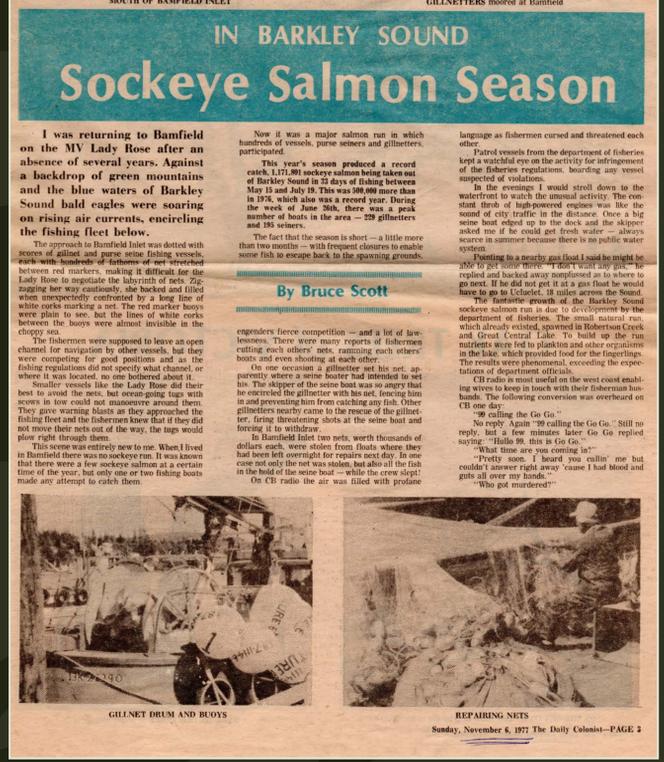
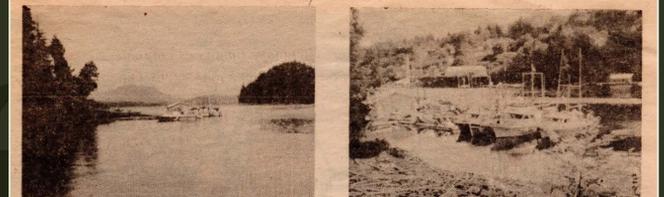
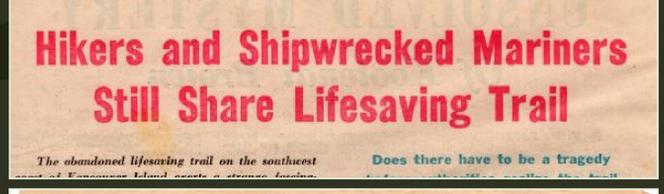
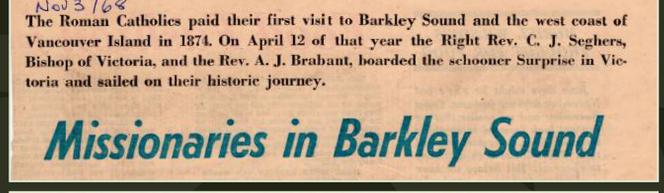
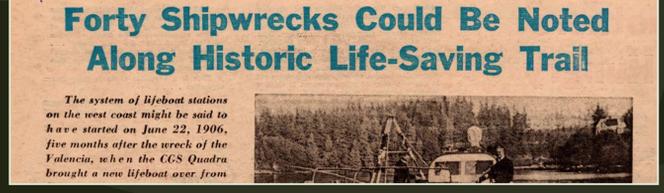
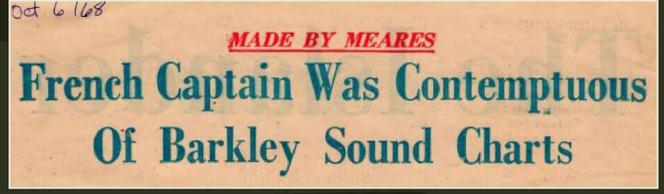
Scott filled 10 notebooks with his handwritten notes. He was a regular visitor to the archives in Victoria, his days consisting of long walks, research and writing.

Scott wrote numerous articles during the 1960s and the 1970s for *The Islander*, the *Sunday Magazine* in the *Victoria Daily Colonist*. These articles served to maintain interest in the Bamfield and its history. They also served to maintain interest in his advocacy of the preservation of the lifesaving trail and the development of a west coast park.

Bruce Scott collected and commissioned many artifacts during the 40 years he lived in Bamfield. He told June and Kirk Kerstetter in 1979, *“I remember the chief of the tribe lived there (Bamfield Inlet), and I wanted a pair of six foot Indian totem poles carved, illustrating the legends of Aguilar Point, so I went to see him and he was very pleased that I called upon him and said I’m very happy that you have come to see me in my own home. And he said that he would carve the totem poles, which he did.”* Scott’s smaller totem poles, baskets, canoe bailer, arrows and spears are on exhibit at the Alberni Valley Museum in Port Alberni. His extensive research materials, larger carvings and audio interviews are with Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, to whom we are extremely grateful for allowing us access to his archives.



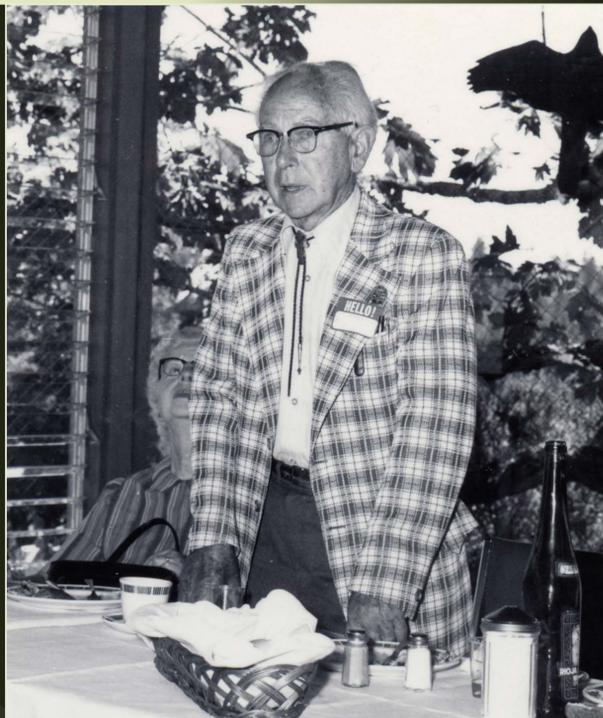
Photo on right: model of the totem pole that tells the legend of Aguilar Point. On exhibit at the Alberni Valley Museum. See page 260 of Bruce Scott’s book, *Barkley Sound, a history of the Pacific Rim National Park area*.



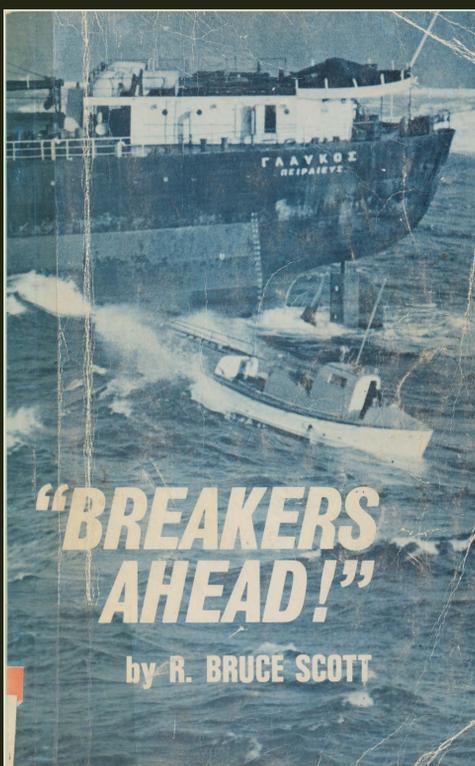
The Life and Legacy of R. Bruce Scott

Author

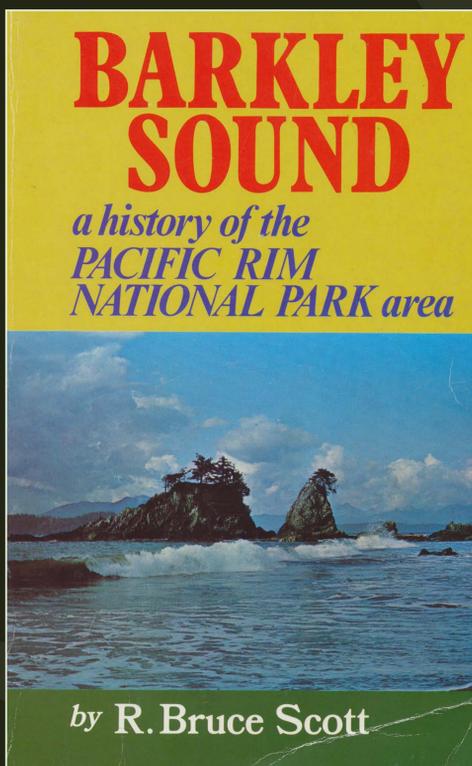
Scott's many articles inspired him to expand his material into five books: "I thought, well shipwrecks would be the first thing to write about because they are of interest to most people. So I found the idea of writing 'Breakers Ahead' which is a history of shipwrecks on the south west coast. And then the other material I put into the second book, 'Barkley Sound'. So, in the meantime I was traveling all over the island and the Gulf Islands and far as Vancouver upon invitation, showing my slides and giving talks on the west coast advocating the establishment of a park...I joined forces with the Boy Scouts movement, and I drew up a brief, which I worded myself and this was presented to the Provincial Government. And they accepted it and from there on, many other organizations...I had interviewed everybody and every organization in Vancouver including all the municipalities and asked their support about this brief which everyone did, it was like being in support of motherhood... so eventually it took over and a lot of other people...lent their support and that finally put it over." White interview, 1973



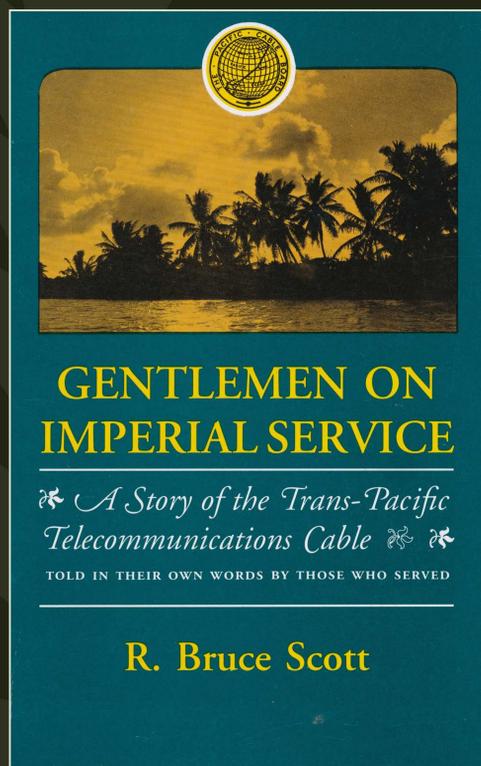
Bruce Scott speaking at the cable veterans' reunion July 24, 1977.



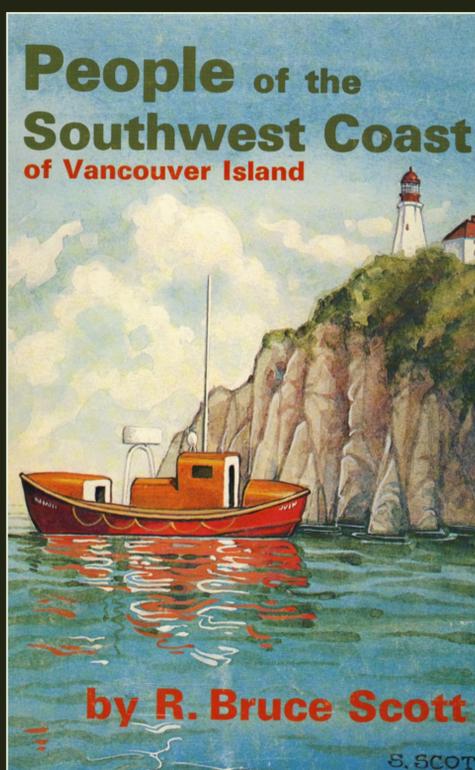
Breakers Ahead! was Scott's first book. He felt that shipwrecks were something that interested most people. Copyright 1970



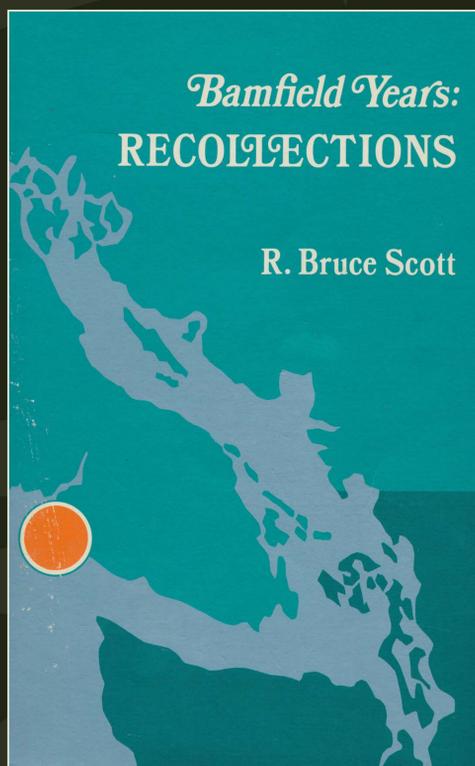
Barkley Sound was written to stimulate interest in, and appreciation for, Barkley Sound. Copyright 1972



Gentlemen on Imperial Service provides the history of the Trans-Pacific Telecommunications Cable. Copyright 1994



People of the Southwest Coast of Vancouver Island describes the "tenacious, independent people who survived this demanding but rewarding life." Copyright 1974.



Bamfield Years: Recollections "shows how a dedicated person can succeed in a chosen cause, no matter what the odds." – Scott from Bruce did his duty well, Paula Johanson, The Islander, Sunday March 13, 1994. Copyright 1986

When he died, Bruce Scott was working on a sixth book. "The upcoming book, like books three and four, explores the people and places of the coast of Vancouver Island, specifically the First Nation Village, near Bamfield called Clo-oose. *Broken Dreams* and *The Village That Died* are his working titles." Terry Moran, *Across the Pacific in 40 Years*, Bookworming column. Date unknown.

Wilderness jewel left for generations

Robert Bruce Scott, cable operator, author, environmentalist and lobbyist, died at his Oak Bay home Oct. 10 of liver cancer at age 91.

Everybody wants to leave a mark on the world to show they passed this way, but for some the mark dazzles.

The mark left by Bruce Scott is Pacific Rim National Park, often called a jewel on the Pacific.

It was due to Scott's single-minded determination that this magnificent wilderness has been preserved for generations to come.

The Australian-born Scott labored for 40 years with the Pacific Cable Board linking communications between Asia and North America.

His postings at stations across the Pacific eventually brought him to Barkley Sound and the Bamfield Station at age 25.

"From the moment I stepped ashore, I was fascinated by my new environment," he wrote in his 1986 book *Bamfield Years: Recollections*. It was one of six books he wrote, the sixth one unfinished at the time of his death.

By 1933, he was convinced this beautiful land must be preserved and he started a campaign in *The Victoria Times* to urge the provincial or federal government to act.

He bought his own parcel of land in the area and built a log cabin by himself.

Bamfield could be the Cape Cod of Canada, he declared.

His persistence got to a young Liberal cabinet minister Jean Chretien in the early 1970s. He got Chretien to take a helicopter flight over the Pacific Rim and

Chretien came down so enthusiastic he raced back to Ottawa and convinced his boss Pierre Trudeau to visit the area.

From that the park was established. Scott's work did not stop there. Along with his books of history of the coast and his own work experience, he and wife Pauline ran Aguilar House Resort and he collected native artifacts.

These were donated in 1984 to the Wickaninnish Centre in Ucluelet and is one of the most extensive collections in existence and has drawn more than one million visitors.

"I've known him since the early 70s," said Bill McIntyre, Outreach Co-ordinator at Pacific Rim Park.

"His has been a significant contribution.

"Bruce was committed to assuring the park would have a West Coast Trail component, so he took a slide show around to get support."

Daughter Susan Scott said it was not difficult living with a man obsessed with the park issue.

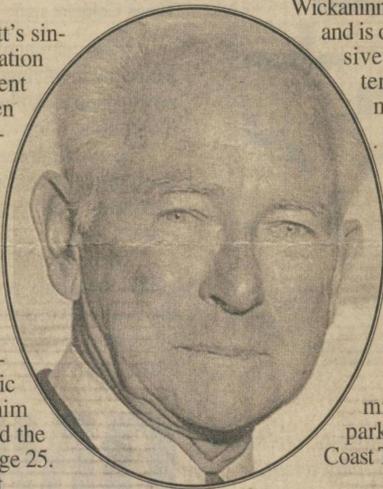
"We knew of it, but he never made it a difficult thing.

"I feel immensely impressed and happy for him to have made his dream come true.

"He never did get the credit for the founding of the park and that hurt him."

She said she may finish his sixth book. A memorial service for Scott was held in Victoria Saturday.

Passages runs every Sunday. If you know an ordinary person whose extraordinary life deserved recognition after their death, please call reporter Patrick Murphy at 380-5362.



Bruce Scott: His single-minded determination produced park

Robert Bruce Scott passed away on October 10, 1996 at his home in Victoria, B.C. He was predeceased by his wife, Pauline in 1992. His legacy lives on in innumerable ways.