



A NATIONAL FILM BOARD

h. Cumins - Pathe House Dept
Release

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, OTTAWA

Set-up and Camera:
Jack Long

Prod. No. 56-323-2
435' fine grain pos.

CABLE CODE: PICNIC
Cable Address: Newsreels
Canadafilm, Montreal

N.B.: The National Film Board has recently moved its operations from Ottawa to Montreal. You will be receiving a notice to this effect very soon. Meantime would you be good enough to cable at our Montreal office. Thanks.

LOGGERMEN TAKE BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY

LOG BIRLING - POLE RACES - SAWING AND CHOPPING - JOUSTING
AND CLIMBING CONTESTS IN LOGGERS PICNIC AT SOOKE

LOGGERS AND FAMILIES CONSUME 2,750 POUNDS OF BARBECUED SALMON

Sooke, Vancouver Island, B. C.,
August 00, 1956.

Thousands of loggers took a day off recently and attended a picnic at Sooke on Vancouver Island. Only it really wasn't a day off. The tools of their trade became their sports equipment as they battled it out for many championships. It was their 20th annual sports day and the husky loggers and their families consumed 2,750 pounds of barbecued spring salmon.

The contests under way, the loggers sawed their way through five foot logs with power, crosscut and chain saws to thrill the huge crowd of 11,000. A 60-inch log soon has a slice cut off in the log-bucking contest with a big crosscut saw powered by a Sooke logger.

The crowd thriller is always the log birling contest with the inevitable watery end for the loser. Jubiel Wickheim of Sooke defeated his brother Ardiel, 1955 champion, for the log birling championship. The speed of their footwork is as fast and accurate as any ballet dancer -- but what a dance floor -- a twirling log! The log poling race up the Sooke river isn't the speediest type of transportation -- each man on a rolling log with a pike pole for a paddle -- but it's often used by working loggers in the booming grounds. Everyone loves the jousting competition as two competitors with padded poles joust each other on the boom sticks. The winner is the one left out of the water.

In the centre field logs and timbers are set up for the contestants to work on with their saws and double bladed axes. The square timber chopping contest has large chips falling from the axe of winner Phil Wittaker.

The highlight of the day is the high riggers' contest. With their spikes and rope the riggers race up the pole, ring a bell hanging there, and hurry down ten feet at a time. The spar tree is 85 feet high and the spectacular climb was won by Jimmy Dunlap of Powers, Oregon, U.S.A. He made a return trip in 37.2 seconds. Dunlap is world champion in this event.

Men of the tall timber on Vancouver Island take a busman's holiday and enjoy the thrills and spills of their working world.