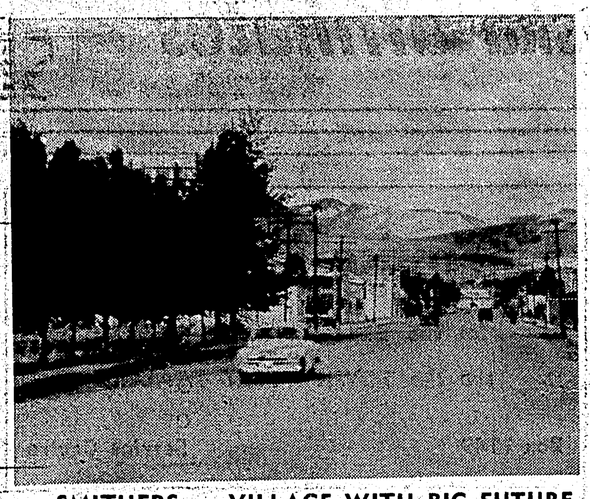
1ST INCORPORATED B.C. VILLAGE HAS BIG FUTURE

SMITHERS — Vacationer's paradise located in rich Bulkley Valley



. . . SMITHERS . . . VILLAGE WITH BIG FUTURE

As north central British Columbia has entered a phase of growth and improvement during the past ten years so has the Village of Smithers.

The first village to be incorporated in British Columbia, in the year 1922, today it is a modern community with an optimistic outlook for the future.

With only three years remaining to celebrate its golden anniversary, Smithers records a most interesting history.

First construction started in 1913 when contracts were let for the clearing of the heavily forested site, closely timed with the arrival of steel and the first train from Prince Rupert on the west coast.

However the boom-bubble soon burst when the Titanic sank and with it Sir Charles Hays and his dream for Prince Rupert and the new railway.

Closely following the catastrophe was the declaration of war in 1914 and sporadic mining operations, some lumbering and tie-hacking kept Smithers going, along with its being a railway divisional point.

LITTLE AGRICULTURE

The great potential of the rich Bulkley Valley was yet to be recognized and only a little agriculture was undertaken.

The Second World War had its effect. With it came the construction of the Department of Transport airport near Lake Kathlyn, popular summer spot 3½ miles to the northwest; the demand for base metals stirred up a short-lived flurry in mining; lumbering began to assume more importance in the economy of the entire district and the developments of Prince Rupert and Kitimat brought increased railway services and business.

Smithers did not boom, but it did begin to grow as veterans acquired land on the wooded "hill" to open a new section of the townsite, and, as new businesses were started, the district agriculture began to expand.

Today it has an estimated population of 2,800 but with the impending impetus of tremendous development throughout the district, the population is expected to also increase.

MODERN UTILITIE S

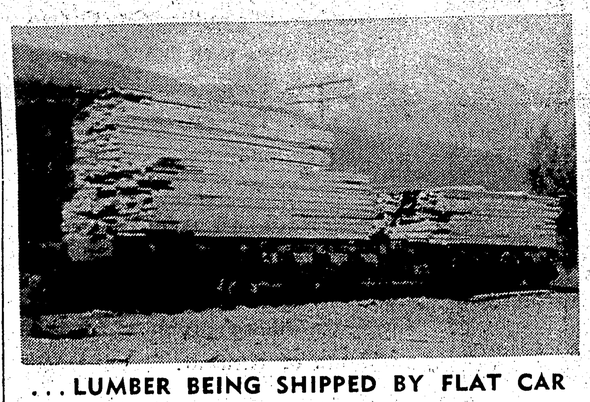
The installation of a modern sewerage disposal system in 1957 and increased water storage indicates growing progress for a growing population, and Smithers was the first British Columbia municipality to fluoridate its drinking water supply. It has doctors, dentist, provincial health nurse, municipal health centre, ambulance, drug store, lawyer, accounants, insurance, real estate and notaries public.

An up-to-date 84-bed hospital services the community along with Catholic and junior-senior high schools and churches of many denominations.

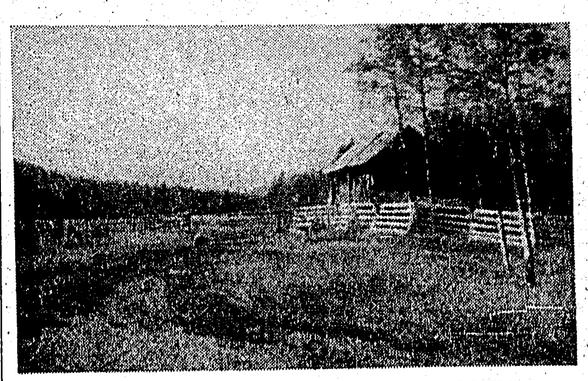
Of the many services are hotels, motels, cafes, restaurants, garages, movie theatres, modern shops and stores.

Utilities are supplied by B.C. Hydro, B.C. Telephone, CN Telegraph, provincial and federal government offices, post office, and the RCMP detachment. The Village has banks, a weekly newspaper, city paper and magazine agencies, the municipal office, volunteer fire department and public library.

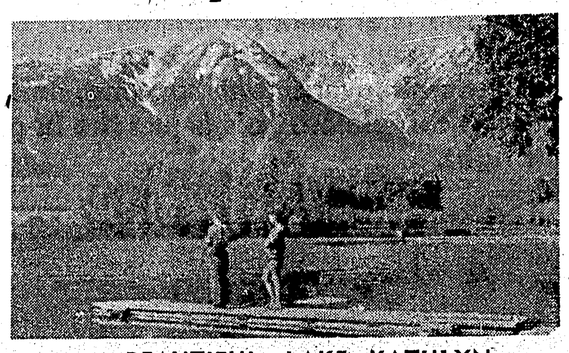
Once just a whistle stop on the Canadian National Railway line today Smithers is in the centre of a thriving community, developed into a distributing ecntre for the lumber mills, mines, farms and other neighboring villages .



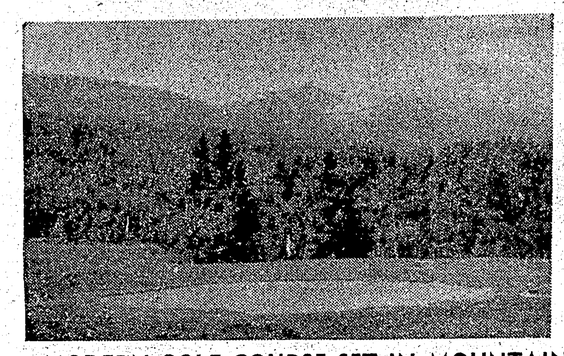
. . . LUMBER BEING SHIPPED BY FLAT CAR



. . . FARM LANDS IN RICH VALLEY



. . . BEAUTIFUL LAKE KATHLYN



. . . MODERN GOLF COURSE SET IN MOUNTAINS

Lakes, golf course provide summer fun

A vacationer's paradise is situated around the growing Village of Smithers.

Surrounded by lakes and magnificent scenery in the beautiful Bulkley Valley, the eventual completion of the Northern Trans-Provincial Highway No. 16 could make Smithers and Bulkley Valley the recreational playground of sportsmen and holiday makers.

The beautiful Lake Kathlyn is a popular summer home and recreation spot, where children and adults alike take advantage of the boating, fishing and water-skiing facilities.

MODERN GOLF COURSE

A modern golf course affords local and visiting golfers relaxing play in the most scenic of settings.

Summer and winter sports provide interesting and healthful activity for tourists, casual visitors and residents alike.

Accommodations and services will continue to improve as the desire for healthful activity surrounding the countryside increases with the influx of tourists and motorists.

Twin Falls, five minutes from Lake Kathlyn, which drains the Hudson Bay Glacier and a well marked trail carries on right up the rugged glacier at a point from which an outstanding view of the Bulkley Valley may be obtained.

Eleven miles east of Smithers where the Bulkley Valley runs parallel to the main street of Telkwa Village, is found some of the greatest steelhead fishing in the world. And 33 miles farther east lies another world-famous fishing spot, the Morice River, near the newly-incorporated village of Houston.

A drive-in theatre operates nightly just a few miles from town and on the opposite side, just one mile from Telkwa is a camping unit, developed by the B.C. Forest Service and situated on the beautiful McClure Lake, which is framed by sprawling farm lands and snow-capped mountain-tops.

Among the activities offered in the district during the summer time are baseball, golfing, soccer, horseback riding, trail rides, hiking, mountain - climbing, picnicking, camping, swimming, boating, fishing, hunting and water skiing.

SPORTS, CLUBS

Winter time sports include tobogganing, skating, figure-skating, hockey, curling, badminton, billiards and bowling.

Smithers also has a large number of service clubs and cultural groups to round out an active social life.

The increasing number of motorists has caused many oil companies to build new gas stations in and around Smithers and the immediate district also boasts four-star hotels and motels.

It is a community with a future and its future could be you.

. . . SAWMILL INDUSTRY PROVIDED BY RICH TIMBER LANDS IN DISTRICT
—Photos by Cliff Cunningham.

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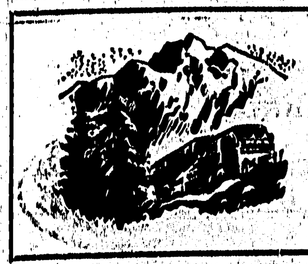

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