



## Mountain Timber

The Comox Logging Company  
in the Vancouver Island Mountains

By Richard Somerset Mackie

SonoNis Press. 2009

320 pp, 350+ b/w photos & maps

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**THIS PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED SEQUEL TO THE AUTHOR'S EARLIER** book, *Island Timber*, tells the story of the Comox Logging Company through the first half of the last century. Three threads are intimately interwoven: developments in timber harvesting as logging moved from easily-accessible valley bottom lands to smaller timber on more challenging adjacent slopes; the lives of loggers and their families; and, a lesser topic, the inner workings of the company.

A long introduction is, in effect, a précis of the book with amplification in subsequent chapters fleshed out by instructive and entertaining side bars which recount personal reminiscences and events, including the 1939-45 war years. This results, perhaps inevitably, in some repetition, and the occasional lists of names will be of real interest only to readers with a personal stake in this region of Vancouver Island.

The several diagrams and maps are clear and informative although some maps lack a direction arrow. Someone ought to have told the author or editor that Douglas-fir should be hyphenated.

Nevertheless, this very readable account is a valuable addition to the literature on BC's forest industry, its history and changing logging technology through the years 1910 to 1950. I look forward to the third volume of the promised trilogy.

*Reviewed by Roy Strang, RPF (Ret)*

RANKING: 4.5 OUT OF 5 CONES



### OLD & NEW article references from Page 19

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