

Ralph A. Edwards of Lonesome Lake

C. E. Estlin

In this unprecedented era of natural resource use, it is a rare pleasure to find a person who has little disturbed his chosen wilderness environment in spite of an industrious and fruitful lifetime.

Lonesome Lake, east of Bella Coola, was appropriately named by a young man who interrupted homesteading there to serve his country in World War I. Meet Ralph A. Edwards.

Lying deep in the Coast Range, Lonesome Lake is reached by hiking up the steep-banked Atnarko River, then by boat past cliffs and jagged rock slides to the top end of the lake where Mr. Edwards located his home. As he says: "I chose Lonesome Lake because it is hard to get in and out, yet there are natural advantages—an earlier growing season, slightly warmer winters, lots of water, timber, fish, game and scenic grandeur. It is good enough for the trumpeter swans to winter here, so I reasoned it should be a good home for me."

And it was—but only because of his unlimited energy, ingenuity, deep love and instinctive understanding of the important role each plant, insect and animal plays in the natural community.

Meet Ralph Edwards, left. Right, tattered wind-sock high on hanger roof.

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