

1955 'HAYES' HD

This truck was built by the "Hayes" Manufacturing Company of Vancouver for the Nanaimo River Logging Operations of the "Macmillan-Bloedel" Company.

A unique feature of the truck was that it was powered by a "Rolls-Royce" engine.

H.R. Macmillan sold a lot of lumber to the United Kingdom after the Second World War. Due to the immense cost of the war effort and the cost of reconstruction of bombed-out houses and other buildings, the British were short of foreign exchange to pay for the lumber imports so "H.R." arranged to be paid in British manufactured goods.

This was why, in the early to mid-1950's in the B.C. coastal forests, there were "Austin" and "Commer" trucks and 'crummies', "Vickers" caterpillars and 'arches'....and "Rolls-Royce" engines in "Hayes" logging trucks.

Although Rolls-Royce built superb engines, they did not work out too well here. One problem was that the engines were not designed to dissipate heat fast enough on the steep grades. Local mechanics came up with solutions but, the "Rolls-Royce" engineers were not too good at listening.

At the end of its working life, the truck was donated to the Industrial Collection of the Alberni Valley Museum. It is under restoration by the Industrial Heritage Society.

From the Industrial Collection of the Alberni Valley Museum

The Alberni Valley Museum conserves, strengthens and shares the unique heritage of the Alberni Valley.

The Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society preserves local heritage through an active volunteer program of restoring, operating and displaying heritage equipment.