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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY **PEST REPORT**

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

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PINE BUTTERFLY IN THE OKANAGAN, 1972

C. B. Cottrell

On July 25, a spectacular flight of the pine butterfly, Neophasia menapia was observed on the west side of Okanagan Lake from Peachland to Summerland. Hundreds of adults fluttered around the crowns of individual mature ponderosa pine trees, an indication that an epidemic is underway.

Egg-laying takes place late in July and early August, and the insects overwinter in this stage. Hatching follows late in May or early in June. The green, white-striped caterpillars feed voraciously on the needles of ponderosa pine - the preferred host in interior British Columbia.

Large populations of the pine butterfly were recorded in the Okanagan from 1962 to 1964 but no extensive damage occurred. It is possible that severe defoliation of ponderosa pine trees by the caterpillars in 1973 may occur in some of the Okanagan localities where the pine butterflies were numerous in July, 1972.