

## **MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – SECOND EDITION – February 23, 2003**

by Sherron Jones

The Moccasin Telegraph is starting to take on a life of its own.

I have discussed with Donna Clayson (Storing) and she has agreed to take on the task of collecting, from you, and setting up stories for a new section to start this week in this publication. She has a knack for telling stories herself and has forwarded one to start with this week.

I had hoped she would prepare one on the Sternwheelers the Casca & Whitehorse that burned in 1974. She and Henry Braden have some first hand knowledge about the boats and I would dearly love their stories be shared. So that will be one for the future.

I have also been thinking that this is a great place for people to Announce Reunions, Yukoner Luncheons, Births, Deaths and Marriages, etc. So please submit your input on those subjects to me at [sherronjones@shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca)

Based on the growth of the list in just a little over two weeks, it looks like I will be at this information sharing for awhile. So please send in your comments, stories and announcements. - **Sherron**

So for the first Story -

### MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH - STORY #1 by Donna Clayson (Storing)

As the list was growing I was swapping stories with Sherron Jones and Henry Breaden. My fingers couldn't fly fast enough as the memories exploded onto my computer screen. Names of people some of us had forgotten, stories that we only had bits and pieces of were coming together as we joined forces.

It sounds like a fun project to put the stories together and share them with the group. Anyone interested in joining in the story telling may e-mail me at [ytdogteam@telus.net](mailto:ytdogteam@telus.net). Any stories in by Thursday should make the following Sunday "Moccasin Telegraph". To get you all started I've written one of my 'memories' below:

#### **EYE-TO-EYE WITH A GRIZZLY**

My family and I were on our gold claim at 40-mile, up past Dawson City in the mid 1960's. My dad and Walter Huebschewlen were out scouting for moose trails. Walter's wife Marion, my mother Al and myself stayed in camp. I decided to explore our surroundings so grabbed my 30-06, and followed the creek. I was probably about a mile from camp when I smelled something foul. I stuck my finger in my mouth to moisten it and exposed it to the air to determine which way the wind was blowing. Sure enough, I was heading toward a bear, probably a grizzly, as they were known to frequent the area. I felt it in my best interest to head back to camp. I was relaxing in the tent when, Lady, the dog started barking. She was due to give birth and mom told me to go out and see if she needed help. I was excited about having some new husky pups around and rushed out of the tent. Lady was tied behind the tent and as I turned the corner I ran full smack

into a full grown grizzly (probably the one I had smelled earlier on my walk). We were face to face and stretched out my arms to keep from falling. Both my hands landed on his shoulders. He stared at me, I stared at him and mom and Marion watched from inside the tent through the window. His eyes were like the old dolls' eyes, remember how they were? They had a center core with lines running out to the edges. His eyes were deep yellow and he smelled terrible! With my hands on his shoulders I pushed myself back and ran up the tailing pile beside the tent. The rocks were piled about 20 feet high and normally hard to climb. I made it to the top in no time. Mom said when I ran up the pile the bear turned around and ran as fast as it could in the opposite direction. I scared him more than he scared me!

*Poor Donna I told her to go relax, her story was in and then this message came back.*



Looking forward to hearing from you all.

Your Editor, Donna Clayson (nee Storing)

*Sounds like she is back in Yukon, we are basking in sunny, warm, no snow, green grass, plus 3 degrees in Vernon. - Sherron*

Okay, I would like to relax. Can't. We're on an acreage 25 minutes east of Edmonton. Of course we have a well and our own septic system. It's also been -33 the last few nights. We've been hearing some huge cracking sounds and I think the last sound did us in. Ten minutes ago I went downstairs and we have sewer coming into the basement. We think the sewer line cracked, which was probably one of those sounds we heard. We can't do anything about repairs until spring so we'll have to curtail our use of water going into the tank until then. Oh well, as long as I can wash my hair. Now I'm busy cleaning up the mess. Yuck. - Donna

**More Interesting Tidbits (I have asked first if these comments can be posted here)**

You can add a couple more to your list.

My father, **Jack Stalberg**, arrived in Whitehorse in 1951 and in Snag soon after. Then back to Whitehorse, then Beaver Creek, where he worked on the US Army pipeline. Dad also cleared the land and built the airport at Beaver Creek, so that he could enjoy his hobby of flying. The airport was dedicated to him a couple of years ago. He recently moved Outside, to live with me. He's soon to be 79 years old.

I'm **Sue Thomas (nee Stalberg)**. Born in Whitehorse in 1958. Moved to Beaver Creek in 1961, where I attended school until moving Outside in the early '70s. Presently living in Shawnigan Lake, BC. I have many fond memories of visiting Whitehorse as a kid, where the roads were paved and there was TV! Plus the Dairy Queen for ice cream and Mac's for comic books! All magical things to a little girl from Mile 1202!

My Mom, **Betty Stalberg**, was once chief electoral officer and also involved with census taking in the northern Yukon. An article about her census taking exploits (how do you knock on a tent?) appeared in the Vancouver Province

newspaper. She also wrote about events at Beaver Creek for the Whitehorse Star. Mom died in 1974.

It's hard to get Dad going with his stories. He had a stroke a few years ago so can't type himself and he has a great distrust of the computer. I keep trying but it'd be easier to wrestle a bear! I'll bring it up again though.

I got a fresh perspective a number of years ago when I took my husband on his first trip up the Highway (camping with a tent).

We've since driven to Inuvik for the longest day (which amazed him!), Beaver Creek for the shortest day (actually two winter trips [1998 and 2001] in the RV ... ever try -40 in a motorhome?), Dawson City three times, Anchorage and Valdez both once, Fairbanks twice, Haines and Skagway once.

AND spent two weeks rafting the Alsek River in August 2000.

Also spent a glorious day dogsledding with a wonderful couple near Braeburn on our first winter trip ... poor dogs with the novice mushers! Winter is a wonderful time to drive the highway ... not a lot of traffic and businesses are so damn happy to see you, even if they do think you are crazy!

Plus we've hiked to the top of Sheep Mountain in Kluane Park and shared breakfast with a grizzly on the lake's shore! We had a close up of that fellow as he ambled along about 20 ft from us!

So lots of stories! – **Sue Thomas (Stalberg)**

Hi Sherron,

Many thanks for the work that you are putting into this email list and information sharing. I would like to let everyone know that **Kerry Lyle** is arranging a reunion for the **F. H. Collins graduation class of 1975**. The reunion will be the **30th [in 2005]** and will take place in Whitehorse. If anyone knows of a 1975 grad that is not on this list, they are encouraged to contact **Kerry Lyle** at [klyle@yt.sympatico.ca](mailto:klyle@yt.sympatico.ca) .

Thanks,

**Doug Gairns**

Grad '75

### **Coincidences ! ?**

It is often said there are no coincidences. I marvel at that statement, because they keep happening to me. For that reason I read a book recently called "God Winks". It calls these events I call coincidences – God Winks. Well I got 'Winked' at big time last night. I had just received a mail from **Carol Kowal (nee SQUIRECHUK)** and it was a photo of the sternwheeler **Tutshi in Carcross**. I noticed in the forward data that it had come from **Elwood Lyle**. Thinking I would like to make it available to the group, I wrote Carol back and asked if she would consult Elwood and see if he would agree to share the photo, and ask if he would like to join the group. Carol replied, here is his address you

can write to him, he is just down the road from you in Kelowna. As I sat composing a letter to Elwood the bell went off to tell me there was another e-mail in my inbox. It was the one above from **Doug Gairns**. I thought my ... what a coincidence, here I am writing to Elwood and Doug tells me of his son Kerry Lyle's address.... neither of whom I had thought of in the last 20 years. So I wrote to Kerry to tell him of the coincidence and he too was startled at the coincidence as his dad Elwood was standing beside him in Whitehorse.

So when they say everything happens for a reason and there are no coincidences, I guess that this is an example. I was not going to reach Elwood in Kelowna, as he was in Whitehorse at his son Kerry's.

Watch out for 'God Winks', they're everywhere. – **Sherron Jones**

### **Correction**

My mistake, Mr.Gray's name is Gerald and his wife's name is Darlene.

- **Linda Simenac** (if anyone knew Gerald & Darlene Gray in Yukon they are now neighbours of Larry & Linda Simenac who are on the list and in Breton, Alberta – Gerald ran the Esso Station on Centennial St in Porter Creek)

### **The Campbells**

What a good memory your hubby has. Bob did work for Taylor Chev for many years, until they closed down and then he worked at YTG for a while before we left the north. I worked for Anton, Campion, law firm. We have kept in close contact with the Lengs over the years and visit back and forth on a regular basis.

Bob now works here in Kelowna for Vitale Air and I am at the Kelowna Fire Dept. We have been here almost as long as we were in the north, but Yukon always feels more like home than does the valley.

The Main Firehall is where I work. It is the one on Enterprise Way, behind Whitespot. If you are on your way by and have a minute, please drop in. I work Mon. - Fri. 8.am. - 4:p.m. and am off for lunch between 12:00 and 1:00.

### **Rose & View Photos**

I have posted a group of photos of my View and Roses here in Vernon. Check them out at:

<http://community.webshots.com/album/63903312yPuOXe> - **Sherron Jones**

### **Yukon Photos**

I have just uploaded a few Yukon photos, including the Tutshi, Shipyard area, Northern Lights, and an aerial photo of Whitehorse. All forwarded photos. (I hope you will forward more & I will add them to the site.)

<http://community.webshots.com/album/64324928lCnfWH> -**Sherron Jones**

**My personal top find of the week:** (Jan and I spent some lunch hours together at the Travelodge when we worked together at Whse City Hall. In retrospect I think many of them could have been classed as special meetings.) – **Sherron**

Hi Sherron,

I've often thought of you and wondered how life was for you and Bill in Vernon, then up comes this e-mail from Fran Hakonson and I'm thinking how great it is someone is taking the trouble to put the list together and then that someone is you!!

So here I am in Vancouver where I've been since 1991. If you want to add me to the list I was in Whitehorse 1972, Dawson City 1973-1977 and 1979-81, then Whitehorse again 1981-1986. my email is [janmcc@telus.net](mailto:janmcc@telus.net), phone 604-739-7387.

How to catch up on 20 years in one e-mail - it's beyond me. Suffice to say I am well, happy, have been through a lot and life just keeps on giving me new and interesting twists and turns to explore.

love to you both  
**Jan McConachy**

**Something to think about:**

What year was the new Robert Campbell Bridge built? The ice had dislocated the old bridge and traffic was rerouted over the dam. Single lane with a traffic light! Remember? Then came a Bailey bridge and then came the new bridge. About 1974?

**Rewritten comments:** (removed from first Edition- Feb 22/03)

"I have always considered myself to be a "True-Yukoner", never an "Ex-Yukoner". The roots of our family are very firmly planted in the North. My grandfather, Joseph Lelievre, made his trek over the Chilkoot Trail, tho never found his fortune in gold. Grandparents, Frank and Marie Burkhard had 9 children born and raised in Dawson and he owned the bakery at the south end of town, which was featured in many magazines. As an interesting note, Marie's sister and 2 children perished in the sinking of the "Sophia" and a commemorative plaque has been erected in Dawson, which was unveiled by Sylvia Burkhard. Frank Burkhard was also instrumental in saving the old AC hall as we called it - today is Gertie's. Was told it was to be demolished, until he collected funds from the people in Dawson to save the building" -**Vivian Stuart (Lelievre)**

**E-mail Shrinks the World – with a Yukon tidbit.**

I mentioned this project to a friend in Melbourne, Australia this week. After asking if I had lived in the Yukon she mentioned that when she had lived in Vancouver 1977-80 she had worked for Montreal Engineering and that they dealt with projects in Yukon and Mayo. Realizing that Henry Breaden, while at NCPD might have known of the Company, I asked him. He said he knew it well and had met the fellow, which he used to deal with, on the ferry one day. I told my friend all this and said that Henry may be able to find him again on 'Canada 411'. Henry did find him, in Chemanius, and phoned him and voila, he has e-mail. Henry has put them in touch and we are now waiting to hear further from Anne who was his personal assistant all those year ago. – **Sherron Jones**

**PS-** Anne has now sent a mail to Doug Duguid in Chemanius. She is planning a trip to Canada next winter and will like make a visit part of her trip. I have invited her to our home for skiing at Silver Star Mountain.

**I first met this lady from Australia**, Anne, last June when she e-mailed to ask if I could help her find her grandmother's youngest brother Lawrence EXTON, who had worked for the railway (CPR) in Canada. He had been here and sponsored her to come to Canada in 1977. I research the EXTONS of the world and had not heard of a single Lawrence EXTON nor any EXTON who ever worked for the railway in Canada.

About six weeks later my cousin Bob EXTON came to Vernon from Vancouver Island, with some friends to race their Old-timer vehicles at the new track. This was their third year here. Since they had a week to spare between this race and one in Penticton they decided to park their racecars and take a circle trip around through Nakusp, up to Revelstoke and back via Sicamous and Salmon Arm. While they were in the Nakusp area they travelled to Kaslo and toured the sternwheeler SS Moyie, now a Museum. They came back to Vernon with digital photos and a book they had purchased about the Moyie. The photos showed a crew of the Moyie, which included Lawrence EXTON. The book said the Canadian Pacific Railway operated the Moyie. So thanks to e-mail I was able to quickly confirm the digital photos were of Anne's granduncle. – **Another 'God Wink' – Sherron**

#### **More New Additions to the List:**

Hi Sherron,

I am **Karen Heiberg**, formerly **Karen Boylan**. Please put me on the list! I live in Vernon also, and am a friend of Mike and Shirley Leng. I wish I could say I'm retired, but I work full time as an employment counsellor at Connections Youth Employment Centre. Oh well, all in good time. My youngest daughter **Anna Heiberg** lives with me on our farm on East Vernon Road, out of which she runs her horse business, Equine Innovations. Eldest daughter **Erin Gionet** is married, living in Calgary, and working at the University of Calgary. Middle daughter **Sarah Dubarry** is married, and she and her husband have just moved to Montreal after 6 years in Europe. I will pass this message on to them, as well as to **Terry Boylan** and **Jan Harvey**. It will be interesting to see who all gets reconnected! Thanks for doing this Sherron. - **Karen Heiberg**

Dear Sherron,

**Erik Nielsen**

Arrived in Whitehorse February 1952

Permanent Address in Yukon; MSPO P.O. Box 31024, Whitehorse, Y1A 5P7

Winter Headquarters Address -- 873 Westview Way, Kelowna, B.C. V1Z 3Z3

Congratulations on your sterling idea of compiling this list! Good health to you and yours. - **Erik Nielsen**

By all means use my name and location on your list howsoever it may please you to do so. I remember **Bruni** and **Klaus** quite well and, of course, **Bill Wray**. - **Erik Nielsen**

As for where I fit into this Yukoners' pattern, I went to high school in Whitehorse in 1944/45. I also worked the boats for BYN. 1945 I shipped out on the AKSALA, which was leased by Barrington Nav.Co. from Wrangell AK. We hauled freight between Nenana and Galena in Alaska. Fred Young was the Chief Engineer. He asked me if I would be interested in coming back up in 46 to work for BYN, and I said yes. I returned in 46 to work on the Whitehorse all summer, with the exception of the last couple of trips, which I spent on the Keno on the Mayo run. 47 & 48 I also worked on the Whitehorse as Fireman and Deckhand. 1949 I went to Dawson to outfit the Aksala, and get an early start up the Stuart to Mayo. I was Deck boy that year. Didn't finish the season, left in July. Moved to Fairbanks for 50 & 51, drove out in the fall, then joined the Air force in 52. I never got back until I flew my own airplane up there in 92 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Hwy. Found out about the Vancouver Yukoners' in the 80's and joined up. Moved up here to Oliver in 1990, but didn't find out about the Okanagan

Yukoners until about five years later. Took over the newsletter in 96, and was elected as Secretary in 97. Last year I was the President of the ISR (International Sourdough Reunion).

**Colin Yeulet**, and his wife **Joanne**, live in Rossland. We usually see each other twice a year. At the picnic in Summerland and at our AGM in Kelowna.

I hope this fills in some of the "holes". I have opened a folder for the Moccasin Telegraph, and look forward to putting many more into it. I will take your advice, and contact the people on my list before I send it in. - **Larry Chalmers**