

## **MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – Third Edition – March 2, 2003**

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If anyone is having difficulty reading this type or font size, follow these instructions to make it a lot easier for you.

***To increase the size of the font, to this size, follow these instructions.***

### **Helpful Hint:**

**(Works if you are using Outlook Express for your e-mail.)**

**If you wish to print this page 1; follow these instructions.**

**To print only page one go to 'file' to 'print'. On the drop down box change from 'All' to 'Pages' by clicking on the button next to 'Pages'; and type in '1 - 1' then click ok.)**

### **To change font size:**

- 1) Highlight the line in your inbox, which identifies this message.**
- 2) Click 'Forward' on the top task bar. (You are only pretending to forward this message so that you have it in a creative mode and can modify it.)**
- 3) Click in the message area here on this message so that your cursor is flashing here. XX**
- 4) Right click on your mouse and within the drop down box that comes up choose 'select all'.**
- 5) Click on the 'drop down arrow' beside the 'font size number' in the header immediately above this message box and choose a number of a higher value, ie. 14 and if necessary do the same thing again with the 'font name' which lives right beside the value. Change it to a font you find easier to read. ie Arial**
- 6) If you now wish to print this now that it is modified like this, address it and send it to yourself.**

Can someone tell us who **Mr. & Mrs. Yukon** is this year? – **Sherron Jones**

### **Looking for someone?**

Send in your request to add here - for anyone knowing the whereabouts of your old friend.

### **Announcements:**

Add your notice of Reunions, Luncheons, Births, Deaths and Marriages here.

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## MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – STORY #2

by Donna Clayson (Storing) – Story Editor

I've been pondering over the last week about what to write in this issue. Stories of the days of the sternwheeler kept creeping into my mind and after Sherron Jones mentioned a dozen or so times that this would be a very interesting subject I figured it was a sign. After so many years of service that these majestic boats gave to the Yukon and its people, it is only fitting that something be written about them. And who best to resurrect a story but Henry Breaden. When I asked Henry to submit something he certainly didn't need any prodding. Once I asked if he would be willing to share a memory I had it in my e-mail within a very short time. Henry spent nine seasons on the old boats from 1942 to 1950. You can tell they are still very dear to his heart, as anytime I've asked for information or clarification he was quick to the draw. In 1960 he was part of the crew that took the Keno to Dawson City and there is even a write up in the roster of Yukon Riverboats. Henry isn't the first in his family to have a keen interest in the sternwheelers. His grandfather was skipper on the Taylor and Drury Str "Thistle" in 1921. Henry has so many recollections, as you can well imagine but for now he would like to relate only one. In future issues of the Moccasin Telegraph you can be sure there will be more to come.

### First, a little history on the paddlewheelers that plied the Yukon River

Steamboating on the Yukon River began in 1866 and within the next several years there were numerous paddlewheelers plying the river. The Yukon River is quite shallow in places and has many sandbars. These steamboats, or sternwheelers as they were also called were well suited to haul freight, people, mail and animals.

As a matter of interest the S.S. Klondike was the largest riverboat to haul silver and lead ore and supplies on the Yukon River during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The average current is 5 m/hr for most of the river's length and 3 m/hr at its mouth. The river has many obstacles and hazards (just ask Henry). By 1897 thirty new companies appeared. Shipyards worked day and night to build enough boats to meet the demand and by the end of that year more than 60 boats and barges were on the river.

### Henry Breaden remembers

In June 1942 I started working with White Pass at Mayo longshoring on the docks. At that time we were shipping a lot of material to Whitehorse from the Yukon Treadwell Camps as the camps had shut down. The general manager, Werneke, had died in a plane crash at Alert Bay, which finished Mayo for mining till after the war. The Str. Keno used to come in about each week, and during one of the stays I found that there was an opening as deckhand, which I took. So on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1942 this country lad took off on his first time away from home. We were away at daylight, and our first stop was at 17 mile to put off some supplies for Arthur Johanson. The skipper held the stern in with the wheel still turning and we carried the freight off on a footplank which is one foot wide. Different experience for a young fellow with the water rushing under the plank as we took freight off. This first trip down the Stewart River was all new to me, but in the following years learned the river and the channels. Our skipper was Hugh Morrison who I had seen during my growing years. Whenever we had to pull out 2000 feet of cable to line up, enabling us to make it up fast water, Hugh had a pet saying. He used to say, "Stay wiss her boys!", great guy! Percy Edwards was Chief Officer, and I was to serve under him on many steamboats in the years to come. A bit later, my sister Audrey Fulton and family traveled on the Keno while going to Whitehorse as they were moving. There was Audrey, son Bill, daughter Sheila, daughter Pat Bakewell who we have in the list and son, Jim. Enough for this time, but have many steamboat stories.

*That sounds like a promise Henry. Hoping to have the pleasure of hearing from you again, real soon - Editor*

### Donna Clayson (Storing) remembers

I spent every summer living on the "Casca" and "Whitehorse" during my teen years. These awesome boats fascinated me, and the stories and history I had heard over the years only whetted my appetite to know more. In June of every year from 1962 to 1967 I gathered my bedding from home and set up "house" on the boats. I wanted to be close to them, to "feel" what the people felt as they worked and traveled on them so many decades before. I would lay awake in one of the bunks and I swear, there were times you could hear the hustle and bustle of years-gone-by. I felt I was part of that and my dreams were filled of the activities and smells of those days. Sadly, as the cooler weather approached and it was time to abandon my bunk I would leave, not with heavy heart, but a renewed sense of peace. I would be back next year, to dream and learn more of these paddlewheelers that plied the river. Thank you, God, for guiding me to this spot was always my farewell 'till next year prayer. I'll be back. Take care and keep them safe until then.

Who doesn't remember June 24, 1974? I was working at the Yukon Vocational & Technical Training Centre. One of Ted Harrison's students came running in yelling that the boats were on fire. All office staff and some students ran out and stood on the banks of the Yukon River gazing towards the Sternwheelers "Casca" and "Whitehorse". Smoke was pouring from the stack of the "Casca" and flames were licking up the side. It was ironic, actually, seeing smoke pouring out of the stack one last time. This was not one of my memories years' previous. We wrapped our arms around one another, bonded in the only way a Yukoner can. We wept as the boats must have been doing as flames licked throughout. I envisioned my special bunk in agony and as the decks began to crumble we all cried as though members of our immediate family were dying. There was nothing any of us could do. At least we all have memories and no one can take those away from us.

### Henry Breaden remembers

I remember well the burning of the boats as I first saw it from the spillway and thought it was the hospital. I was real concerned and quickly drove across the dam and to the hospital area. Quite relieved to find it was not the hospital after all. That was a sad day for Yukon History.

*If you would like to see these boats in their hey-day there are several URLs Sherron and I can suggest: - Editor*

<http://community.webshots.com/album/63868116QYCYdu> Sherron's Casca & Whitehorse (pay particular attention on the first two photos to see one of the culprits climbing down. First down the mast in photo 1 and then down the ladder in photo 2.) Click on the photo to enlarge it, then click on 'normal' in the little drop down box above the photo. Burning Photos

[www.dawsoncity.org](http://www.dawsoncity.org)

[www.yesnet.yk.ca](http://www.yesnet.yk.ca)

[www.chrs.ca](http://www.chrs.ca)

### **Does anyone else have website addresses you could share? - Story Editor**

*Now, readers, it's your turn:*

### **WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE BOATS BURNED?**

We would like to hear your stories. Please put your thinking caps on and fill my e-mail with your memories.

Your story editor  
Donna Clayson (nee Storing)  
e-mail: [ytdogteam@telus.net](mailto:ytdogteam@telus.net)

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#### **E-mail addresses –**

If you find it necessary to change your e-mail address at some time, please notify me. Otherwise it will be necessary to take your name off the list when e-mails begin to 'bounce.' - **Sherron Jones** [sherronjones@shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca)

#### **Helpful Hint –**

If you get sore shoulders, neck and back when on the computer, try this. Make sure you have a secretarial chair with good back support and a footstool to force your back into the correct posture. If you are dropping your head down to view a low monitor, prop it up on a couple of old telephone directories. I did that at work and it really helped. One of the local businesses nearby comes in for stencil work for sandblasting on mirrors and glass. The really nice man that I often help made me a riser out of plate glass for the monitor to sit on. It is three sided, about 4 inches high, and open at the front so you can put your paper work under. I have since seen them in the computer store made out of metal or plastic. Any of you handy men could make one out of wood. It not only gives you back your desktop space, but also relieves the sore neck caused by dropping your head forward. The footstools are also available in computer stores. The one I bought adjusts in degrees of slope.

If you play games on the computer and use the mouse constantly, put the mouse somewhere where you can lay your forearm for support. Or if it is just your wrist that needs support use one of the mouse pads with a gel wrist rest. – **Sherron**

#### **New Additions to the list:**

Our very good friend **Doug Bell** has sent me info on your web site, etc and we would like to add our name as ex-Yukoners.

We lived 5 years in Teslin and 3 in Whitehorse (1950-1958) before moving to Edmonton were we've been ever since. – **Murray Watson**

Lou and I moved to the Yukon in 57 & 56 he from Italy I from England. We were married in 1961 and raised four children, our family was very active in the horse club until we moved to Vernon B.C. in 1979. Lou was a captain with the Whitehorse fire department; also had his own construction company one of his buildings there is the travel lodge. We are still in contact with many of our friends through e-mail, this e-mail was sent to us by our friend **Madeline Boyd**. The list brought back a lot of memories seeing familiar names. - **Lou & Kathleen (Kathy) Clinaz** (Also known as Lucky Clinaz)

Yes **Bert Boyd** was my Father in law and was on Territorial Council. – **Madeline Boyd**

Received an e-mail from **Shirley Leng** suggesting I contact you re: former Yukoners. Ray and I were in Yukon from 1977-1980. He was with the military and I taught at Takhini School. Shirley & I met while we were signing up for community school courses. We would like very much to be included on your list.

Yes, you may include the background info. in the next newsletter. Our present address is: **Ray & Jean Parsons**, 31 Springcreek Cres., Ottawa, ON K2M 2K7. Thanks. Look forward to more newsletters. I think it's wonderful that you have undertaken this. Cheers! – **Jean Parsons**

**Madeleine Gould** forwarded to us the list of ex- and present- Yukoners. Fred and I would like to add our names to the list.

We have 'left' Dawson City and moved to Bear Creek where the Y.C.G.C. workers lived. (11 km south of Dawson.)

It was nice reviewing the list of people. Regards, **Palma and Fred Berger**

You are doing a nice job here but sure let yourself in for a lot of work -guess **Henry Breaden** gave you my address - Henry and I have had quite a time carrying on about the old days in the Yukon - our fathers worked together on the mail stage between Dawson and Whitehorse in the early twenties.

My family moved to Whitehorse in 1925, lived there until 1932 when we moved to Dawson - went outside to join up but have poor hearing and was rejected so got married instead - we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary last October. My wife and I moved to Mayo in 1948 and moved to Whitehorse in 1953 - I went to work with the White Pass and was there for five years and moved then outside - came north again in 1968 eventually went to Dawson and stayed there until we retired when we moved to Port Alberni.

It's nice to read the Moccasin Telegraph and catch up to old friends - incidentally I was a ham radio operator before the war and **Ivor Mast** was stationed in NWT where I met him in the 30s. - **Marnie & Les Sommerton**

It's ok by me if you want to add it to your collection - I certainly enjoyed reading the letters you have on there -

We left the Yukon about six years ago but made a couple of trips back there as we have a son and daughter still living up there - our son is 44 (I think) and the daughter in Whitehorse is the last of six daughters - as the boy was the youngest he had seven mothers nagging him.

I worked in the freight office at the White Pass - it was an exciting time - as they were just introducing the container system - boy that's gone a long way too.

Well Sherron I guess I'd better get out of here or there will be no supper - so thanks for writing - very best. - **Marnie & Les Somerton**

By the way we were in Whitehorse from 74 to 77. I worked for NCPC as Regional Engineer and Jane served as coordinator of the women's centre. – **Mickey Rockwell**

I was born in Whitehorse just after the ice age, grew up there and in Mayo and left in 1952 now live in Delta, B.C. – **Dorothy Graham (Wilson)**

Hello Dorothy,

I think the light came on! **Yorke Wilson** of White Pass. York was in Mayo in the White Pass with **Jack Bellerby** in the 1930s. Not sure if he took over from **Jim Fairborn** as I have a 1935 mail list for Mayo with Fairborn shown as agent for White Pass. In the early 1940s **Frank Whitney** was in the office, and I think possibly your dad was in there between. If I remember correctly, York returned to the Whitehorse office, but I do not have any idea when he retired. I started in 1942 at the age of 14 working on the dock at Mayo longshoring under **Rupert Steeves**. I have met Rup's son in Duncan as we both belong to the Masonic Lodge, and surprisingly we met over on Saltspring Island. When was it that you would have been in Mayo? You would remember the **Cantin** brothers and **Joe Longtin** with his horse "Eli" who delivered water to homes and businesses in Mayo. He used to deliver to White Pass, and when he was packing water upstairs

to **Bourners** in the NC store; someone at W.P. would show the horse an apple. Eli would take off and Joe was some upset. In his French accent, Joe would say, "*Heli, whos buy the hoats?*" Yes, it will be interesting to hear from you. – **Henry Breaden**

Hi Henry and Alice

You are right **Yorke Wilson** was my father, we moved from Whitehorse to Vancouver in 1952, at first we were going to settle in Vernon and Dad and **Alex McCarter** would operate a service station. But we arrived in Vernon and it was over 100 degrees and Dad couldn't stand it, neither could we. So on to Vancouver and he went to work in the Vancouver office.

I am not sure of the dates we were in Mayo, we did stay for full years for a while, and some years we moved back to Whitehorse for the winter, we lived in a log cabin at McCrae (sp?) when I was little.

My sister **Carol Masters** is almost a full time RVer, they are in Indio California at the moment hopefully they will be home in time for the Yukoner's banquet in April.

My Wilson grandparents lived in Whitehorse, he, George was a shipwright and at one time a carriage/sled builder & a wheelright. They are buried in the Pioneer cemetery. My mother's father was the WP&YR agent in Dawson in 1900. Later with the company in Skagway, they retired to Seattle.

I recently inherited my cousin **Gordon Wilson's** Yukon photo collection - some fantastic pictures of the north taken by his father and grandfather.

Thanks for the e-mail. – **Dorothy Graham (Wilson)**

This article was passed on my Henry Breaden:

### **Whitehorse kids in 1933**

Copied from the "Whitehorse Star" (Sept. 15, 1955)

Article by Flo Whyard

Whitehorse schools are thronged by hundreds of children this week as another term gets organized, and a list of their names would take many columns of type in this newspaper. Another list of school children came to light recently and was made available this week to the "Star" by W.D. MacBride, who is preserving the original copy for his famous scrapbook collection. It is from a list of residents of the town of Whitehorse, compiled in October 1933. The total population in that year was 342, men, women, children and infants.

Total number of children attending school was 53, about enough to fill two of the five first grades in 1955. Herewith the list of children attending school 20 years ago: see how many you know.

Freddy Boss, Elaine Fraser, Gene Jacquot, Alden Walker, Marjory Wride, Arthur Yeulet, Bernice Wilson, Roddy Boss, Freddy Cederberg, John MacBride, Joyce Richards, Gladys Wilson, Florence Boss, Margaret Coulter, Rosalie Cyr, Goodrun Erickson, Norman Nelson, Evelyn Richards, Allan Withers, Freddy Blaker, Audrey Ryder, Meda Zimmerlie, Paul Cyr, Ian Murray, May Nelson, Larry Porter, Phyllis Walker, Gloria Cyr, Lomer Cyr, Mary Drury, Tony Hayes, Lloyd Ryder, Dennis Blaker, Edythe Caddy, Billy Drury, Lucelle Grey, Mary MacBride, Annie

McKay, Anne McLeod, Denis Withers, Ruth Chambers, Ray Richards, Lorraine Watson, Laurent Cyr, Margaret Murray, Wilda Richards, Alma Caddy, Doris Harbottle, Isabel Macpherson, Stuart Macpherson, Mona Davies, Donald Murray and Betty Walker.

The children and infants not of school age in October 1933, included Patricia Armstrong, Olga and Shirley Cederberg, Patricia Coulter, John Fraser, Merle Koebke, Phillis LePage, Douglas McKay, Betty MacBride, Henry Nelson, Rose Nelson, Ruth Porter, Phyllis Porter, Theresa Porter, Howard Ryder, Rose Rushworth, Margaret Taylor, Dorothy Wilson, Garland Withers, Lela Williams, Pierce Williams, Sonny Williams, Melvin Williams, Colin Yeulet, Vimy Yeulet, Russel Williams, Billy Wilson, Ethel Wilson, Muriel Wilson, Mildred French, Edith French, Louise Irvine, four Dawson children, Harry Boss, Eric Erickson, Violet LeBarge, Peter LeBarge, and Kenneth Boss.

### **Very Interesting Web Cameras:**

This site takes you to a site which hosts web cameras from across Canada. There is one, which must be mounted on the Hougens' Building on Main Street in Whitehorse. I was able to watch an Ice Sculptor working when I checked it a couple of weeks ago.

The site on the Main Street of Vernon is rather boring as it just shows an area outside a local coffee shop. There is a camera at the Kelowna floating bridge. I found the ones in Fernie particularly interesting as you can see the ski hill from downtown and they go to another camera on the hill. Hope you take a tour. The two ski hills in the Okanagan, Big White and Silver Star are also options to view. (Some of the ones I have mentioned are under the category: Canada – Weather Network web cam page, which are on this web page below.) Carcross is even on there, but be sure to click on the right hand column as if you click in Carcross you get the weather forecast and not the web cam.

<http://www.chbc.com/feature/canadacam/>

### **Something to look forward to:**

I received this note from John with an attachment I was unable to open. Hopefully he can forward it in a different format that I can share with you. - Sherron

Hello Sherron,

Here is a picture of the Steamer Dawson sunk in Rink Rapids, it happened in October 1926. I will send you the full story separately. I was on it as a 7-year-old youngster. -

**John Gould**

### **Vernon Weather -**

Yikes it is the 28<sup>th</sup> of February and the snow has returned. We awoke this morning to about an inch on the ground and it is snowing again now. I was informed that the drop in temperature earlier this week allowed the grape growers to harvest the balance of their crops for ice wine. I understand the temperature must exceed -9 for picking and it accomplished that this week. We have had such a mild winter that there was only one other dip in temperature where some of the crops were picked.

Now this evening the snow is still melting and the weatherman says we will have a high of 8C tomorrow.

### **Web sites, which may interest you:**

Web site which honors Ted Harrison (the next four and more addresses are linked to this same site)

<http://www.geocities.com/marissa2/harrison.html>

and another Ted Harrison site

<http://www.tedharrison.com/>

and this one about Jim Robb

<http://www.geocities.com/marissa2/robb.html>

and about Klondike Kate (of Dawson fame)

[http://www.geocities.com/marissa2/yukon\\_kate.html](http://www.geocities.com/marissa2/yukon_kate.html)

and some Yukon Photos

[http://www.geocities.com/marissa2/yukon\\_pics.html](http://www.geocities.com/marissa2/yukon_pics.html)

and Robert Service poetry

[http://www.geocities.com/marissa2/robert\\_service.html](http://www.geocities.com/marissa2/robert_service.html)

**Some Web address for those who may wish to do Genealogy or other Research:**

Yukon & Alaska Genealogy Center ----- <http://www.yukonalaska.com/pathfinder/gen/>

Yukon Goldrush Participants ----- [http://www.familychronicle.com/klond\\_b.htm](http://www.familychronicle.com/klond_b.htm)

Yukon Archives ----- <http://www.btc.gov.yk.ca/archives/>

Tour Yukon ----- <http://www.touryukon.com/>

Riverboats -----

<http://www.members.tripod.com/write4801/riverboats/alaskanriverboats.html>

BYN Employee Records -----

[http://www.yukonalaska.com/pathfinder/gen/byn\\_employees.html#B](http://www.yukonalaska.com/pathfinder/gen/byn_employees.html#B)

Yukon Gen Web ----- <http://www.rootsweb.com/~canyk/>

Yukon Web ----- <http://www.yukonweb.com/>

Yukon Historic Research ----- <http://www.yukonweb.com/business/yhr>

Yukon Net ----- <http://www.yknet.yk.ca/>

Thankyou for forwarding the information about this project, to your friends. It is allowing the list to grow. – **Sherron**

Tell us about your successful re-connection with a friend. - **Sherron**

**Anyone reading this and wishing to sign themselves up write – Sherron Jones [sherronjones@shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca) There is not charge. The intent, at least for the present time, is to send out weekly updated lists of e-mail address and a new copy of the Moccasin Telegraph.**

**Please give your name, e-mail address, and duration in Yukon, Community in Yukon where you lived and current telephone number and community in which you reside now. Telephone numbers are optional.**

Hope you enjoyed this weeks Moccasin Telegraph. Any comments are welcome. - **Sherron**