

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – FOURTH EDITION – MARCH 9, 2003

Created by Sherron Jones – sherronjones@shaw.ca

Looking for someone?

Send in your request to add here – see if anyone knows the whereabouts of your old friend.

Announcements:

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

Greetings from Carcross, Sherron,

You may have already heard by now, but in case you haven't, I wanted to let you know that Roy Minter died of cancer on February 3, 1996.

- Murray Lundberg

OBITUARY DAVE LYLE

December 8, 1928 – February 4, 2003

Another old time Yukoner is gone. Dave Lyle arrived in Dawson City in 1951 to begin his experiencing of the Yukon. After working in Dawson for a while he moved south to work for Mike Nolan who had built the Marsh Lake Lodge. After this he decided to work for Bud and Doris Simpson, who owned and operated the Rancheria Motel at Mile 710. He worked for them for many years before moving to Watson Lake. Many will remember him driving taxi there as well as driving the bus to Cantung for Roy Watson. Later he started working for CP Air where he stayed for 23 years – with never missing a days work. At this time he also contracted to carry the mail and also the weekly movies to and from CP Air.

After this he was “baby-sitter” for the RCMP compound. He chose to spend the rest of his retirement in Watson Lake where he succumbed to smoke inhalation on February 4th, 2003. He leaves brother Gordon (Beth) of Arbutus Ridge on Vancouver Island, another brother Elwood (Marion) of Kelowna (formerly 25 years in the Yukon) and brother Jim (Shirley) of Lake Country. He will never be forgotten.

Annual Yukoner's dinner - Vancouver, April 5, at the Hyatt Regency downtown Vancouver. We are expecting a good turnout this year and have even revived old custom of booking hotel rooms for continued visiting after event is over. - **Helen Munro aka Fitch.**

Many folks have lived in Mayo at some point in their lives, and this year Mayo is celebrating its 100th Birthday. They have a website and it is found at: <http://www.yukonweb.com/community/mayo100/> - **Henry Breaden**

Tim is looking for your help!

Yes – I was a technician with **CBC** Yukon from 1970 till 1997. After retiring from the **CBC** I decided to stay here in the Yukon.

Since retiring I have been working on collecting history on the **CBC** up here in the Yukon – and particularly radio station **CFWH** in it's pre **CBC** days (prior to November 1958) when it was operated by volunteers. **I would be interested in hearing from anyone on your list who have memories of the station back then – especially anyone who had worked as a volunteer at the station.** Maybe there will be a book out of all my research – but that is a way down the road yet.

Cheers for now, - **Tim Kinvig** kinvig@yknet.ca

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MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – STORY #3

from Donna Clayson (Storing) – Story Editor

This week I'd like to highlight Bob Erlam. In 1963 Bob became publisher of the Whitehorse Star and in 1965 Bob's wife, Rusty, joined the staff. In 1967 Bob & Rusty became co-owners of the Star. Their son, Paul was also on staff. Both Bob & Rusty went into semi-retirement in June of 1975 leaving Paul as publisher. When Paul left the Star in 1979 to get a university degree Bob stepped out of semi-retirement to take over again as publisher. In 1980 the Erlam's started traveling. As of the year 2000 Bob & Rusty had 39 years with the company. They now live in Nelson, B.C.

In the mid 1970's I was secretary of the Yukon Dog Musers Association. I well remember Bob and his dog team with Frosty in the lead. I was young and naïve when, with my ex-husband Rick Ross, started running dogs (see article below). Bobs team was experienced and, to me, intimidating. I was afraid to pass his dogs for fear his would take a nip at mine as we passed. After all, Bob and team had a reputation. *Pass me but I won't make it easy.* I think Bob trained his dogs to put the fear into passing teams just so he could win. Just kidding, Bob. Below is a story Bob wrote for the Whitehorse Star after a race in Carcross the weekend of April 6, 1977. Bob gave me permission to transpose the article. It's priceless. Enjoy.

EVERYONE LOST ON LAST DOG RACE OF THE SEASON

By BOB ERLAM

The Whitehorse Star, Monday, April 7, 1975

It was billed as the wind-up race of the season, and from start to finish it lived up to its name. It was the first dog race in Carcross for many a moon, but at the end of the weekend all the mushers agreed it should be an annual event.

It was a virgin trail: Where the hand of man has never set foot, heading out along the tracks toward Whitehorse, winding down through the buck brush and willows to the Watson River, down the Watson to Lake Bennett and across the ice for a couple of miles, then back to Carcross.

I, with old Frosty and Rusty in the lead and debuting my new super sleigh, took off with my usual after-burner start in seventh position.

I have Joe Kupec and Bill Hodgson ahead of me. No more than a quarter-mile (half a kilowatt Celsius) out, I pass them. They have followed another team up over the tracks

and are milling around in the far ditch. My well-trained team of course makes the turn, and I am in the lead. This is the first of a series of upsets (some might say poor trail-marking) that set the race apart from all others.

Soon I'm heading down beside the tracks, and I look back to see who's coming. Next thing I'm in the middle of the railroad tracks flying over ties and gravel, and the trail is 40 feet away in the bush. I am thinking how can I be so stupid, and then I see that Bill and Joe are both following me down the tracks hollering, "Where's the snow?"

About a half a mile on, Joe and I manage to get back on the trail, but Bill puts in another mile on the old White Pass. By this time Joe catches up and takes the lead, when so help me if we don't go right through the biggest willow bush in the Yukon. Gerry Couture's team had decided to take a short cut, and all the rest followed.

By now Bill Hodgson has got off the tracks and passed all of us, and we are tearing through the bush in tandem down through the poplars to the Watson. I'm running fourth in line, and there is a rain of poplar bark being shaved off both sides. Next we pass Rick Ross's sleigh, then Rick Ross and then his dogs; each wrapped around a different tree. At least everyone except me passes. My team and his get knitted together like an Afghan shawl, so we spend a pleasant ten minutes sorting things out. Then it's off again and down the Watson.

At the lake I see Joe Kupec and Jeff Dinsdale up ahead and Bill in the distance. The wind is whistling across the ice, and the trail is non-existent. I mosey along behind Joe and Jeff, and we are all having a time keeping our dogs from heading for shore.

In the meantime Gerry Couture has melted the track down to the lake and, being way out in lead with no one to follow, has practically lead his dogs down the lake three miles; they are now on sheer ice and so busy looking at fish swimming around underneath he's not getting anywhere, as the trail is completely gone.

This is how it is when Bill then Joe and Jeff arrive.

About this time old Frosty says to heck with this and heads for Carcross, and as he runs the team I go along with the idea. I'm half thinking that we've gone too far anyway, and I might be being foxy. But as I cross the finish (from the wrong direction!), I spot the stalwart figure of the Royal Canadian Mounted policeman holding a stopwatch, and I know I'm doomed. He doesn't even bother to mark down my time.

A snowmobile is dispatched to the rescue of the guys still on the ice. Soon five teams appear out of the snow, and it's the upset of the season as Bob English takes first place. It's a popular win for happy-go-lucky Bob. Bill Hodgson is second and Joe Kupec third.

Prizes were awarded at the great pot luck supper that night at the Community Hall, and there was a dance which was the talk of the town the next day.

So we're talking the good people of Carcross into holding another one next year. As one old timer said, "Just think what we could have done if we'd been organized!"

WEBCAMS in the north –

Including Main Street Whitehorse, the Dam, Carcross, north pole etc.

<http://www.explorenorth.com/webcam-ca.html>

Comments from some of this weeks additions to the list:

Hi Sherron,

Pam and I are related, and we are both current Yukoners. You may add my name, and I will contact Pam and see what she thinks.

Regards – **Bev Buckway**

Please add my name to the list:

Fay Ash (Callison) fash@direct.ca lived in Carcross 1942-47, Dawson 1947 - 62, Whitehorse 1965-66

Now living in Richmond, BC

I will send this to other Yukoners as I am sure they would like to get their names on the list. Thanks - **Fay Ash (Callison)**

Learned of the YT list from **Donna Clayson**. My name is **Bev Bapty** (nee Edzerza), grew up in Atlin and moved to Whitehorse to attend FH. Married **Steve Bapty** in 1972 and have lived in Victoria, Whitehorse, Edmonton, Inuvik & Hay River NWT, moved to Fort Nelson in 1993. Not a bad little town. Would never have believed I would live here after traveling the highway south in '72. We've learned that Home is where you hang your hat. Would like to know if anyone out there has an extra Year Book from FH. Lost all of mine in one of our moves, maybe the pictures could help refresh my memory and put faces to names. – **Bev Bapty (Edzerza)**

Great to scan your informative history documentation.

MaryLou and I (**George**) became Yukoners when we disembarked off the CPAir DC6B in August '57. I was a flight services radio operator with Dept. of Transport (then in the terminal building on the east side of the airport). We lived on the escarpment, overlooking downtown Whitehorse. (On a calm evening, you couldn't see downtown because of the strata of dust from the unpaved streets and treacherous potholes). We survived the earthquake and Takhini fire of '58. Transferred to Mayo (**Henry Braeden, Ewing** and **Fisher** country) in '60 when DoT took over the Army Signal Stations. Transferred to Diplomatic Corp (External Affairs Ottawa) in (Expo) 67. Returned to Whitehorse in '72 as helicopter pilot with Trans North (became Chief Pilot) until '87. Moved to Ft. McMurray, and eventually retiring here in Westbank (Kelowna) in '95. Keep up the good work. - **George Howell**

Yes, Sherron, add our names to your list, we would be honored. We received your latest Moccasin Telegraph via **Elwood and Marion Lyle**, also here in Kelowna (West side, versus downtown). This internet thingy is sure one or two steps up the rung from when we used Morse code telegraphy as far back as '62 until CN finally built the "landline" from Dawson & Mayo to Whitehorse, which then gave us access to telephone and teletype to the outside world.

Oh yes, we all have our nostalgic look backs once in a while. Seems better to sometimes dwell in the past rather than sit around and worry about trying to second-guess what's lurking around the next corner.... Cheers - **George Howell**

Hi Sherron, We thought we should get on the list as well. I'm **Joyce Yardley's** daughter. So it's - **Norma & Cal Waddington** (In Whitehorse) Well actually, we live at Lewis Lake, 30 miles outside of Whitehorse, but both work in Whse. My e-mail is norma@coldwellbanker.ca

Hello Sherron, Thank you for your nice newsy letter, yes I had lots of fun in Whitehorse, also Vernon and I am still entertaining. Thank you also for your very prompt reply, and of course I would love to be added to the list of Yukoners. **Bill & Jeri Weigand** are living in Down Town Vancouver, we see them now and again and consider them our very special friends too. I saw **Gwen** last time at Molly's husbands birthday party, I think **Molly's** last name was **Barber** not sure,This is a bit of news one of my Agents, from Pacific Show Productions his name is Doug Mathews, I have worked for his agency since 1967Gordin Bennett !!!!! That's a long time; anyway he called and asked if I would allow him to NOMINATE me for Entertainer of the year. 2002, anyway *I told him, "well if I am up against Shania Twain or Brittany Spears, forget it, I wouldn't be able to find my navel to put a ring in it.!!!"* Anyway he says, NO its within the Industry, and also includes the States, so what the HECK, the way they choose isn't going to be easy, but I am kind of glad to be in the race. They have about 5 people journalists, event planners and other folks in the Biz, they pick out the ones they think are eligible, then they are then put into the Event Planning Magazine, which is then sent out to all the Readers, and they pick THE ONE. soooo who knows, if I am in the running I will know by the end of March, and then the BOG DO ! is in Santiago in August. and I may do a Show Case, it means a lot more work in the States, and that means Jason my youngest will be able to do my Gigs. I do work in the States now and again and I always duly him in to do the Gigs with **Richard**, its wonderful. **Jason** on Bass & **Richard** is on Drums. **Jason** has become quite an Entertainer in his own right in Santa Barbara, thats where they live, with his wife **Amy** and our Darling Granddaughter **Taylor**, who is 3 and a 1/2, MY JOY, well Sherron as you can see. I have been going on for a bit tooooo long, Thank you again so much, I printed it all out what you sent yesterday, and I will also send it to my Dear Friend **Helen Fitch**, nee **Munroe**. Cheers for Now **Gillian Campbell--Thompson**, I married **Ed Thompson** he was a Bank Manager in Dawson City, and now owns and Trains Thoroughbred Race Horses. LIFE IS JUST WONDERFUL Take care. xo – **Gillian Campbell**

Dear Sherron, I mostly work in Vancouver, Whistler at the Chateau and Victoria at the Empress, but I also do shows at other Venues, such as the Orpheum Theatre and Senior Homes. We started a Santa & Mrs. Clause Agency, 4 years ago so we keep very busy the end of November and all of December, January was a bit slow, but the Summer looks to be pretty good, for Gigs, and a few at Grouse Mountain, I don't care where the Gig is as long as I'm doing it. Thank you for passing on info to John & Madeline Gould. Cheers for now Luv **Gillian Campbell** xo (Just a little advertising for you Gillian) - Sherron

Just read your latest edition of the Moccasin Telegraph. Bev Buckway passed it on to me. Very interesting reading. Could you please add my address to your distribution list. Thanks.

I am passing copies of your newsletter on to a couple of others.
Thanks again for your efforts, -**Tim Kinvig**

Yes, add my name to the list if you like and I just heard today that there will be a big Mayo 100th birthday party at the Yukoner's ball in Vancouver this year. Hope they have a good turnout. One day will make it down for the "ball". We are losing old timers like crazy this year. We are also having old age creep up and **Laurent Cyr** is the latest to have that dreaded forgetful disease and goes for respite so **Corrine** can get some rest as she cares for him most of the time and she's no spring chicken either.
Thanks for the reply. Good luck with your endeavour. – **Florence Roberts**

You can add **Pam and Dave Charman** to your list of sourdoughs. Our address is :
charman@klondiker.com
and we live in Whitehorse. Dave was born in Dawson City and so was I; my maiden name was **Rendell**.
This is a great site. Good luck and keep up the good work. - **Pam Charman**

Thank you for all your efforts. Please add my name to list at your convenience.
Helen Munro (born Atlin, raised in Whitehorse) Yukoners night April 5 but I guess you know about that event. Seems to be gathering momentum of late. Oh yes, I graduated Whse. High 1960. Lived in Whse. 1948 to late 70's. Brother is **Scotty Munro**. Take care. Regards.- **Helen Fitch (Munro)**

Dear Sherron,

Yes, I am in B.C., Port Moody to be exact. I teach High School in Coquitlam. And yes I was referring to annual Yukoner's dinner in Vancouver, April 5 at the Hyatt Regency downtown Vancouver. We are expecting a good turnout this year and have even revived old custom of booking hotel rooms for continued visiting after event is over. Hope we can stay awake. :))

Regards - **Helen Munro aka Fitch**.

You can add me.

Pam Buckway, born in Whitehorse (old hospital where the Legislative Assembly is now) in 1949.

Have stayed north of 60 except for fourth grade, which was in Burnaby B.C.

Lived in Beaver Creek, Fairbanks, and then returned to Whitehorse in 1974.

L-4031-4th Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1G8 867-633-5455 pbuckway@yknet.ca

Interesting project! – **Pam Buckway**

Bob & Rusty Erlam do not have e-mail. Bob is "full of stories" about their Yukon days. They are in Victoria till April 1 - then they go back to their home near Nelson, the phone number remains the same.

I think they would be happy to talk to Donna.

Please do add our name to your e-mail list. We go back quite away to our arrival in Whitehorse. I arrived in the fall of 1946 from Edmonton...with DND - NWHS - Army Fire Service - 17 Wks Coy, RCE - Jeri arrived in 1965 with DPW Finance Dept. We sold the house on Asek Rd. in 1997. So we know a lot of names on your list...

So nice to read your letter and see you both going great. Will have to hear more about your "design computer system".

And Bill is well established in the Real Estate...

I did get my licence in Yukon in 1991 and worked for a while with Darryl at ReMax before I was "encouraged to run for Mayor" and got elected...Now that was an experience! Jeri & I volunteered to work in China in 1995-96 with the Chinese Foreign Trade Service. (in Xining, Qinghai") on the Tibetan Plateau...returned to Whitehorse briefly then was invited back for another year to the beautiful seaport city of Beihai in Guangxi Province, on the Gulf of Tonken. We returned once again to China and Beijing.
Next time we get your way we could share some memories with you and Bill and catch up on the in-between years. You have a great project going Sherron, must go for now,
Love from **Bill & Jeri Weigand**

I forgot to add where we are now living. We live in a small community called Cultus Lake, B.C. which is in the Chilliwack district. We have been here since March 1999 and previously lived in Edmonton, Alberta, Williams Lake, Prince George and Fort Nelson, B.C. since leaving the Yukon in 1979. - **Barry Cornfield**
Yes, Rose (SIRMAN) is living with us. - **Wanda Cornfield (Sirman)**

I would like my name & e-mail address added. This is a great service you are providing. I lived in Whitehorse (1949-51) and then again (1957-1960) - "Air Force Brat". I now live in Oakville Ontario.

I have 2 children (35 & 36yrs), 1 grandchild and another on the way in July. I would love to hear from anyone that remembers me. I have some great memories of my time spent there.

Thanks, **Wendy Walford (BERGERON)**

When my family first moved to the Yukon in 1942 we lived in Carcross (My father, Pat Callison, flew for Northern Airways during WW2) We moved to Dawson City in 1947, where I attended High School and I remained there until 1958. From 1969-1972 I resided in Faro and then in Whitehorse until 1974. (My last name was Nadeau at that time). My present husband moved to Dawson in 1967, was employed by Cassiar Asbestos as Electrical Foreman at Clinton Creek - later moved to Whitehorse where we were married in 1974 and then moved to Cassiar, BC. Now living in Oliver, BC. - **Joan Rodschat formerly Nadeau (nee Callison)**

Tidbits:

Sherron this is the web page for Dawson, I think you will like it especially the slide show.

www.tourdawsoncity.com - *Madeleine Gould* (great site folks – lots of pictures and a **webcam that rotates** and looks down from somewhere like the dome perhaps, very panoramic).

I sent a copy of the URL for the DC 3 Weather Vane at Whitehorse Airport, over to an friend on Texada Island. He was a pilot with CP and flew to Whitehorse many times. He is also a Ham Radio Operator VE7CSJ and that is how we met originally. Jim flew for CP his whole career and ended flying International runs with DC 10 s. But during the 70's & 80's he flew scheduled flights to Whitehorse as often as he could. This was his reply, which will bring back a few memories with his comment on Sunday flights. -

Sherron

"Thanks for the issue of the 'Moccasin Telegraph' and address list. I recognized a few names; You, Bill, Brian, and Gwen... if Gwen is in Vancouver her area code should be 604 not 250. I was actually in Whitehorse a couple of years before you 1966. My introduction to Whitehorse was a weekend trip at the end of February that year. CP didn't fly to Whitehorse on Sunday back then, so arrived Saturday afternoon and didn't leave again until Monday afternoon. We had a great time.

I never flew the DC-3 which is on the post. I flew two or three other ones while I was training but that one was working out of Whitehorse and didn't get to Vancouver very often." – **Jim Johnson**

<http://www.explorenorth.com/index.html> Look at the DC3 Weather Vane

*Thank You Sherron You are doing one hell of a job I am printing out the Moccasin Telegraph and Updated Addresses for Mother as she is not into this computer world but she definitely appreciates the info. You might remember **Vera Watkins [Miller]** **[Breaden]** of T and D's Hardware. Raised in Mayo. A true Yukoner. – **Carl Miller***

Les Somerton commented this morning that he would wait until #5 came along to help him change a setting on his computer. I asked if he had all the children numbered? His reply made me laugh! "Hey that's #5 daughter (**Evie**) not my wife - wouldn't dare hang a number on her." Then came this further explanation that is too precious not to share.

Hi again Sherron - the number business has a long sad tale to it - we were going up the Alaska toward the border and stopped at Destruction bay for gas - got fueled up and started up the hiway when there was shout from the back where's "**Janie**". We'd left her behind at Destruction Bay. We went back we found Janie had locked herself in the bathroom. It had one of those sliding locks. She'd manage to lock it but couldn't get it unlocked. Took a lot of coaxing but she finally figured how to unlock it. After that each the Kids had their number, and they called it out in turn. We only had four kids then, but even with the seven we have now they are still numbered. Even my phone is set up with their numbers.....**Les Somerton**

Yes I worked at the airport from 1962 to 1986, all on helicopters. Started with **Klondike Helicopters (Pat Callison)** then when **Trans North Turbo Air** started in 1967 went with them, **Al Kapy, Chuck Hankins, Ron Connelly, Chuck Ford, Arden Meyer, Lyle Coleman (Atlin boy) Tony Hanulik (still in Whitehorse) Ed and Jane McKay (Peachland)** just to mention a few. We had bases in Atlin, Dawson, Haines Junction, Mayo, Old Crow, Ross River, Carmacks, Watson Lake, Dease Lake and served all surrounding areas and in the early day's when only a few roads were around, were kept busy with prospectors and fought many forest fires by water bombing them. **Al Kulan** who discovered the big ore body, now known as Faro, once lived on Alsek Dr not far from where you lived. **Kit and Gert Squirechuck** bought his house. - **Elwood Lyle**

Hi Sherron,

Sorry to have taken so long to answer your E-mail, but **Dave and I** have just arrived back in Keremeos after having spent almost a month on the coast, house-sitting for my sister.

It was good to hear from you and we remember you and Bill well. It's not surprising that you don't remember **Charlie Locke** as he's **Dave's** brother, not our son. As you already know, **Charlie** left the Yukon in 1954 or 55.

Dave and both his brothers, **Charlie** in Keremeos and **Terry** in Summerland, were born in Whitehorse. Their father **Fred**, worked for Whitepass in Whitehorse. In 1954 or 5 Whitepass moved their offices from Whitehorse to Vancouver and transferred **Fred** there. He and his wife, **Marj (nee Caddy)** and **Charlie** and **Terry** moved to North Vancouver. **Dave**, the oldest brother, stayed in Whitehorse for another year then joined his family in North Van. (As a note of interest, **Dave's** Dad, **Fred**, was on the first Territorial Council after the capital was moved from Dawson to Whitehorse. He retired after 44 years with Whitepass and is now deceased).

In 1957 **Dave** and I met and were married in 1958. We had our 4 sons in North Van. and in 1966 moved our family to Whitehorse. It was going home for **Dave** but a whole new experience for me! In 1967 we had our daughter and completed our family.

In 1988 we built a permanent home on our Marsh Lake property (beside our little cabin) where we have been living since then. We have just been here in Keremeos since Oct. 1, 2002 - 5 months. It's a lovely little town and we think we're going to enjoy living here very much. Our 5 children and their families are scattered between Whitehorse and the 3 western provinces and all our siblings are here in B.C. so we are more centrally located here for visiting them all. All in all, I spent 36 years in the Yukon and Dave 57 of his 67 years.

My apologies for being so long-winded! Thanks so much for putting our names on your mailing list and we are enjoying the "Moccasin Telegraph" - what a wonderful idea.

All the best from us both. – **Rosemary Locke**

Hi Sherron, Are you the same Sherron I talked to all the time with headstone sales? (Yes, that's me.)

Please add our names to the ex-Yukoner list. - **Andy & Glenda Miles (Armstrong)**
yukonmiles@shaw.ca

A Tidbit from the Whitehorse Star

I enjoyed the newsletters immensely and will pass them around. Can the following be inserted in the next newsletter?

If anyone is interested in the last 100 years of Yukon History through the Whitehorse Star's eyes, they can purchase the 100th Anniversary Edition. E-mail circulation@whitehorsestar.com - And websites to visit: for everyday news of the Yukon, the Whitehorse Star website is updated daily: www.whitehorsestar.com Thanks - **Jackie Pierce**

Riverboats Burning – Recollections:

Dear Sherron, Hello, I received an e-mail from **Marion & Elwood Lyle**, of your request for stories about the burning boats in Whitehorse. I remember it well, so very sad. My sons and I were staying in the basement suite of **Chappie Chapel**, I think that was his name. A very nice man, and he banged on the front door and yelled " The Boats are Burning", my two sons and I ran towards the end of Town, and there were so many people standing around, watching helpless as the Beautiful Paddle Wheelers slowly died, and we were all crying, it was so tragic and could have been averted. That night at the **Frantic Follies Show**, every one was talking about it, I must say it was so hard to go out on Stage and put a smile on your face, but we all did, because that's "Show Biz." - **Gillian Campbell.**

For a flashback photo or two of Gillian, to go: <http://www.capcan.com/campbell.htm>

Hi Sherron, Something that I noticed in particular in those photos of the boats burning, near the end was that the Hog Posts were standing along with the Hog Rods at the top where the funnel of the Casca was hung up. The hog posts and rods were used to support the bow and stern from sagging. In early years they used chain in place of rods and they were called Hog Chains. The advantage of the rods was that it allowed a turnbuckle to be incorporated into the rods for tightening and trimming the hull before launching. The bigger boats used 3 sets of posts, and the two high ones in the middle were called King Posts. That was a sad day and although I went down and viewed the fire from the front, I felt sick about it and went back to work. No use crying at that point for they were gone and Yukon was the loser.

Another point that I wanted to make, was in the photo of the Dawson sinking do you notice the housework on the barge? That was more common up to the 1930s to haul general freight and keep it out of the weather. In the 1940s if we had freight that could be damaged by weather or frozen in the fall of the year, we used tarps. To protect general merchandise from freezing, we used Kerosene hurricane lanterns under the tarps over night and it kept the frost from penetrating.

Henry Breaden breaden@shaw.ca

Casca & Whitehorse Burning Photos – June 1974

<http://community.webshots.com/album/63868116QYCYdu>

A reply to my question about who the current Mr. & Mrs Yukon are:

Hi Sherron,

You asked about Mr. & Mrs. Yukon. This is what I have "pirated"

Mr. and Mrs. Yukon hail from Watson Lake

The Yukon Order of Pioneers has announced the selection of **Gordon and Rose Toole** of Watson Lake to be Mr. and Mrs. Yukon 2003 for the Sourdough Rendezvous.

"**Gordon and Rose** are no strangers to the Yukon, both having spent most of their adult life in the Watson Lake area raising four sons and two daughters: **Ron, Don, Bobby, Debbie, Patti and Jamie,**" the order and the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Society said in a statement Thursday.

At the age of 17 in 1943, Gordon set out to join the Royal Canadian Air Force but was

rejected as being under-age.

This led to an employment opportunity with the government meteorological service, where he graduated as a weather observer and was posted to the RCAF station at Watson Lake on June 7, 1943.

Yukon wilderness appealed to **Gordon** and he took advantage of a transfer posting in November 1943 to Snag, a remote RCAF emergency landing strip near the Alaska/Yukon border.

Snag was still in the construction stage requiring tent accommodation for the balance of that winter.

Gordon's enthusiasm for wilderness living was enriched with the reading of Trapline North. With tutelage and encouragement from old-time local trappers **Bill Blair**, **Pete Eikland** and **Paul Nieman**, he soon had his own dog team and trapline, which brings back many fond memories.

With the end of the Second World War, air traffic slackened off and many of the smaller emergency stations were closed or underwent personnel downsizing.

Gordon refused several offers of a transfer and it was during this period, on Feb. 3, 1947, he took part in registering the coldest temperature in North American history, a frigid 82.6 below Fahrenheit (-63 Celsius). When it is that cold, the instantaneous freezing of one's breath can be heard as a slight hissing sound.

Gordon and a buddy were transferred to Patricia Bay, B.C. in July 1948. Enroute in Edmonton, he met his buddy's sister, Rose, who was to become his wife the following year and soul mate for life.

They returned north to Watson Lake in June 1949, where they raised their family.

Gordon continued his love of flying and wilderness living by earning his commercial pilot's licence, building and operating a fly-in fishing camp at Stewart Lake, starting and operating a big game hunting business (Yukon Hunting Unlimited); clearing land and producing a viable hay farm, and operating a trapline at Ridge Lake from 1985 to 1996.

"**Gordon and Rose** take into retirement many happy memories of their accomplishments and pride in their family," said the statement.

"They look forward to representing the Yukon as Mr. & Mrs. Yukon 2003.

- **Larry Chalmers**

SHORT STORIES:

HAPPINESS IS...

We all have our own definitions of "happiness", but the word took on a whole new meaning for me when I spent my first winter in Whitehorse in 1954-55 -- in addition to being a new bride, that is!

Dave and I lived in a little ex-Army building "apartment" on 6th Avenue between Jarvis and Wood Streets; just two tiny rooms with no plumbing, and water delivered by a truck into a brand new galvanized garbage can. And a little cubbyhole in the back porch that housed The Can. Having spent some of my very early years in southern Alberta, I was well acquainted with the outhouse, so a can in the back porch seemed somewhat of a luxury. And having the "honey wagon" crew empty it every week was an added bonus. But its disadvantages became apparent in winter when the contents froze. Then you

had the choice of either thawing it over a fire in an old oil drum in the morning before the “honey wagon” arrived, or letting the “sanitation” crew take it away. But, where to get replacement honey buckets? Dave scoured the town, looking everywhere, often with little success, and spent more time thawing than he wished.

Salvation came when a young Air Force couple, **Bud & Flo Mountford**, moved next door. The first time the “honey wagon” came around, they naturally took Bud’s frozen bucket, much to his surprise and dismay! When told that this was one of the Yukon’s remaining great challenges, Bud reported that there were hundreds of similar empty buckets from fire extinguisher chemicals piled up at the Air Force Fire Hall, and he was sure they were free for the taking. So he and Dave went up with our pickup and got a full load, enough to last both of us for several winters and, believe me, we were two happy couples secure in the knowledge that we would never have to walk the streets again looking for the elusive honey bucket!

Happiness is having an endless supply of honey buckets! - **Phyllis Gairns**

MAD TRAPPER

You may add my comments. As an aside, **my father** went into the Yukon in 1927 with the RCMP. He served in Dawson, Carmacks, Mayo and Elsa. He actually spent a winter night with **Albert Johnson** in a cabin on the Hess River. This was before **Johnson** was known. My father later initiated the hunt for **Johnson** out of Elsa because **Johnson** had ducked out of the census count. My father tracked him toward the Wind River before turning back as he did not have supplies for a prolonged chase. My father trained and was a friend of **Constable B. King** who was shot by Johnson on the Rat River. King survived. **Dick North** interviewed my father and used one of his pictures in his book about the **Mad Trapper**. - **Lyle Coleman**

Some Stories to look forward to:

George Howell is doing so research into the facts of an incident on the Haines Road in which he was involved. He was required to fly in and rescue folks in blizzard conditions.

If anyone has stories on aircraft, fixed wing or helicopter please forward them to **Donna** so they can be included in the piece that we are hoping to get from **George**. **Donna Clayson** – ytdogteam@telus.net (Our story editor) She will help in anyway she can to get the stories to the finish line. Or was that the dogs to the finish line? (smile)

Another tidbit for a future story – (Pat’s daughter will forward a story)

I recall that **Pat Callison** received the order of Canada for several reasons. But the central reason was his overall involvement in the Yukon business community. Pat was recognized for being the key person instrumental in founding a Chamber of Commerce in Dawson City, of which he became the founding president. Certainly he was recognized for his flying during the construction of the Alaska Highway and the Canol Pipeline Project (Norman Wells to Whitehorse).

Also his establishment of and operation of an air service out of Dawson City at a time when there were no air services north of Whitehorse, in the Yukon.

I hope this helps.

Regards! – **Al Kapty**

Les McLaughlin is sharing stories and ideas with **Donna** to produce in future editions.

Meanwhile read **Les'** story '**North to Alaska'** at:

<http://www.legionmagazine.com/features/canadianreflections/02-09.asp?id=print>

and find an archived story in Legion Magazine about the Alaska Highway.

Bob Erlam is also interested in his stories being shared.

More Story leads from LES McLAUGHLIN

Some Yukon stories you might find interesting are on the Whitehorse Star website.

Go to: www.whitehorsestar.com then click on archives.

then type in any of the following keywords

"les mclaughlin" or "joe ladue" or 'willard phelps" or 'george dawson" or "snag"

---all will yield a few of the historical stories I wrote for the Star. You likely are looking for more personal stories, but you might find these a good read on a slow day. - If for any reason you ever wanted to use them, I can let the Star know and there will be no problem. Can give you more keywords too if you ever want them.

Yukon singer **Hank Karr** has two wonderful CDs containing Yukon songs. **Hank** still lives in Whitehorse. Came to the Yukon in the mid-sixties. We used to do a weekly radio show called Northern Jamboree. I was the announcer and **Cal Waddington** was the producer. Anyway, if anyone wanted to get copies of **Hank's** CDs, (which contain quite a few songs written by **Al Oster** who recently was awarded the Order of Canada for his song writing about the Yukon), his address is 33 Pelly Road, Whitehorse, Y1A 4L9. One is called Through the Years: the other is "Paddlewheeler and other Northland Ballads" **Hank** does not have email. Imagine that.

(Hope this does not sound like a commercial. Just that the songs will definitely bring back a lot of Yukon memories.)

I am attaching a story about a high school basketball trip from the fifties. It was printed in Yukoner Magazine. Its long, but if you wanted to use it you can. - **Les McLaughlin**

Check out **Hank Karr** at: http://www.eriksyukon.com/subpage-hank_karr_page.htm

Yikes he pulled on my heart strings when I clicked on the two interactive tunes.

Memories! – **Sherron**

I typed Hank Karr into the search engine and got this hit where he was on the program at a Birthday celebration for Robert Service. There are some wonderful photos taken in Whitehorse and Dawson. But a taxi ride to Dawson? That upset on the road? Not a nice welcome to tourists from Scotland at –35. <http://www.robertwservice.com/birthday.html>
- **Sherron**

And while on the subject of Robert Service, **Les McLaughlin** sent this along:

www.robertwservice.com

which is the best website ever devised about the famous Yukoner.

you can also go to

www.amazon.com and type in "The Songs of Robert Service". It is a musical CD we released in January 2000. Sold very well and now nearly out of print. – Les

Hi Sherron, My note about **Roy Minter** was sent in the first few minutes of reading the Moccasin Telegraph. I've spent a lot more time reading now, and I'd like to join the list. I may be the newest Yukoner on the list, but I hope that my enthusiasm makes up for the lack of years. After falling in love with the territory on a holiday in 1985, I moved to Whitehorse in 1990 when I turned 40 and needed a career change. Guiding tours suited me perfectly, and I still do a few tours a year, mostly by bus. My exploring led me to Montana

Mountain at Carcross, and that's when "the Northern bug" made the serious bite! Shortly before my first book was published in 1997, I bought **George and Edna Cooper's** summer cabin on Lake Bennett, and that's where I run my Web site network from now. The Carcross webcam that was mentioned in the last MT shoots out my kitchen window! I really appreciate seeing my sites mentioned in the Moccasin Telegraph, taking that as a message that my work is worthwhile. I now have 3,400 pages of information online, making ExploreNorth.com by far the world's largest Internet gateway to the North, with YukonAlaska.com acting as a companion site now.

One of the features of ExploreNorth is more-or-less weekly articles that may be of interest to the members of this list. This past week, I posted a feature on The World's Largest Weather Vane (the DC-3), and another about Klondikers from Hollister, California. A free email newsletter is sent out to keep subscribers abreast of what's new on the site. To show you the level of interest in the North these days, in February, 44,899 people visited 645,409 pages of information at ExploreNorth during 96,614 visits!

Well, I've taken up enough of your time. I greatly appreciate the work that you're putting into this project. You can use whatever parts of the above you feel is useful as my introduction to the list. – **Murray Lundberg**

ExploreNorth.com

Discover the circumpolar North, from Alaska to Greenland and Siberia

<http://www.explorenorth.com>

Then Henry was doing some surfing and found these which are part of Murray's Web <http://www.yukonalaska.com/history/ship.html> The Sternwheeler roster and many things

<http://www.yukonalaska.com/webcam/webcam> The Carcross Cam and Murray's view

<http://www.explorenorth.com/webcam-ca.html> Webcams in Northern Canada