

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – SIXTH EDITION - MARCH 23, 2003

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

I see a trend toward preservation of Yukon History happening as this project evolves. Not only do we now have Yukon Archives in our group in the form of Heather Jones, welcome Heather, we now have Lyn Bleiler who is involved with the Mayo Historical Society. Also in this edition we have a message from Doug Bell as a 'Friend of Yukon Archives' appealing on their behalf for preservation of important information.

I agree this is an important message and would also ask that you share your information with the group since many of us may never get back to Yukon to enjoy your treasures.

Please realize this is your forum and it is your material that makes it so interesting. I was concerned a couple of days ago that I wouldn't have much to forward this week. Many of the folks who signed on this week only gave the bare minimum of information to get them on the mailing list. I hope they will gain confidence in this group and begin to share more information. It is only through your generosity that there is anything to include in each edition. This is not a publication written by me, but by you. So I plead with you to send in your bits and pieces to me Sherron Jones; and your stories to Donna Clayson.

I am really impressed with the group of people that have joined this project and sincerely welcome them. I continue to hope that you will be reconnecting with friends from your past. E-mail has added such easy access to keeping in touch and I hope you will take advantage of it.

During this past week I have been scanning in a number of photos from the collection of Fred Aylwin. Many of them from his father George Aylwin and family friend Alex McCarter's collections, which have been handed down to Fred. I have noted the web page, just after the story section of this edition, where you can view the photos of the 1936 Mayo Flood. I am currently trying to determine the date of group of photos of a Dawson Flood, which are likely 1926 – 1936; and then I will post them for your viewing. Many additional old scenery, transportation and people photos are to come.

So start digging into your old photos and letters.

I hope you will start packing your bags for one or more of the reunions being planned for this year. – Sherron Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Obituary Erich Tyrner

Passed away, October 20, 2002, in Whitehorse - details at <http://www.geocities.com/myfamily2002us/>

Sherron. I would be delighted if you would post a note of **Erich's** passing, October 20, 2002 and the web page.

We knew so many of the names on your list. Thank you. – **Colleen Tyrner**

I can still see the smiling face of Eric, standing in City Hall in his coveralls. We miss you Eric. Farewell old friend. – **Sherron**

Okanagan Yukoners' Picnic

June 22, 2003 12 Noon

Summerland Ornamental Gardens

This is a pot luck affair, so bring lots of food and your own eating utensils. There is a \$3.00 per person fee for the use of the facilities. – **Larry Chalmers**

VANCOUVER YUKONERS' ASSOCIATION

I am writing on behalf of the **Vancouver Yukoners' Association** to let all Yukoners know about us. A visit to our web site will tell most of what I will put here and then some, but since it is very new there could be some problems on some computers. (There is a known problem on Macintosh computers; but we are still waiting to hear from more IBM compatible users)

Our Association is now in its 75th year. Our primary purpose is to provide face to face social venues for **Yukoners** to gather at and renew friendships. We are based in Vancouver but have members from all over the world. We have 5 noontime luncheons (no charge) each year and one evening (**\$50 each**) banquet. As a matter of fact our annual banquet will be on April 5 at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver. We will be celebrating our Diamond (75th) Anniversary and the Centenary of the Village of Mayo. This year there appears to be a fair number of people coming from Whitehorse for the event, and the Mayor of Mayo, **Shanon Cooper** will be there. Should anyone be looking for tickets (**not sold at the door**), contact:

Mary MacDonald at 604-299-7533.

Following the Banquet, our next scheduled social event and luncheon meeting will be on April 17 at the Holiday Inn Downtown. Membership in our Association is just \$10 per year or \$200 for a lifetime membership.

Email or phone the contacts listed below for further details.

email: vanyukoners@aol.com **phone:** Lowell at 604-535-1772 or check out our **web site:** <http://www3.telus.net/yukoners/>

Regards: **Lowell Bleiler**, newsletter editor.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – Story Section

Prepared by Donna Clayson (Storing) – Story Editor ytdogteam@telus.net

Gus Barrett submitted the following story. Gus writes poetry that is an absolute must to read. He has some wonderful poems on his website regarding his time in the north. For some entertaining reading have a look at: <http://poetrypoem.com/sourdough>

Gus was in the Yukon (mainly Whitehorse, but spent some time in Dawson) from 1953 to 1967. His wife Blanche was born and raised in Dawson. After leaving Yukon, he spent some time in Trail and Quesnel before settling down in Qualicum Beach, B.C. on what he calls God's little Island.

A ROOKIE COP
Written by Gus Barrett
March 16, 2003

Fifty years ago next month, I arrived in the Yukon as a constable in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I had finished training a year earlier and spent a year on detachment at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. I had become a bit bored with life there, and had volunteered for northern service. Looking back, I have no idea why I did this other than the fact that I would earn an additional dollar per day as a reward for going north. In those days a third class constable earned 150.00 per month. Having reached the age of 21, I had attained the dizzying heights of first class with a salary of 200.00.

I traveled by train to Edmonton, where I joined two other young constables, Jack Davidson and Paul Lecoque who were also on their way to Whitehorse. Next morning we were taken to the Edmonton Airport and boarded a Royal Canadian Air force Dakota aircraft that was equipped with a number of canvas bucket seats, surrounding a huge pile of mail and supplies bound for the base at Whitehorse. We were each given a parachute and a five-minute course on what to do if we had to bail out. Small comfort to a kid from a Newfoundland fishing village, that had never been inside a plane before.

After seemingly endless hours of flying over still frozen rivers, lakes and snow-covered mountains, we landed at the Whitehorse airport. Our first view of the town below the clay cliffs was of one giant dust cloud rising from the unpaved streets. The town was not by any means a pretty sight at that time. There were about 25 policemen in Whitehorse at this time. There was very little major crime. The drug scene had not arrived in the north yet. Lots of drunk and disorderly, vagrancy, MV accidents, petty theft etc., but little need of flak jackets and sidearms.

We three rookies arrived just in time for a special detail of "Death Watch". A young man had just been convicted in the shooting death of a Whitehorse taxi driver named Ralph Caruso. He was sentenced to be hanged and was placed in a specially guarded cell until the execution date arrived. We were to be his guards on a four on - eight off rotation – round the clock, seven days per week. Needless to say, while rather stressful, it was also a very boring duty. The only thing he wanted to do was play crib. This is where I learned to play the game, through the cell bars.

Though we were trained to detach ourselves somewhat from the duty at hand, one cannot help feeling a certain kinship with another, when pent up with him for weeks on end. Consequently I think we were as happy as he was when, after some weeks of this, he was granted an appeal and the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. He was immediately returned to the regular prison system, and we three were set free to take up other duties. On our first free evening, we decided to go partying at the Rainbow Room in the Whitehorse Inn. While there I happened to meet a young lady who was on her way home to Dawson on vacation from Nursing Training in Vancouver. As I write this, some fifty years later, she is sitting here beside me planning her next golf game.

Shortly after the Death Watch duty, I was transferred to Dawson, where I spent one of the best years of my life. However, that will have to be for another time.

Thank you Gus for relating this story. Hopefully you'll submit more as you've whetted my appetite! – story editor

Who hasn't heard of the Mad Trapper of Rat River? There has been much written about Albert Johnson, termed, The Mad Trapper but who really knew this very complicated and private individual?

Albert Johnson arrived in Fort MacPherson July 9, 1931 at approximately 35 years of age. He had blue eyes and a stocky muscular build. Many people who met him considered him strange. Albert trapped in the Rat River region. In December, 1931 complaints started coming in that the neighbours' traps had been disrupted. They blamed Albert Johnson and asked Constable Alfred "Buns" King and Special Constable Joe Bernard to investigate. When they approached the cabin Albert refused to talk to the Constables.

It was minus 40F below and, not getting anywhere with Albert, the Constables decided to return to Aklavik to get reinforcements. The Constables, two additional Mounties and one civilian returned to the cabin. After knocking on the cabin door a shot rang out wounding Constable King. Quickly they retreated and after traveling 20 hours by dog team back to Aklavik the Constable's life was saved.

A posse was gathered and on January 4, 1932 nine men, 42 dogs and with 40 pounds of dynamite they returned to Albert Johnson's cabin. Once there they thawed the dynamite by holding it under their coats close to their bodies. The dynamite was thrown into the cabin and a massive explosion ripped the roof off and one of the walls caved in. Albert survived by digging a foxhole. He fired two weapons, narrowly missing both officers. Again, they retreated. On January 14 another patrol was dispatched but Albert had fled his cabin. For two weeks Albert evaded the posse in minus 50 below zero weather.

On January 30 they found Albert and after a shootout Constable "Spike" Millen lay dead. Albert again escaped. During a raging blizzard Albert climbed over the 7,000 foot Richardson mountains with little food and no climbing gear. On February 7, 1932 a monoplane piloted by W.R. (Wop) May was pressed into service to aid in the search.

On February 17, 1932 May directed the Mounties to the middle section of the Eagle River and a gun battle eventually brought Johnson down. It took nine bullets to end the 5-week ordeal. Albert's body was never claimed and before his arrival in the Arctic River no one had ever heard of him. During the manhunt the Mounties never heard him speak.

Albert Johnson is buried in Aklavik, NWT.

Note: There is a good book published on **The Mad Trapper of Rat River** that explains the hunt in detail

Lyle Coleman has submitted the following regarding the Mad Trapper of Rat River:

Lyle was born in Whitehorse and raised in Atlin, BC. He went to high school in Whitehorse from 1957-1961. He returned in 1968 and left 1985. Now in Airdrie, Alberta. While in the Yukon he flew for several companies, ending up as the Chief Pilot fixed wing for Trans North. He flew the DC-3 including CF-CPY which now resides on a pedestal at the Whitehorse Airport. Lyle is still flying out of Calgary but will be winding down soon. Presently on the 737-700.

Lyle's father left the RCMP just before he was born. He remembers his dad telling the story of spending a cold winter night in a cabin on the Hess River with the man that turned out to be Albert Johnson. This was before the big chase. His Dad trained with and was a friend of B. King who Johnson shot and wounded during the chase on the Rat River.

Lyle's father's picture is in a book written about the RCMP in the Yukon. His given name was Thomas but he was called "Buck" by those that knew him in the RCMP. The picture shows him and another Constable carrying the body of a dead miner into Dawson for burial. They had to sling the fellow under a pole that they carried on their shoulders. All that for \$2.00 a day!

Thanks, Lyle for sending in this great piece. After the stories you heard is that why you decided to take up flying? – story editor

Editor's note - Robert McDowell (b. 1909, d. 2003), the last living Mountie who was part of the historic fatal chase of Albert Johnson (Mad Trapper of Rat River). Mr. McDowell passed away in a nursing home in Oliver, B.C. early March, 2003 at the age of 94.

TO ALL OUR READERS: There will be an announcement in next week's newsletter about an exciting contest. All the details haven't been worked out as yet but I promise that you will be as excited as I am. So until then enjoy the Moccasin Telegraph this week and look in this same spot for next week's announcement. – Donna Clayson – Story Editor

The subject matter for next week's stories is "Where were you when the Riverboats burned?" Send your recollections to Donna. ytdogteam@telus.net

1936 MAYO FLOOD PHOTOS

Compliments of Fred Aylwin

<http://community.webshots.com/album/67062638aoKsMP>

HENRY'S RECOLLECTIONS

In the spring of 1936 we had a real cold spring and there fore the snow did not melt early. Then the last week of May it turned extremely hot and

all that snow decided to come down the river at once. The ice at Mayo used to vary in when it went out, but a good target would be May 18th. At the time of the flood the ice had all gone and thank goodness for that as it would have made more of a mess and created damage from ice. We flooded again in 1937, but the level was not so bad. To give you an idea, in 1936 we had 5 feet of water in the house and had to take a piano out through a hole in the roof. When it went down we had 5 or 6 inches of silt on the floors, which Dad shoveled, with a scoop shovel and wheel barrow. Devil of a mess, and even in 1950 when we rebuilt the house there was still silt in the walls. In 1937 we thought we were in for the same thing, but the water only came up to floor level. We had a cellar for storing garden produce, and each year we used to get about 3 feet of water in it when the rivers were high. Mayo is situated on the confluence of the Mayo and Stewart rivers, the Mayo river clear and the Stewart River muddy. Since those years, Mayo has flooded but not so bad. They now have a dyke surrounding the town to keep the high water out, and in the Mayo URL for 2003 you will see a photo taken from the top of the dyke looking upstream on the Stewart River.

If I remember, it was about June 3rd 1936 that we were flooded out. I was a kid of only 9 years and spent the day playing in the neighbourhood when the water was rising. My friend, Dick Gillespie and I were playing in the water and thinking that it was great fun until Dick fell into a ditch, and as the water was running fast near sucked him into a culvert. That meant a change of clothes for him and I headed for home, as things were not looking too good. During the evening we could see the water creeping up the back garden, and Jim Fulton who would become my brother in law in a couple of months was with us. By 3:00 in the morning the water started coming in the back door and it was time to get out. We walked the flooding streets to Centre Street where the Chateau Mayo Hotel was situated, and Jim got us in a boat to get us across. The street was just like a fast river as the water was rising, and then we hiked to his house, which was on high grounds about 1/4 mile from downtown. We spent the next four days at his place while Mayo was flooded, and walked over to the Anglican Church where the Str, Aksala was tied up to provide shelter and meals for folks that had been forced out. My Dad was working in Elsa and came down that night when he heard about it, and the early morning went home to see what had to be done. I mentioned about the piano, and he jacked it up about three feet to keep it clear, but soon that was not enough and he cut a hole in the roof to take it out.

What a mess, for everyone's woodpile had taken off and was in somebody else's yard. Not only that, but as we all used outhouses they were gone too! I think that Gillespies' had about three extra outhouses in their yard. Everyone was about in the same boat of having to muck out the silt and get back to normal. Of course it was great to get a holiday from school, but that soon came to an end. The main medical worry was sanitation and clean drinking water, and we had a boil water order for a while. Dad built a new outhouse, and as we had a pump for water with a driven point there was not too much worry in that area. We were in an area where clear cold water flowed through the gravel from the Mayo River

Henry Breaden

(Be sure not to miss checking out the photos at the URL (website) listed above.)

*Dust off your Flood stories and send them to Donna.
ytdogteam@telus.net*

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE !

By the way, can we put a feeler out there?? I am looking for an old school teacher of mine.

His name is **Eric Foster**. His wife's name is **Ann**. He has daughter **Michele**, and son named **Michael**, and just before they left Beaver Creek, they had another child, though I do not remember their name.

Mr. Foster taught for I think two years in Beaver Creek in the early 70's. He taught grades 5 - 8, as well as the principal. I would really like to touch base with him.

I exchanged some e-mails with **Sue Thomas**, and she mentioned that she thought he was back in Beaver Creek in 1998 or 1999, and may have moved to teach in Mayo. But I have had no luck trying to find him. If there is anyway we can get a request out there, I would greatly appreciate it.

Sandy Campbell northernlyght@shaw.ca

I've been looking for a good friend since 1966. Carmen Dobbs originated from Hay River and spent the summer of 1966 in Whitehorse. We became good friends but I have lost track of him. Carmen, if you're reading this or anyone that

knows him, please call **Donna Clayson (Storing)**. ytdogteam@telus.net Just wondering how you've been for 37 years.

A MESSAGE FROM DOUG BELL

Hello again Sherron:

You've created a monster, a nice one tho', like that purple dinosaur, with a grin a mile wide, and stories without end.

First a suggestion for Donna's story subjects. **Every Yukoner has dozens of Raven & Bear stories**, which I suspect would make good reading, and, I expect you'd easily get enough for a book.

I'm a member of a group called FOYA - **Friends of the Yukon Archives** - and when I told the Archives about your fine work, which some had already seen, **they asked me to appeal to your ex-Yukoners for donations of material to the Yukon Archives.** In other words if you want something preserved: *your photo collections, stories, books, whatever, it can be donated to the Archives and be preserved and available to friends, family and researchers for generations to come.* Maybe they'll begin filing the Moccasin Telegraph.

I have another appeal. As editor of the Yukon Council on Aging seniors newsletter, the **Sourdough Chronicle**, we are always looking for stories for our column called Memory Lane. **George Howell's & Lyle Coleman's stories** in the Moccasin Telegraph 5th edition are good examples of what we could use. So do you think it would be okay to ask permission from the authors?

I'm still part-time at the Yukon News so will do some homework for Donna on the item she noted, "Newspapers in the North," but it'll be a few weeks, or months, before I can get to it. (Unless I'm lucky & stumble on some good tales in researching other stories.)

Take care, and thanks again for your idea, your initiative and the fine work you are doing with ex-Yukoners. - **Doug Bell.**

(I replied to Doug to just consult any of the authors of articles shared in the Moccasin Telegraph. I have also made that statement to Murray Lundgren who hosts the wonderful website which shares a lot of information about the north. Please get busy and submit your Raven or Bear story to Donna Clayson at ytdogteam@telus.net)

COMMENTS FROM NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LIST

- When I arrived in the Yukon, I was **Mary Lou Chapman** – I married and became **Carriss** then divorced and much later re-married – I am now known as **Lou Zornes** - the Mary part of my name was dropped by friends in Whitehorse during Rendezvous one year with a reference to the Lady Known as Lou from Robert Service. In actual fact, if I remember correctly, it was **Gillian Campbell** – shortly

after my divorce who kept dedicating the song “ a good man is hard to find” to: “ the lady know as Lou” during her musical review.

- Your website came to me via **Dennis Senger** my oldest Yukon friend. Dennis is so diligent about keeping in touch. I do see **Iris Warner** occasionally, - she used to write for the Star – now lives on Salt Spring Island. I will pass on your site to her when I see her next. Do you know anything about an annual picnic of Yukoners on Vancouver Island? I have head a rumour of one but do not know of any details... where or when. Yours, **Lou Zornes (Mary Lou Carriss (Chapman))**

- Hi Sherron, I received your note today. Sorry I was not more explicit. I am new to computers, and I did not see this on a web page, it was sent to me via email from **Eunice Brazdil** a former Yukoner, whom had it, sent to her by **Alvena Workman** a friend in Whitehorse. Both Gunter and I lived in Whitehorse, went to school there and raised a daughter. I moved to the Yukon at the age of 2 and Gunter moved at the age of 6. We were married in 1969, and have just recently made New Brunswick our home. I worked at Horwoods Office Supply 1977 to 1990. **Gunter** worked for Cassiar Asbestos and then stayed working in the trucking area as a trailer mechanic. We still have a shop in Whitehorse..Balsam Trailer and Tire Repair. We have met a fellow here that started the Carcross Corner Service Station and is anxious for news from the Yukon. His name is **Doug Martin**. Would it be o.k. for us to forward this to him? I hope this is what you were looking for. Any other info, please contact me. Keep up the good work! I know I will enjoy the Moccasin Telegraph..thanks ...Jackie **Gunter & Jackie Balsam**

- Sally Witty (nee Greenwood). We moved to Whitehorse in May 1952. It was the same summer that the 'new' school was built across from Tourists Services and the year that **Dallas Smith**, Miss Yukon was made Miss Canada (possibly?!). My dad was **Bishop Tom Greenwood** for whom Greenwood House is named. We moved to England at the end of 1961. Now I live with my husband, Bob, in Guelph Ontario. We have two daughters and two grandsons. Thanks **Sally Witty (Greenwood)** bwitty@sentex.net

- **Shawn Germaine** was born and raised in Mayo 1970. Attending Dr was the late **Dr. J.V. Clark** whom the school here is affectionately named after. Lived here for most of his life (32 years) aside from a few other times he left to stretch his wings in other parts of the Yukon and finding me in Whitehorse. :) (ps. has never been to Alberta!)

I was born 1969 in Whitehorse as **Victoria Mary Ross**. Lived in Whse all my life until I moved to Mayo to be closer to the love of my life, **Shawn**. Have been in Mayo since 1997.

email address is germaine@yt.sympatico.ca

Not sure how much you would like but if you need more just ask. - **Babe Germaine**

➤ **Sandy Campbell**

Born in Mayo, Yukon (1959-1960)

Raised in Teslin (1966-1969)

Raised in Beaver Creek (1969-1974)

Moved to Whitehorse(1974-1991)

Also lived in Haines Junction (1986- for 6 months)

Now live in Surrey, BC

(604) 596 3239 Home (604) 341-1444- cell northernlyght@shaw.ca

No the dates are right. I was only in Mayo for 14 months, when my dad went to Whitehorse to work for the Yukon Forest Service. we were there until 1964, then my parents separated and Mom took us kids with her to Port Alberni, BC (on Vancouver Island) until May of 1966. Dad was then stationed in Teslin. We were there until 1969, when he and the warden in Beaver Creek decided to trade stations. We were then sent to Beaver Creek. I was there until the fall of 1974, as my brother and I had to go to Whitehorse to continue our education. Dad moved the spring of 1975 to Whitehorse. I was there on and off until 1991, until I moved to Prince Rupert for 2 1/2 months, then on to Kamloops for 8 1/2 years, and then to Surrey- Suburb of Vancouver- 3 years ago. I hope that this answers your questions. But if you need more clarification, please ask.

I also want to thank you for doing this. I have often thought of trying to do something like this, but had no way of knowing how to figure out how to get it up and going. Thank you again. - **Sandy Campbell**

(Sandy's dad is **Glen Campbell**, some of you may know him. Glen was with Yukon Forest Service.) - **Sherron**

➤ Sherron Thanks for getting us onto your mailing list. I think you are right about posting your project in the Yukoner Magazine. It might result in too many names at once. Eventually everyone will find you anyhow. I would appreciate if you would post our link on your "Yukon Related Web Addresses" section. This would be: The Yukoner Magazine <http://www.yukoner.com>

We publish a lot of personal memoirs and pay anywhere from \$75 to \$200 for them, depending on length and the availability of photos. So if any of your correspondents are interested in sending us a manuscript, they are most welcome. By e-mail or snail mail.

Like your project, the magazine is a labour of love. Both **Dianne** and I work at other jobs and contracts to keep things going. From the first issue, it developed a life of its own, with lots of fans and penpals resulting from it.

All the best - **Sam Holloway**

I first came to the Yukon in 1968, stranded in fog and ice for three weeks in Pauline Cove on Herschel Island. Settled here permanently in 1974. - **Sam**

- **Gordon** was born in Dawson in 1910. The family moved to Vancouver in 1920. **Gordon** returned to the Yukon in 1932 to teach school at Mayo. Moved to Whitehorse in 1965.

I thought that you would be interested to hear that **Arla** and the other members of the curling team arrived in the small town of Assiniboia, Sask.[my home town] where they will start curling today. There is not much to do there other than curling. Regards **Ruth and Gordon McIntyre**

- Hi Sherron Just got a note from **Elwood**. we are **Tom and Rita Taylor**, Saskatoon, Sask. e-mail: trtylr@shaw.ca. **Rita and I** met, married, and lived in Whitehorse from 1971--1981. Cheers to all Yukoners now and then; - **Tom Taylor**

- <http://www.geocities.com/myfamily2002us/> (This Web Address also posted above under Obituaries)
The above is the web page for my husband, who died in October of last year. **Erich** came to the Yukon in 1950 and died in 1992. We wed in 1965 and lived in Dawson where I met **Doris Gates**, who gave me the address for the "telegraph". You may know both of us, or our family whose pictures are all on the pages of the above website. I live in Whitehorse and work for YTG. My photo is up there too. - **Colleen Tyrner**

- Hi This is **Pat Varney** again. We lived in Clinton Creek from Nov. 1-1971 to end of June 1977 we then moved directly to Stewart B.C.(my husband **Dal** left Clinton Creek in April--I believe it was). So he was in Stewart sooner than the rest of the family and stayed there longer. The kids and I moved to Faro the end of Aug. 1978 so that they could start school in Sept. (once again my husbands timing was different). He came in Oct 1978. The family left Faro in about July or Aug of 1985 and Dal stayed on with security for almost another year before coming to Kamloops where we reside to date. Except that Dal still commutes to work in the Northwest Territories at this time.

We have 3 children, Our oldest a girl **Sheila** is married and living with her husband and 2 children in Grande Prairie Ab. Our oldest son **Darren** is married and lives in the U.S in Minnesota with his wife (no children).

Our youngest **Conrad** lives in Red Deer Ab. with his girlfriend (no children).

Dal was a supervisor in electrical at both Clinton Creek and Faro. I worked at the Snack Bar in Clinton Creek and helped occasionally at the Malamute Saloon. Then I transferred to work as bullcook for the transport drivers at the office site and last I worked in cardex at the warehouse. While in Stewart I babysat and cleaned the company guesthouses. When I moved to Faro I worked as a survey assistant. Later I moved to the office as the switchboard operator, then to production stats entry in operations finishing off with packing for Pacific Northwest moving when everyone was leaving Faro.

I hope this enlightens you a bit about us .

I heard about this from a good friend **Doris Gates** in Clinton B.C. – **Pat & Dal Varney**

- Great idea! Please add me to your list ken@kelagraphics.com **Ken Duncan**
KeLa Graphic Services 5003-46 Street Camrose, AB
T4V 3G3 t. 780.672.2850 f.780.672.4837
I Lived in Whitehorse from 1963 to 1976. My folks are still there my **Dad Tom** worked for YTG In health for many years and was in Justice when he retired. **Chuck Dary** forwarded the info. about the list. Thanks – **Ken Duncan**
- I moved to Beaver Creek in 1957, left the Yukon in 1971, have traveled up to Whitehorse and Beaver Creek twice in 1995, once in 2001 and twice in 2002. Have lived on a farm near Sylvan Lake since 1978. - **Cheryl Anne Guenther (Stalberg)**
- Hi there-my wife **Joan** and I and our two girls **Kyla** and **Jamie** lived in the Yukon from 1973 till 1987. Two years were in Mayo and the rest Whitehorse. We have lived in Sherwood Park since leaving the Yukon. Both girls are now married and live in the area - **Jim Laird**.
- Hi Sherron, Yes, they are ex-Yukoners. **Patti** (my sister) is daughter (as am I) of **Lloyd Romfo**.
Yes, **Pat Lucier** is nephew of **Paul Lucier**. With a little prodding I am sure you can get some wonderful stories out of **Pat**, re **Paul**. They were very close.
Such a small world, right? - **Bonnie (R) Vars**
PS Thanks again for the great job you are doing. It certainly opens doors and brings back wonderful memories for us all.
- Hi Sherron, Wow, what a great read. Thank you for all material you and **Henry** have sent me. My email is lynbleiler@yahoo.com. This site works better for me than aol. Photographs turn out much nicer on it.

Thank you for adding us to the list (**Lyn and Lowell Bleiler, Mayo and Vancouver**.) Lowell's family is celebrating 100 years in Mayo this year as his grandfather **Middlecoff** staked claims on Highet Creek in 1903 the same year the town site was surveyed.

I am still President of the Mayo Historical Society, (mayohistoricalsoc@yahoo.ca) and always collecting photographs and stories about Mayo for our files in the Binet House. Right now I am looking for photographs of the interior of the old Hospital or the dental equipment to use as a backdrop for our wonderful medical display in the Binet House.

I would also like to let you know that the Mayo Historical Society has just released a Centennial Edition of "Gold & Galena" complete with a Centennial Logo on the cover and a gold foil bookplate bearing the number of the book. This is a limited edition run of five hundred books, especially for the collectors amongst us. It sells for \$55 plus postage.

Many thanks, **Lyn Bleiler**

- Hello Sherron Thankyou for putting us on the list and also for the articles in the Moccasin Telegraph .We were very interested in finding out where the people, whom we knew, are now located. We also enjoyed the articles in the Moccasin Telegraph.

Yes, Sherron you have our permission to place our comments in the next Moccasin Telegraph, and to share the photo of the thermometer showing **minus 80 degrees F** with the group. That photo was taken during my first winter in the Yukon. At the time I thought that I was experiencing a typical Yukon winter thank goodness that it was an atypical one. In those days there was no school if the temperature was minus 50 degrees F or colder so we had quite a few days when there was no school during that winter.

Sherron, Gordon says that he cannot recall the dates of the floods in Dawson but he does remember going to Dawson in 1979 to assess some of the damage done by the flood that year. We are on a phone connection and it certainly will not annoy us with long transmission time so send anything that you wish.

Sorry it took so long to get back to you but I find that it takes much longer to get organized than it used to take.

Keep up the great job that you are doing, Sherron we are enjoying the involvement.

Regards **Gordon and Ruth McIntyre**

- Dear Sherron: Here is a bit of info on my family. Dad, **Red Hannah**, was first sent to Fort Nelson, B.C. as a customs agent in the early 50's. Then we moved to Whitehorse in 57 then to Beaver Creek in 58 then back to Whitehorse around '63. Dad was a customs agent and coroner and Justice of the peace. he was well known for being the "Marryin' Sam" and would marry anyone, anywhere, horseback, mountain top, river boats, ...our living room. He married most of us kids as well. He was a member of the Elks and loved it. Thursday was his night at bingo... I am now living in Farmington, B.C. but some of my family is still living in Whitehorse. - **Patty Miller**

NEW TO THE LIST AND A NEW VENTURE IN THE WORKS

If anyone can help Marc by providing historical information, photos or any other information about the Yukon Rose, I am sure he would be happy to receive it. Marc can be reached at marcjjohn@yahoo.com

Thank you for your email. The concept of creating a list and newsletter for ex Yukoners is a great one and I hope that my little project is of interest.

I have spent the last 2 years rebuilding the Yukon Rose. She is a 60 ft long Yukon Riverboat built in 1929 for the Taylor and Drury Company of Whitehorse. She spent the first 10 years of her life servicing T&D stores

from Pelly Banks to Old Crow, pushing a barge and carrying passengers to some of the more remote ports in the Yukon.

During the war she was chartered to two men who in turn chartered her to the US Army and she spent considerable time pushing her barge around the Southern Lakes. Our now Senator, **Ione Christensen**, believes that her actual use was as a party boat for the officers, but her somewhat beat up appearance in some pictures would indicate that she spent at least some time at work.

Following the war, she was returned to T&D but there was little for her to do since a highway served many parts of the Yukon. In 1948 she was sold to White Pass (BYN). That Company re-engined her and rebuilt her and added a new cabin. If one of your subscribers has a picture of the re-engining under way.....I would be VERY interested.

After about 15 years with BYN, mostly in the Dawson/Stewart Island/Mayo area she was sold to **Ray Jabowski(?)** who in turn sold her to **Ken Garvice** of Carmacks, who sold her to **Yvonne and Rudy Burien** of Dawson. They used her for a year or two and then retired her by 1968 to the slough behind Stewart Island. **Rudy** wanted to save the Island and its community but piece by piece it fell into the river. But the Yukon Rose was protected by the Island itself and rested there for years. Eventually the Buriens sold it to an outfitter named Caples who had a dream to refloat her. He managed to do just that in the Spring of 1978 and she appeared in Dawson. From there, she migrated to a home on 3rd Avenue not far from Klondike Kate's. She was eventually passed to 3 guys, one of whom was **Ron MacReady** who owned the home and there the vessel stayed for the next 25 years.

I found her in 2000, purchased her in 2001, and she has been under reconstruction ever since. She will be launched on June 14th, on the Dawson waterfront and in conjunction with the Commissioner's Tea Party. We expect **Joe Loutchen** and **Hank Karr** to provide the music, Yukon Breweries is providing the refreshments, the Dawson City Fire Dept. will provide the dinner and the Klondike Visitor's Association has arranged to close the street. In short, we're having a party and if you remember anything about the Rose.....or even if you don't.....you are invited.

I have created a large scrapbook with memorabilia from the Rose.....and if any of your subscribers have material I could copy for inclusion.....it would be

greatly appreciated. A re-commissioning booklet including a complete history will be available at the launch.

Sherron:....Of course I would like to join your group. I arrived in Watson Lake in 1996 in order to build and train people to run a radio station. I did that.....but like so many others, I found I kinda liked it here. I am still here. I have worked at CBC, CKRW, and CHON but I came here from Victoria where I learned to rebuild boats. I was finding things a little thin in the boat building department until I found the "Rose" and now I have quickly discovered that I have taken on a huge project.

I found the special white oak for ribs.....as a tree in Ohio. But that particular tree turned out to be rotten on the inside. While I was in Ohio, I looked on the net for a new engine.....an historically correct one....and I found it in Florida, so I went there to check it out. It was a perfect fit. A 1943 6 cylinder Graymarine. And the owner gave it to me!! Then I went to Missouri where they were having an oak blight.....and found someone who wanted an oak tree removed from their yard. The tree was shipped to Victoria where it was quarter-sawn and I eventually carried 1000 board feet of lumber to Dawson. I went back to Florida for the engine a year ago, and it is awaiting installation this Spring. Somewhere in there, I built a 70 X 20 foot shop, disassembled the boat and built the steamer for installing the new ribs. It has been a busy two years, but an adventure I would never have missed!!

The Yukon Rose will be used as a "shepherd" vessel for accompanying groups of canoeists down the Yukon River from Whitehorse to Dawson. She will have hot showers, flush toilets, a full galley, 110 volts and a hot tub. (An historically correct Hot Tub, of course). Canoeists will paddle.....the Rose will run ahead and her crew will set up camp, cook dinner and attend to the paddlers' every need. While the paddlers will sleep in tents they will have linen sheets, real beds, china, crystal wine glasses, the aforementioned hot tub and a mint on the pillow each evening.

See <http://www.northstarnavigation.com>

I am not yet finished the rebuild project but I do have reservations to appear at the Mayo Centennial on July 1st. The Rose will be there!!

If any readers have stories or pictures to add..... please pass them along. People have dropped off marine artifacts, ideas, pictures and more.....every donation is needed and welcome.

And if you have never heard of the Yukon Rose.....how about the "Loon"? I have recently acquired the Loon for restoration and although it is only in storage now.....I am just beginning to collect Loon material and history. But that's a story for another day.....first we launch the Yukon Rose.

Thank you for you interest - **Marc Johnston**

VERY INTERESTING

I have been struggling with the accurate spelling of Lake L*b*rgé. Here is a bit brought to my attention by Marc Johnston. The Government of Canada Atlas at http://www.canadainfolink.ca/yuk_names.jpg and the following bio both justify the use of the spelling Laberge. – **Sherron**

Michel Laberge (1836 - 1909)

Michel Laberge, born in Chateauguay, Quebec, was the first French-Canadian to explore the Yukon in 1866. Laberge worked at one time for the Russians and in 1867 he did some surveying for Western Union who wanted to build an overland telegraph to Europe. He later engaged in the fur trade in the Yukon under the name of the Pioneer American Fur Company. His contribution to geography is commemorated by *Lake Laberge* in the Yukon Territory, which was named after him in 1870. The lake, also known as *Lake Lebarge* in some early documentation, was the setting for Robert W. Service's famous poem, *The Cremation of Sam McGee*, which is available in the [Library](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~laberge/noted.htm). <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~laberge/noted.htm>

TIDBITS

Hi Sherron: Thanks for a wonderful job. I find I actually keep my email open every Sunday and wait for your latest edition of the Moccasin Telegraph and list of Yukoners. It is an absolute delight to read and check out the various sites and see where all our old friends are now living.

Keep it up girl :) **Vivian Stuart**

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Sherron; I sat up 'till 2 a.m. reading the stories etc. Love it all. As **Les Sommerton** said, " We Yukoners sure came out of the woodwork, didn't we". This reminds me when

we had our bad flood in Dawson, when we were called upon to help, we certainly responded in a great way. That's a 'true, blue Yukoner'. Have a good day, Sherron. -
Brownie Foth

FOR BACK COPIES OF THE MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

Please contact Sandy Campbell northernlyght@shaw.ca

To date five previous editions of the Moccasin Telegraph have been produced, along with two special editions. One titled Sternwheelers on the Yukon River, one Basketball in the 50's, and the other Fifty-six years ago the world looked at Snag.

As of this date you should all at least have a copy of Editions 5 & 6, as well as the three special editions.

Sandy Campbell has kindly agreed to send out copies of the earlier editions upon request. Please be specific as to which editions you are requesting.

Sandy is a working girl and will get to the requests at her earliest convenience. Contact Sandy at northernlyght@shaw.ca

DATES TO REMEMBER

Vancouver Yukoners' Banquet - April 5th – Vancouver, Hyatt – contact Donald Murray donaldmurray@telus.net (see edition 6)

Arctic Luncheon – April 6th – Victoria – contact Norma Alison nalison@uvic.ca (see edition 5)

Mayo 100th Anniversary Celebrations – June 3 – July 1 -

http://www.yukonweb.com/community/mayo100/calendar_of_events.html

Okangan Yukoners' Picnic – June 22, 2003 - Summerland Orn. Gardens - Larry Chalmers larryjoanchalmers@telus.net (ed. 6)

Island Yukoners' Picnic - August 16 – Nanoose, St. Mary's Hall - contact Stan Hegstrom seaair@bcsupernet.com (details to come)

YXYCP Renunion - September 26 – 28 – Parksville, Bayside – contact Pat Besier jpbsier@seaside.net (see edition 5)

LESSONS OF THE GEESE

A wonderfully inspirational message – let us all help this project be a success.

<http://www.members.aol.com/CuttyhunkRose/geese.html>