

**MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – Forty-Ninth Edition- Feb. 1, 2004**

Created by Sherron Jones [sherronjones@shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca)



**Sunset – Dawson - January 6, 2004 3:30 P.M.**

Photo Courtesy Debbie

Photo Courtesy Debbie Algotsson [algotson@cityofdawson.ca](mailto:algotson@cityofdawson.ca)

**GETTING OLD**

By Gus Barrett [sourdoughs2@shaw.ca](mailto:sourdoughs2@shaw.ca)

I've got eyeglasses for driving,  
I've got a pair for sun.  
And if I want to read a book,  
I've yet another one.  
I recently bought hearing aids,  
For me, a new adventure,  
Then, just to top it off, I bought  
A brand new set of dentures.

Then, after buying eyeglasses,  
My hearing aids, and teeth,  
I found that, next, I needed  
Some orthotics for my feet.  
I take pills for my arthritis,  
And some for ulcers too.  
Vitamins to build me up,  
And to ward off Asian flu.

What little hair I have is gray,  
What I had on top, I've shed,  
I'm getting stooped and slowing down,  
Long past my prime in bed.  
Still, looking on the brighter side,  
I thank my lucky stars,  
Each morning when the sun comes up  
And I'm still above the grass.

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## **FAMILY, “NOME” & HELPING THE AMERICAN ARMY**

By Daisy (Callison) Havdale-Welsh c/o [jehavdale@shaw.ca](mailto:jehavdale@shaw.ca)

*(A snail mail message from Daisy, received Jan 26, 2004, which I typed in. – Sherron)*

My Dear Sherron

My daughter has been away so I have received these E-Mails fairly recently.

When Dale Simpson was a very young fellow, he married Darlyne Howatt. They had 3 children before they were divorced. (Tina, Grant and Kim.) Dale soon quit his job on the Alaska Highway and took up flying. He now lives at Parksville on Vancouver Island. I spent a most interesting day with him last summer. He has lived a very different and productive life in the helicopter business. He worked for the O.K. Helicopter Service for many years, often delivering new choppers to foreign countries and teaching pilots to fly them. I asked him how many countries in which he had lived. His answer was 17. Now that he has reached an age where he no longer flies the regular lines he works periodically in the Artic, tagging polar bear, etc. He is a very knowledgeable and interesting person.

I just received another e-mail about a dog named “Daisy” who saved over 900 people during 911. I know of more than one instance of dogs doing very intelligent things. My father was in Nome, Alaska, in the early thirties, and needed to purchase a dog team to get back to Ft. St. John. We could not depend on flying in those days!

Of course he was looking for husky dogs but there seemed to be none available. A man offered to sell him a big New Foundland female. Since there seemed to be no other choice, he took her. For one thing, he was told she had been over the trail and knew her way. The trail was new to my father. “Nome” (which is the name he gave to the new dog) was in the lead and traveling steadily along when there came a “white out”. Dad had no idea where he was but the dog kept traveling and after several miles came to the very stopping place he was headed for. He always contended she saved his life!

It was a long haul from Nome, Alaska, to our homestead just 25 miles north of Ft. St. John. On a bitter cold day Dad pulled in and we all were relieved to see him. For the first time in my life I saw my father bring a sleigh dog into our house. He bathed her sore feet and settled her down on the big grizzly bear rug that lay in front of our wood heater. There she slept for three days. She was so exhausted but she had never hesitated all the way. Dad was both proud and sorry for her. She certainly endeared herself to him and to all of us.

You asked for information on my family. My folks came north early on. My father came for the first time in 1911 and my mother and the family in 1912. There is no place on earth today, which is so isolated as the "Peace River Block" was at that time. Edmonton was just a police station and Hudson Bay Post. Their experiences were many and varied.

In 1935 my father, Fred Callison, led an expedition across the Cassiar range of mountains, to McDames Creek. There were seven of us and it took us 58 days traveling time. My brother John, 26 years old, our friend, Russell Bailie, my sister Doris, age 19, Clifford Hagen, an orphan who lived with us, age 19 my twin brother Dennis and I turned 16 years of age on that trip.

We took 60 head of horses. I kept a diary and have written a book on that experience. It is now in the process of being published. I never realized how much red tape would be involved!

Today I have decided to talk about the part my brothers played in the building of the Alaska Highway. I am inclosing a clipping from the Edmonton Journal of 1942 for starters and will tell you what led up to the article.

When my brother John had left for his trap line in the fall of 1941 it was from the little old Ft. Nelson village, which was down on the river. When he returned, after beavering in the late spring, he was amazed to see the new sight where the Americans had set up camp on a flat above the original village.

He decided to take a walk around to see what was really going on. To his dismay he came upon a coloured regiment who were digging in the muskeg. John had never seen so many people of colour before. When he asked what they thought they were doing, they said they were digging the crust from the muskeg where the army intended to corduroy a road. John asked if they realized there was no bottom to muskeg and their labour was in vain. He suggested they quit shoveling and get out of that mud! They said they could not as this was their "orders." It was then John realized they were even nervous about stopping long enough to talk to him. They were sweating and the mosquitoes were tormenting them. He asked if they were thirsty and they said they were. He found a pail of water and a dipper and gave them each a drink. He asked where he could find the men in charge and said he would see what he could do about the situation.

Edmonton Journal 1942

(This was a single article that I clipped in half. Daisy had indicated it was ranches plural that her brothers operated. – Sherron)

**North Residents Read About Alaska Road**



These pictures were taken at Fort Nelson, furthest point to which American troops have traveled in their preparations to build the road to Alaska. The top picture shows a copy of THE JOURNAL being delivered by THE JOURNAL'S Thomas Morfitt to Garnett Harold. Harold and his dog team were passing the airport when Morfitt stepped out to hand him a paper. In that edition was a story detailing plans for the road construction. Below, other residents read the papers.

**4 Brothers Lead Americans In Alaska Road Route Quest**

Will Take Men Into Uncharted Areas of Northwest

TRAPPERS, PIONEERS

By Don Menzies  
(Edmonton Journal Staff Reporter)

DAWSON CREEK, B.C., March 20.—When the saga of the Alaska highway is written, four brothers, all trappers, traders and ranchers, will figure prominently.

The brothers will take U.S. engineer units by dog team into the uncharted areas between Fort St. John and Fort Nelson, and Fort Nelson and Watson Lake, to blaze the trail which eventually will become the North American continent's most vital road.

They are Elisha, John, Dennis and Lynch Collison, who operate a ranch north of Fort St. John and trading posts in the north, including Fort Nelson.

These brothers have traveled over vast areas in the north by dog team and pack horse and have an excellent knowledge of Indian trails. They even have blazed trails themselves.

The brothers will take American survey parties into areas which will be selected from reconnaissance planes as logical routes for the highway. The survey parties will study ground conditions, return and make their findings known, then start out to blaze the Alaska highway.

When he walked into the officers' quarters and explained why he was there, one of the men let him know in no uncertain terms to mind his own business. By that time, John, who was always the gentleman, was resenting the officer's arrogance and was a little hot under the collar himself. He quietly told them if they wished to destroy any respect the Canadians had for them to just leave those coloured soldiers right where they were in that hopeless mud hole, as there is no racial discrimination in this country the foolishness of it would not be overlooked. His self-importance as an army officer was a little out of hand and John suggested he not confuse himself with God Almighty. John suspected he was talking to the very officer who had given those gross orders in the first place.

Other officers were listening and when he told them they could dig to China and not find a bottom to that muskeg. Which is very like quicksand, they responded immediately and told the first officer to call the men off that hopeless job. (John said he never met any of those coloured boys personally again, but he was certainly spoken to in a most friendly manor and given many pats on the back. He was also rewarded with flashing white smiles in dark faces.

The coloured boys had told John where the army had intended to build the highway. Certainly it was flat and certainly it was straight but was bottomless muskeg, laced with small streams and some not so small. John told the officers so. He also told them that Charles Badeau had attempted to go across the mountains in 1934. He had hired green, inexperienced help who knew next to nothing about horses, and was beat even before he got started. (I watched a documentary on T.V. concerning that expedition and felt ill to think that some of those poor horses, which were down in that muskeg and being shot had very likely, come from our horse ranch!) Charlie Brandt, a homesteader and trapper, met that Badeau outfit when on his way home from his trap line and he was very upset. He said the horses were tied to spruce trees and were so hungry they were trying to eat spruce needles. He reported the situation to the police but nothing was done about it.

The trucks, which the army had brought in over the frozen ground, would be worthless on the original survey. What they needed were experienced men with trained horses and dogs. John told them he was familiar with the country and would draw them a map. The grade would be high and crooked, but they could find the gravel necessary to build the highway. His father had built the railroad grade north from Grand Prairie and John had driven 18 head of horses on a grader, so he understood what the army was up against.

He was told that if he knew so much about this country and building roads he should be working for the army. He said he had not come looking for employment as he had been away from home for months while on his trap line and was anxious to get back to his ranch, get the crop in and to go to Vancouver to sell his fur. A guilt trip was laid upon him. This highway was vital for the protection of our country. Men who were familiar with the lay of the land and knew something about running camps under these circumstances were in great demand.

For starters, they asked, "Would he work for them?" He relented under their pressure, and agreed to go outside, make arrangements for someone to run his ranch in his absence, go to Vancouver and sell his fur, pick up his horses and dogs and return as soon as possible. Did he know anyone else who knew and understood their dilemma???

John said he had three brothers who were as knowledgeable about the country and lay of the land as he. He named off several other acquaintances as well. One man who he highly recommended was Knox McCusker. A well experienced surveyor, hunter, and big game guide. He was perhaps the best qualified and dependable man he could think of. John kept his promise and returned with his pack string as soon as possible. He also contacted his three brothers and several other dependable men, asking them to contact these certain army officers if possible.

Several camps had been set up and the survey work had gotten well under way when my brother Lash had a letter telling him to report immediately for military service. He went to the officer in charge and said he would have to leave. The officer asked him to please not make any changes until he returned to camp. He was about to leave for a short time.

When he returned he had a message from the army canceling the call. The American Army Officer said he had told the draft board that there was no place where these four brothers could do more for their country than right where they were. Lash had trained under McCusker for several seasons and Mac claimed him to be a well-qualified surveyor, which was helpful under the circumstances. The officers also found the brothers very helpful in keeping up the moral in the camps. They all seemed to be capable of measuring up under the most difficult of circumstances. Apparently their early pioneer days in the Canadian north had equipped them for emergencies.

Pat was an early northern bush pilot who logged up thousands of hours in the development of the northern end of the Alaska Highway and the Canol Road Projects.

Dan, our oldest brother, had gone to school in the states at a very young age. He had joined the military and was now a Col. in the American Army.

I received a very nice E-Mail from Elwood and Marion Lyle. He is a cousin of Pat's wife, Ethel Farrell. When I was in Vancouver going to school, the Lyles and Farrell's played a very important place in my life. I was delighted to hear from them. Yes Elwood, we will keep in touch!

Keep up the good work Sherron, It is most enjoyable!

Daisy (Callison) Havedale-Welsh

*(I certainly hope Daisy will continue to write to us. Her stories are most interesting and so significant to the history of Yukon. I wish her the best with her publishing efforts and hope she will tell us the name of the book and where it will be available when it is published. – Sherron)*

*(Anyone else wishing to forward stories or comments via traditional mail for me to type in can do so by just asking me for my address. [sherronjones@shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca) )*

## **CANADIAN SENIOR MEN'S CURLING IN VERNON**

I just got back from watching the seniors curling saw the Yukon Men's Curling team beat Ontario 7 to 6 was a good game. I hope this snow stops soon.

Fred Aylwin [fbaylwin@shaw.ca](mailto:fbaylwin@shaw.ca) (Jan 27, 2004)

## COLD TEMPERATURES RETURN TO YUKON

*(These photos must bring back memories about your experiences with cold temperatures in Yukon. I know the cold temperatures made me recall the time I drove my car from the parking lot behind the Fire Hall in Whitehorse along First Avenue to pick up my husband from the White Pass Depot. He was waiting in front of T & D and was waving his hand and spouting unkind words as I drove up at minus 40F. My right front tire was flat and hadn't turned all the way. Since all this anger wasn't for me I hopped in the next passing car of a co-worker and went on home for lunch. Bill still remembers changing the tire in that cold. Please send along your recollections. - Sherron)*



**EXTENSION CORD COBRA**

Photo Courtesy Kerry Lyle

I bet all you ex-Yukoner's have not seen this for awhile, at -41C. It looks like a Cobra. For those that have not experienced it, this is a plug in cord extension standing straight up, just where you left it that morning. If you get enough experience you can drive right back onto it. No muss no fuss.

The photo was taken by Kerry Lyle in Whitehorse, January 26, 2004.

Elwood Lyle [elyle@telus.net](mailto:elyle@telus.net)



**THE DOME IN DAWSON -48 Jan. 26, 2004**

Photo Courtesy Debbie Algotsson [algotson@cityofdawson.ca](mailto:algotson@cityofdawson.ca)

*(This message was sent to Brownie & Pete Foth, parents of Debbie Algotsson.)*

Well, the monitor packed it in today. David and I were still sleeping at noon when Karl came in and yelled "mom, the monitor's off and it's only 50 in here. It didn't take us long to start up that little wood stove and it's been warmer than ever in here ever since. Good thing we've got lots of wood. It's sure a good little stove but I've taken the night off just to make sure it doesn't go out in the night. It's so cold up here and they say will last for 5 days. This is a picture I took off the front porch today as the sun on the dome looked nice even though there is no heat in it!

Bye for now, love, Deb



Dawson – Jan. 7, 2004

Photo Courtesy Debbie Algotsson [algotson@cityofdawson.ca](mailto:algotson@cityofdawson.ca)

Sherron: Just thought maybe you would like to see these photos from our daughter, Debbie who lives in Dawson City. How well we remember these foggy days when the temperature hit this cold and much colder sometimes. Imagine, walking around the town with her digital camera at this temp.

Brownie and Pete Foth [lfoth@shaw.ca](mailto:lfoth@shaw.ca)



Dawson – Jan. 7, 2004

Photo Courtesy Debbie Algotsson [algotson@cityofdawson.ca](mailto:algotson@cityofdawson.ca)

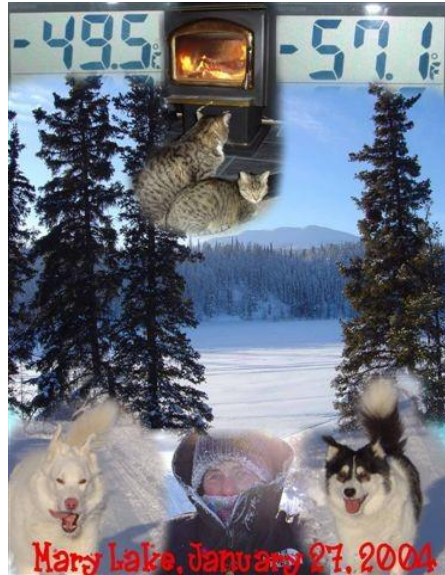


Photo courtesy Heather Jones

Thanks Sherron, and welcome home! It's been a -45C day here in Whitehorse (well Mary Lake (Jan 26, 2004)).... frozen water, bundled propane tanks and a greenhouse wall that literally exploded in the cold!! Oh did I mention a vehicle that didn't even groan when I went to start it???! It's been awhile since we have had to deal with this. Ahhhhhhhhh but it also meant clear skies and lots of that January sunshine. Even at -40 there is something truly wonderful about that. (And I say that after everything else!!) And we are in for another night of the same...my "huskies" were huddled around the woodstove with the cats today; I can tell that the electric blanket will be a popular spot tonight! We are quite the site.....So hearing about Palm Springs and other winter adventures is very nurturing right now!

Yup it was my greenhouse, while out working on my freezing (not quite frozen) water situation, I heard a big bang and looked up in time to see the walls of my greenhouse collapsing! the plastic had given up at the -45 temperatures we were experiencing on Monday morning. It was a very "interesting" experience..!! The 'exploding' description was probably a bit dramatic, but everything seems just a bit dramatic in the cold!

I, along with many others, went into town in search of electric heaters.... Canadian Tire told me they had sold over 150 in the two previous days, the shelves were bare....it took a number of stops before finding a few to add to my water room. And although my water did freeze up completely, twice over these past few days, I managed to keep things from bursting...(touch wood!). As my Mom said, things were much simpler in the 40's when it got cold, you kept the fire going and everything else pretty much took care of itself, we just aren't built the same way we used to be!!! I also heard on the radio that we (Whitehorse area) set a record for electrical consumption on Tuesday evening.....all those heaters I guess! We seem to be coming out of it know, only -30 right now with the high pressure breaking down....Now for the clean up!

(Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>) Funny you should ask about "the dog team".....!! We have had a problem with wolves making meals of dogs in the Mary Lake area this winter and yesterday while out on a walk with my dogs my neighbour stopped me to tell me that "the" wolf have been coming into is yard and right up onto his balcony these past few cold days! He feels it is getting much braver and more aggressive in response to the cold. Soooo oddly enough I did bring my "dog team" into town today.....but only so they would be safe. My dear mom is doing doggie day care!!

Ahhh but my recently acquired 1990 Tracker has not let me down these past few days! I don't believe I can say the same for some of these newer vehicles whose electronics seem to be very cold sensitive. But I did not move until I absolutely had to....

Lots of power here at Mary Lake! And yes the roads are plowed. We are actually still within city limits so are well taken care.....

Look forward, as always, to the NEXT edition!

Hope all is well. Heather Jones [hjones@klondiker.com](mailto:hjones@klondiker.com)



Dawson - Jan 7, 2004

Photo Courtesy Debbie Algotsson [algotson@cityofdawson.ca](mailto:algotson@cityofdawson.ca)

## **COLD WINTER EXPERIENCES**

By Marsha Flumerfelt [MJFlumerfelt@yt.sympatico.ca](mailto:MJFlumerfelt@yt.sympatico.ca)

Now we are into our 3rd or so day of this cold snap, it brings to mind every other cold snap Yukoners have been through. The first one that comes to mind of course is (drum roll or music from Jaws) SNAG! Feb.3 1947 temperature -81F or -62.7 c. There are still people around who worked there and remember it well. I remember living in Beaver Creek from 1968 to 1972, living in government housing (no insulation so to speak and never hearing the furnace shut off for weeks on end.) One afternoon I had to get out of the house, so bundled up Lisa, 3 and Cort 1 into snow suits, then wrapped them with blankets, and then onto a sleigh for a visit to a friends for coffee. The temp was -50 F, the sleigh made such squeaky sounds as we moved over the packed snow. After a few

minutes I turned around to check on the kids only to find Cort laying on his back, feet and arms in the air about 50 ft behind, all I could hear was a muffled indignant wail. Neither child has let me forget that I took them out at -50.

Other times come to mind, such as the winter of '65/66. We were living in the government highway camp at Fireside (88 miles south of Watson Lake) on Christmas Eve the temperature dropped to -40 and it didn't warm up for 49 days. The 3rd day of the cold spell, the vent/fan over the kitchen stove froze up, a few days later all the electric plug ins on exterior walls were frosted over and needless to say nobody wanted to plug anything in to see if they worked. The temp steadily dropped and then hovered around -55 to a low of -74. One night the power plant quit due to the diesel fuel line freezing, it certainly did not take long for Jim and the foreman to get over to the shop and get a truck with a full diesel tank over to the power building and get the plant up and running again. I will never forget how fast the house cooled off. Needless to say this is a story our kids and friends must be tired of.

The first year we were married Jim bought me a red velvet dress for Christmas, I put it in the closet and looked forward to wearing it at New Years, when I went to get it from the closet it had frozen to the back wall, I broke down in tears and Jim said" never mind dear some day you'll look back on this and laugh," it took quite a few years before I saw the humor in it.

Being such staunch northerners, we take a little delight when the rest of Canada suffers, as we are right now, and can only say to them "why I remember when it was so cold" So to the rest of you, down south and around the territory, keep warm, and if it has to be cold let it be cold enough to brag about.

Environment Canada reports for Whitehorse area.

[http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/forecast/city\\_e.html?yxy](http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/forecast/city_e.html?yxy)



Photo courtesy Madeleine Gould

Here is one of my feeders and birdhouses you will see the depth of snow.

## A Reply from Madeleine in Dawson Jan. 29, 2004

Hi Sherron;

I know I have been remiss in not keeping in touch but there are so many people writing for you that I didn't think you needed more.

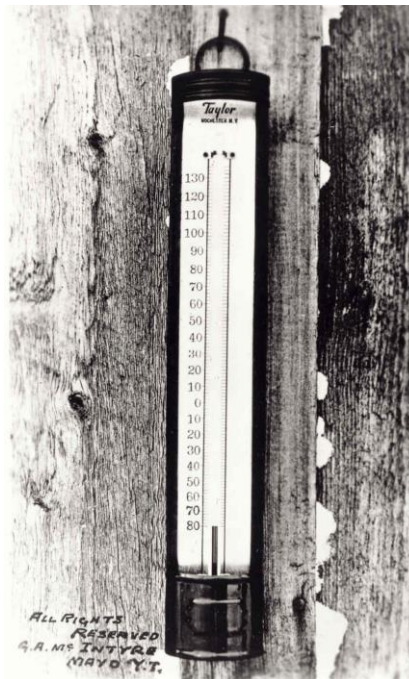
Yes it is quite cold here and has been for over a week, but not as cold as the first winter that I arrived here. On the 3rd of February 1947 it was 73 below F. Now that is cold and I had even gone to the store. But the sun was shining and I had no thermometer to check on how cold it was. Today it is minus 45F and I am not going anywhere. Haven't had any planes in for several days and no mail since last Friday, even our local paper hasn't arrived and it should have been here yesterday. I am making calendars for my family so I am thankful I have a computer. I also bought jigsaw puzzles to play on the computer and that is a good way to relax plus I play cards with people from all over the world, so you see I do have something to keep me busy.

I hope you are keeping warm At least we have no pollution and it must be cold enough to kill all germs.

Take care,

Madeleine Gould [gould\\_madeleine@hotmail.com](mailto:gould_madeleine@hotmail.com)

### MAYO COLD ?



**Mayo – Feb. 3 1947**

Photo courtesy Fred Aylwin

*(From a previously submitted message to the MocTel)*

On the morning of February 1, 1947, about 8 o'clock, my good friend **Norman Wightman** brought his thermometer to my cabin. It registered -78 degrees F. We hung it on a nail on the side of the cache back of the cabin so that I could take a picture. The next morning he was back again with his thermometer registering -79 degrees F, and

again the next morning, February 3, 1947, with the thermometer at -80 degrees F. The picture that you are using is the one of the **Wightman** thermometer because it shows the temperature very clearly in black and white so it was the one that I used commercially. I sold about a hundred 5 x 7 enlargements of this picture and over 1000 postcards.

– Gordon McIntyre [rmac@polarcom.com](mailto:rmac@polarcom.com)

Hi Sherron - things here are going along nicely - haven't been doing anything on email so guess I'll get at it.

The only thing I think of was when I was driving truck for Sam Wood in Mayo - we had to drain the oil out of the motor - water out of the radiator and take them in the house and keep them warm - next morning we'd light a fire in a gas can and set it under the motor to get it warmed up and sometimes had to put a fire under the transmission and rear end - this was when it was only 20 to 30 below - at 40 we didn't go....Les Sommerton  
[lsomerton@northwestel.net](mailto:lsomerton@northwestel.net)

Hi Sherron,

When I was going to school in the 1930s we commonly got a few sessions of cold weather in Mayo. Even at 50° F below zero we used to hike to school, as it was not that far. For heat there was a big wood-burning stove that sat in the back of the room and it was quite comfortable next to it. When not enough students showed up, our teacher, Gordon McIntyre would call it off for the day. Later a wood furnace and ducting was installed in a cellar, which was better heat distribution, but you could still expect at least three sessions of extreme cold during the winter. Many times it would drop to -50° and continue dropping till it hit -68° to -72° for a few days. In the first week of February 1947, Gordon had the distinction of photographing the thermometer in front of the Old Post Office at -80° F. In that weather you did not dare take out equipment for any extended time as any cast iron like the front wheel spindles on a truck became as brittle as glass. Just the slightest bump and you could have a front wheel broken away. Even later years Keno Hill had some of their trucks break front wheel spindles on the highway.

In the latter 1970s when we lost the surge tank at the Mayo Hydro, I had to drive from Whitehorse. It was around -50° in Whitehorse and progressively colder the closer I got to Mayo. When I got to Mayo it was -68° with ice fog, and as it was about 7:00 AM I had to wait for daylight. From the Hydro Camp we had to walk by an old upper road to the tank, which had been roughly bladed, and the fog was so bad that you could hardly see. I still remember that feeling, "There are many places I would rather be", as I could hear the water of the leak and see near nothing. We found that the tank had about a 12-foot split at its base and had to climb a 50-foot outside ladder to get to the top. The worst was that the wooden ladder on the top to the cupola was rotten and we had to get in there for an inspection. Not a happy feeling up there, but we made it to find that the heaters had burned out. It took a welding outfit from Vancouver three weeks to make repairs, but I can assure you that there was proper access to that cupola all in steel with guardrails. No wonder that nobody wanted to go up there to check the heaters! Mayo of course has the distinction of being the hottest and the coldest place in Yukon. Yes, I grew up in Mayo and worked there also like a lot of Yukoners. - Henry Breaden [breaden@shaw.ca](mailto:breaden@shaw.ca)

Good Morning Sherron:

It's -42C this morning. (Jan. 26, 2004) I only tell you that so you can reminisce about cold, cold mornings gone by.

I greatly appreciate being added to your contact list. I've taken a very keen interest in The Yukon and its history since getting here and eagerly look forward to reading of other people's experience.

Have a great day and thanks for taking the time to get back to me.

Regards from the deeply, deeply frozen north.

Skip Ruddenham [srudderh@whitehorsemotors.com](mailto:srudderh@whitehorsemotors.com)

## **BEST WISHES TO GUS & BLANCHE - FROM ENGLAND**

Dear Sherron,

Could you kindly pass on to Gus and Blanche my heartiest congratulations and best wishes on their 49th Wedding Anniversary. I have admired and enjoyed Gus's poems and writings very much, that lovely photograph mirrors the feelings that Gus puts into his poems.

Long may they both enjoy getting out of life the happiness and love that they have so obviously built together over many years. My wife Dorothy and I are not far behind, I just hope we are still as good looking as these two wonderful people when we get there.

God Bless, Dennis Eve

*(Since Dennis is an Honorary Member he does not receive the list of e-mail addresses. Sherron)*

## **YUKON RIVER QUESTION**

Hello Sherron, love the Moctel and look forward to it every week.

My partner and I hope to run the Yukon River from Whitehorse to Dawson, likely not this year but in the next year or two.

We would love to correspond with people who have done the trip, we will be in a 20-foot jet boat and we are interested in hearing from others who have done this whether by canoe, riverboat, etc.

Thanks Sherron

Debbie Marlow (Burkhard) [dmarlow@pgonline.com](mailto:dmarlow@pgonline.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

Hi Sherron, I'm sending along these old clippings from the Whitehorse Star (Oct. 15, 1926) **Eric Richards** is my **Dad**, and I vaguely remember some of the plays he put on a few years later. If the quality is good enough, maybe you'd like to include these in the next edition of Moc Tel. Interesting report here on the sinking of the Steamer Dawson. Cheers, Joyce Yardley [joyceyardley@shaw.ca](mailto:joyceyardley@shaw.ca)



The Whitehorse Star, Monday, February 15, 1971, Page 29

would be rushed to the scene to convey the passengers on to Whitehorse. This relieved the situation.

There was no excitement among the passengers. They remained and occupied their staterooms on board the boat. Meals were served with the usual regularity and comfort. Oil lamps were on hand at night to replace the electric lights which were put out of business when water flooded the hull. All baggage was transferred to the scow which was pulled along the boat to make connection with the shore. Fortunately the weather was mild and no suffering or even discomfort was experienced.

OCTOBER 22, 1926. Regina Hotel Changes Hands. Yesterday the Regina Hotel was pur-

The Regina is one of the original landmarks of the town. It was erected in 1900 by C.H. Johnston, who has been in charge continuously up to the present.

For some time Mr. Erickson has been considering the acquiring of a hotel and the Regina appealed to him as a sound and promising investment. He proposed improving the property in order to cope with the steadily increasing patronage of this popular hostelry. The artistic touch of Mrs. Erickson will work wonders in the interior arrangement of the hotel.

Mr. Johnston has as yet no plans in mind for the future. He may go outside for the winter but his permanent home will be in Yukon.

Mr. and Mrs. Erickson will make valuable additions to the

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE DUNN'S WHO JOINED US PREVIOUSLY**

I don't know if this is really the proper way to do this, or if I should have filled out a form or what, but here is a Bio on - The Dunn's (now of Marsh Lake.) Margaret and Drew moved out to Marsh Lake in the fall of '88 and have been here since. We've lived in the Yukon since '76, although I did a stretch in '62 & '63 for CNTel, after leaving the DEW Line. I/we came back in '74 with Foothills Pipelines and moved the family up in '76. Marg worked for the Business Development Bank for a couple of years and then Customs at Fraser for a couple more and then Murdock's Gem Shop. I stayed with Foothills 'til 84 and then rested on my laurels for a year and collected pogy. I got all my donations back and some of somebody else's too) then worked for ICG, Motorways, and the Terrified Gov't before going back to work for Northwestel, doing the same thing that I had been doing for CNT back in '63. Need anything more? We're still here and I guess they'll plant me here when my time comes. This is a terrific idea and several have already contacted us that I haven't heard from in years.

Keep up the good work.

Bye for now, A.F. (Drew) Dunn

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE BUTLER'S WHO JOINED US PREVIOUSLY**

Just a few words to give you a brief history of our time in Yukon. First, let me say the telegraph is fascinating. So many familiar names. I have been reading back issues for a week now and there is so much I am just on issue 17.

Colleen and I went to Yukon in the spring of 1959. Colleen as an RN in the new hospital and I to start the appliance repair section of Hougens. During the next 21 years Colleen worked in all departments in the hospital and was head nurse in both Medical and then Emergency. She also spent some time nursing with the military in the MIR. She ended as Assistant Director of Nursing prior to our departure in 1980.

I spent 10 years with Hougens. Then went to work for the YTG Game Branch. Spent the next 11 years doing enforcement work all over the Territory, a couple of years roaming around the Arctic coast looking at grizzlies and polar bears, caribou and a zillion birds. It was a fascinating time for me. The last few years I was office bound doing public relations and teaching our hunter safety program to school students. In fact, when I read George Howells account of flying into Frank Sias' camp at Mush Lake where there was a camp of kids building trails and cabins, it brought back good memories of Frank and Josie. I presented my program to one of those groups. We also had a camp set up at Sias' where we took classes of school kids for a weeks practical experience in firearms safety, animal and bird identification, winter survival, etc. Frank and Josie are a fantastic couple and Josie is a great cook. Spent many hours in the air with George and other TNTA pilots.

One of our children had left the Yukon by 1980 for further education so we decided the time was right for us to follow. Ended up here in Parksville where we have been for the last 23 years. We started an appliance repair company, which was very successful. Colleen worked at the Nanaimo General Hospital as a nursing Supervisor, retiring in 1989. We sold our last company last summer and are now completely retired. We are very active in PGOSA, the Parksville Golden Oldies Sports Association, an association of some 1100 members (including the Barretts and other former Yukoners). Colleen mostly socializes. I play hockey and curl. So that's our brief history. Next time I will get something together on some of my many trips around the Yukon and NWT, with some pictures.

Keep up the great work and thanks.  
Ron and Colleen Butler [ron\\_but@shaw.ca](mailto:ron_but@shaw.ca)

## **ADDRESSES REMOVED FROM THE LIST**

HERRMANN, Susan (GOULD) [ksherrmann@msn.com](mailto:ksherrmann@msn.com) (In Dawson since 1954)

Recipient address: [ksherrmann@msn.com](mailto:ksherrmann@msn.com)

Reason: Remote SMTP server has rejected address

Diagnostic code: smtp;550 Requested action not taken: mailbox unavailable

WALLINGHAM, Walter & Wendy [patricia@yt.sympatico.ca](mailto:patricia@yt.sympatico.ca) (Mayo, Whitehorse, Carmacks, Pelly Crossing, Haines Junction 1959-

The following message to <[patricia@yt.sympatico.ca](mailto:patricia@yt.sympatico.ca)> was undeliverable.

The reason for the problem:

5.1.0 - Unknown address error 550-'Invalid recipient: <[patricia@yt.sympatico.ca](mailto:patricia@yt.sympatico.ca)>'

BURROWS, Len            [carlisle@shaw.ca](mailto:carlisle@shaw.ca)      (In Whitehorse & Inuvik 27 yrs.)  
Nanaimo  
Recipient address: [carlisle@shaw.ca](mailto:carlisle@shaw.ca)  
Reason: Remote SMTP server has rejected address  
Diagnostic code: smtp;550 5.1.1 unknown or illegal alias: [carlisle@shaw.ca](mailto:carlisle@shaw.ca)

## **NO CONTACT AT THIS ADDRESS - REMOVED FROM LIST**

HRYCUN, Terry (SIMPSON) [terryhrycun@hotmail.com](mailto:terryhrycun@hotmail.com) 1955-1977(No MocTel 27 or later)  
PARSONS, Ray & Jean    [rayjean@ott.igs.net](mailto:rayjean@ott.igs.net) (In Whitehorse 1977-80) Ottawa (no MocTel)  
SCHOEMAN, Bill [wmschoeman@direct.ca](mailto:wmschoeman@direct.ca) (Haines Jcnctn 1967-69, Whse 1969-71,75-1984, Clinton Creek 1972-74) Abbotsford (No MocTel 33- or later)

## **NEW ADDITION LAST MOCTEL**

Hello Sherron,

First things first - the Moccasin Telegraph is a wonderful concept - and obviously very well done. I haven't read all the past editions yet (!), but the few I have gone through were delightful! Luann and I are very appreciative of your efforts to keep this going.

Here are a few more pertinent details regarding Luann and I.....

Luann's maiden name is Baker - her mom and dad and sister still live in Whitehorse (Bruce and Freda Baker, Laurie (Baker) and Niels Jacobsen) Luann and I have a cabin on Little Fox that we get to every summer for a reality check.....along with our six children, although our oldest son is off at UBC and our oldest daughter is graduating this year.....we'll still be heading north every year! I was in the Yukon (Whitehorse) from 1966 - 1981 and graduated from FH Collins in 1975, and Luann was in Whitehorse from 1960 - 1977, and again from 1980 - 1982, and graduated from FH Collins in 1977 (we were High School sweethearts!). We were married in Whitehorse in 1982.....boy, now you're getting way more information than you asked for!!!

All the best,

Mel Johnson [lubert@shaw.ca](mailto:lubert@shaw.ca)

## NEW ADDITIONS

Hi Sherron,

I remember you and Bill fairly well, another couple in Mom and Dad's long list of friends and White Passers. When I met you guys you were working at the City here. Bill of course was Controller. You are thinking of my brother Clark and his wife Anne who still live in Nakusp. Frances and I, and our 3 Kids both still live here and have never left; it is "God's" country you know. I work at North 60 Petro Ltd., which is essentially what remains of White Pass Petroleum. I am the Supervisor of Dispatch and Fleet Maintenance. Frances has worked for the federal Government since high School, in Indian Affairs. Currently she is Director of Funding Allocation and a dozen other things I think. She is the daughter of Carroll and Sam Cawley Both Long time Yukoners you might remember. Mom and my sister Sharon are living together, still in Abbotsford, and are doing well, however I cannot get Mother to use her E-mail. Well that's about all I have to say for now, I am looking to receiving this news, as I have great interest in Things Yukon and White Pass.

Best regards

Frank Taylor [fgtaylor@northwestel.net](mailto:fgtaylor@northwestel.net)

Hello Sherron,

I was just speaking to Vic Hoy and he mentioned that you are looking after the MocTel as he calls it. I used to work with Vic at Hougens back in 1973-74 and we have remained good friends ever since. Actually Sylvia stood up for me at my wedding here in Whitehorse in 1977. I arrived in Whitehorse on February 14th, 1971 for a year and have never left. My husband arrived in April 1973 and the same goes for him. I don't know if you remember me or not, but I worked for IAC-Niagara Finance in 1974 and I met Bill at that time. He was a friend of one of the Managers there. My maiden name was Hickey and Terry Greenwood hired me at Niagara Finance. I also worked with Ron Biggs and Caroline (Martin) Atkinson there.

My husband Doug worked at Taylor Chev-Olds with Dave Motley, Al Castagner, Adam Styba, Doug Steele, etc. just a while after he came to Whitehorse. Doug has been with the Feds. -DPW since 1975 and then was transferred to YTG Highways in 1992 until he retired in May 2003. He was a surveyor and a soils driller (surveyed the Skagway Rd. and also the Dempster Hwy. as well as drilling for gravel deposits from Ft. Nelson to Beaver Creek). I worked at the Toronto-Dominion Bank and the Scotiabank after IAC-Niagara and have been with YTG since 1981. I work for Department of Environment (formerly Renewable Resources) and look after all of the revenue producing forms for the Dept.(hunting licences, fishing licences, trapping, outfitting, campground permits, etc).

The reason that I am giving you all of this info is that Vic said you would like some idea as to who we are and when we came to the Yukon. I hope that this helps a bit.

Anyhow, both Doug and I would like to get on your list for the MocTel if possible. It sounds like there are some pretty interesting stories out there that we would love to read. If you need any more info please e-mail us at the address shown below. Also please say hello to Bill for me.

Thanks so much.  
Jan & Doug Trim  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
867.668.2770  
[dtrim@northwestel.net](mailto:dtrim@northwestel.net)

Hi Sherron;

I've been made aware of your website by Rolf Hougen but attempts to access it have been futile. When I search engine Moccasin Telegraph I only come up with the First Nations site.

I've been in the Yukon for just about 2 years now and have taken a great interest in the history and life stories of the early pioneers to the area. Rolf tells me that the compilation of stories and memoirs on your site makes for very interesting reading.

If you have no objections to me accessing the site could you please forward to me the site address.

Have a great day and I very much look forward to reading what you have.

Cheers,

Skip Rudderham, General Manager, Whitehorse Motors Ltd.  
4178 4th Ave Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1J6  
Ph: (867) 667-7866 (800) 661-0411 Fax: (867) 667-6246  
Email: [srudderh@whitehoremotors.com](mailto:srudderh@whitehoremotors.com)

Here's a new member for you a long time Yukoner and well known family.

Harry & Patsy Gloslee

Reside at 5289 Tanner Avenue in Powell River, BC V8A 5B4 Phone 604.483.9380

e-mail: [hpgloslee@shaw.ca](mailto:hpgloslee@shaw.ca)

Send them some information, Thanks David Hill [hill\\_rd@shaw.ca](mailto:hill_rd@shaw.ca)

Hi. Can't remember if I replied or not saying put me on list of ex-Yukoner but here goes in case I did not. I lived in Whitehorse, Yukon from 1959 until 1964 at which time I came to Ottawa to work for the then Member of Parliament, Erik Nielsen. I attended Christ the King School for grade 10 and then Whitehorse High School for grades 11 and 12. I worked at Christ the King Elementary and High from 1962 to 1964. I have been in Ottawa since 1964 and since 1981 to present have worked at the Government of Yukon Office in Ottawa. As you can see I have been involved with Yukon in one way or another for some 45 years and still consider myself a Yukoner although I have not lived there since 1964. I have, however, been back to the Yukon many, many times since leaving. I am single but have a son of 30 years. My home phone number is (613) 234-3206 and office is (613) 234-3206. Am very anxious to see list of e-mails to see how

many I know. Thank you for doing this for all ex-Yukoners. Cheers from  
Ottawa, Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly@on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly@on.aibn.com)  
Debbie Kelly  
Office Administrator  
Intergovernmental Relations  
Government of Yukon  
707 - 350 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7S8  
Phone: (613) 234-3206  
Fax: (613) 563-9602

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

As of 4:15 time Pacific Standard Jan 30, 2004 my address is [hroamer@shaw.ca](mailto:hroamer@shaw.ca) Alice will be changed to [aroamer@shaw.ca](mailto:aroamer@shaw.ca) . Cheers and let's hope I get rid of some spam.

Henry Breaden

## **QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*Many people live their lives as if they had a spare in the trunk,*

## **RECIPE OF THE WEEK**

Recipe taken from “Yukon Cookbook, A Selection of Recipes from Yukon Sourdoughs” and sent in my Donna Clayson.

### **VEGETABLE BORSCH**

1 bunch	Beets, diced
	Beef tops, cut in fine shreds
1 stalk	Celery, chopped
¼	Cabbage
1	Carrot, sliced

Simmer slowly for 1 hour. Serve hot or cold with a dollop of sour cream or yogurt.

### **FOR PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THE MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH**

Please contact Sandy Campbell [northernlyght@shaw.ca](mailto:northernlyght@shaw.ca)

To date **forty-eight previous editions of the Moccasin Telegraph** have been produced, along with over **twenty special editions**.

**Sandy Campbell** has kindly agreed to send out copies of the earlier editions of the regular Moccasin Telegraph 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](mailto:northernlyght@shaw.ca)**

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

For Vancouver Yukoners events check <http://www3.telus.net/yukoners/index.htm> or contact President Don Murray at - [donaldmurray@telus.net](mailto:donaldmurray@telus.net) or Secretary Nancy Moulton at - [nancymoulton@telus.net](mailto:nancymoulton@telus.net) The Banquet will be on March 27, 2004 this year. Regards: Lowell

## **SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH**

If you have received this copy of the Moccasin Telegraph from a friend and wish to sign up to receive future editions yourself, the criteria is that you **are or were a Yukoner**. **I need to know your name, e-mail address, when and where you lived in Yukon and which City you are living in now**. It helps me to maintain control over safety of the material to know **who** told you about this project. I wish to keep that control since not only are you signing up to receive the **Moccasin Telegraph**, but you are also allowing me to **share your e-mail address** with the rest of the group. The combined **list of everyone's e-mail address** is then sent out periodically to all members of the list. The goal of this project is to provide an opportunity for folks to reconnect.  
– Sherron Jones [sherronjones@shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca)