

## **MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 140<sup>th</sup> Edition – December 11, 2005**

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

To use an e-mail address from the MocTel, replace the \* with @.



### **Magpie & Raven**

Photo courtesy Doug Bell [dougbell@ykn.net](mailto:dougbell@ykn.net) (In Whitehorse)

### **THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN TRAILER VILLAGE**

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

‘Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the park,  
Not a snowbird was stirring it was well after dark.  
Their stockings were hung ‘neath the vent, ‘cause they knew  
That these travel trailers don’t have any flu.  
Ma in her jammies and I in my trunks  
Had just settled into our comfy twin bunks.  
When out of the dark, there arose such a ruckus,  
We ran to the carport to see what had struck us,  
And there, on rooftop of L-21,  
Stood jolly old Santa, the son of a gun.

He was dressed in his shorts from his thighs to his button,  
And, other than that, he was wearing just nothin’.  
He had a deep tan on his little round tum,  
That rippled when he walked like a glass full of rum.  
He had bags full of goodies and all sorts of trimmings  
Made especially for all these old men and old women.

He laughed and he chuckled at some private joke,  
As he thought of the joy when the snowbirds awoke.  
They'll be ever so thrilled as they climb from their cot,  
To see all the presents that Santa had brought.

There are no flying reindeer; he's nobody's fool,  
He rides a chuck wagon pulled by eight tiny mules.  
He shouted and cussed as he let off the brake,  
Not happy at all with the time this will take.  
"On Stockwood", "on Brian", "on Jean and on Joe",  
"On Ralphie, "on Peter", "on Audrey and Flo".  
From rooftop to rooftop, how quickly they went,  
As Santa stuffed Christmas gifts down every vent.  
We became so excited as we watched all the fuss,  
That we just didn't notice he'd forgotten 'bout us.  
Till we heard him exclaim, as he soared o'er the wall,  
" MERRY CHRISTMAS, GOD BLESS, TILL I SEE YOU NEXT FALL."

© 2000 Gus Barrett.

## **BROOKS BROOK – Part 4 of 4**

By Barb Harris (née Prouty) [ostara@inetlink.ca](mailto:ostara@inetlink.ca)

Brooks Brook played a large part of my early life, even though my own time living there was fairly brief. We went back often to visit. After we moved into Whitehorse, and when my sister and brother were being born, I was sent back to stay with Jim and Spud Hall. So my memories continued and even as an adult I have had very vivid dreams of the times and the area, as it was then. The memories and dreams always convey contentment and serenity. Now of course, it is a gathering place and meaningful to the First Nations there. I like to think that whatever has held them to the place is what keeps my memories alive and meaningful.

### *An interesting footnote...*

Several years ago I had an Opportunity... I had been conversing with a friend who was doing some work with the Teslin Tlingit Council regarding the Brooks Brook site and some environmental remediation. He mentioned it very casually and I expressed interest as a former resident. I recounted the tale of the Phone Booth and excited all kinds of interest. My friend had not known of the garage and gas pumps. So to make a long story short, we sent some maps to my mother and then had a phone conference with her to verify some of the information against her memory of the place, mine being unreliable. I was a little kid after all.

Mom had some very clear memories of the place and took exception to the placement of the brook. She spoke of very large spruce trees and where they were growing, in relation to the brook, and where the garage and repeater station were located.

My friend let her know that the brook had been diverted at some point and then she was able to give him some very clear information about the maps he had provided.

When he went for his initial look at the site he invited me along. I was beyond excited! He spent his time with some interns, inspecting the site. I just poked around looking at this and that. It felt good just to be there.

But at one point, he called out for me. I went to join him and the interns and he was looking at a particular spot. He said. ‘Remember those big spruce trees your mom talked about?’ and he pointed at some unbelievably large spruces. Then he pointed at some old building footings on the ground.

‘Welcome home’, he said.



**Out House**

Photo courtesy Moge Mogenson [elgolfo\\*shaw.ca](mailto:elgolfo*shaw.ca) (In Cranbrook)

A few issues back I commented on how happy I was with the invention of Styro foam. This is just a little insight as to the situation it came in so handy for. Imagine what this would be like in -60 degrees weather without that warm foamy feeling. P.S. Don't pull a Martha Stewart on it and paint it or your back to square one again BRRRRRRRR. - Moge



Photo courtesy Doug Bell [dougbell@ykn.net.ca](mailto:dougbell@ykn.net) (In Whitehorse)

As promised, find attached the copy of what it was like watching the shipwrights caulking the steamboats to be ready for launching. I am very happy I had that experience.

Henry.

## **Caulking Seams in Whitehorse Steamboats**

By Henry Breaden [hjbreaden@shaw.ca](mailto:hjbreaden@shaw.ca) (In Nanaimo)

Simply put, caulking involves filling the plank seams of a traditionally built wooden vessel with a yarn of finely spun plant fibres. The yarn, called oakum, is impregnated with an oily preservative like pine tar, giving it a nice smell like new rope and is driven into the long fore and aft plank seams of a vessel's hull with great force. When done right, she'll be tight for 30 years or more. Caulking is the sort of work anyone can do briefly but few do for very long with any real confidence. Properly driven caulking does much more than simply keep the water out. It is an essential structural element that stiffens the whole boat by preventing planks from moving, or "working." Without making the structure rigid "you cannot have watertight integrity. Keeping the water out is actually secondary,"

A traditionally built wooden boat has long, horizontal planks fastened across vertical frames, or "ribs." It is the way any wooden boat of any size used to be constructed. Thousands of Steamboats, fishing vessels, sailing schooners, and yachts built that way are still out there and in regular use. Some new ones are built every year. Without putting such a hull in tension with hard caulking, it would droop like a wet noodle and fall apart under the influence of wind and water. It would also leak like a basket.

Like caulkers themselves, the caulker's tools are few but also far between. A good mallet is nearly impossible to come by unless you stumble across one at a high-quality antique tool dealer or know someone in the trade. Caulking mallets are made of either black

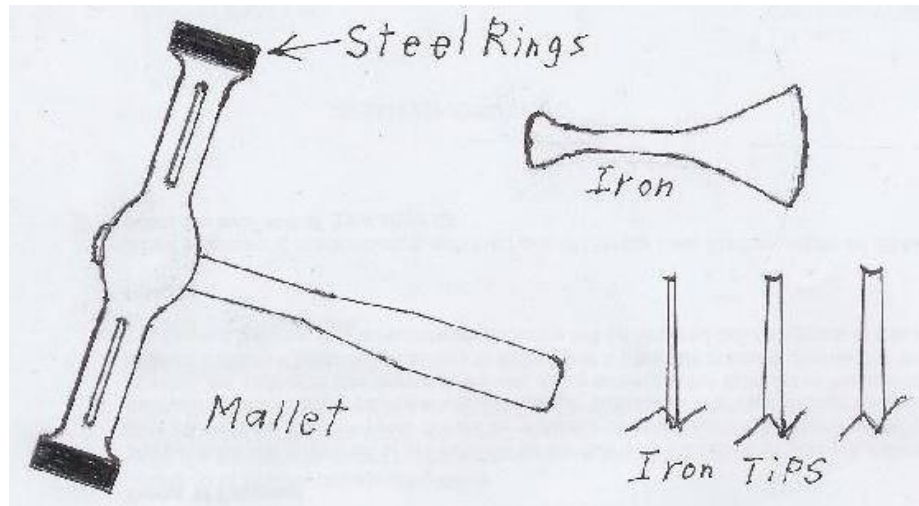
mesquite, lignum vitae, hickory or live oak - all very hard woods. A caulking mallet is unmistakable in both shape and sound. It is shaped like a "T," with a head as long as its handle. Either end of the head may be used to strike and both ends are wrapped with hardened steel rings to keep the ends from mushrooming after a million ringing blows.

The mallet is used to strike a caulking "iron." The iron is shaped like a short, wide chisel with a thick, dull blade. It is this that drives the strand of oakum into the narrow seam between tightly-fitted planks. The seams between planks are tapered to allow the oakum to be driven in a tight seal. Because seams in the hull of steamboats differ greatly from those of a small boat, irons come in 10 different configurations, and good ones are hard to find."

Oakum would be easier to find if its primary ingredient - hemp fibre, commonly known as marijuana - wasn't illegal. Oakum is a science unto itself, it was grown in the U.S. for manila rope during colonial times through the early-20th century. It is grown now under pretty controlled conditions in Europe and sold through Germany, Holland, the United Kingdom and USA.

It was common in the Whitehorse shipyards to see the shipwrights spinning oakum fibres on their knees first thing in the morning in a continuous length. This was after the heavy replanking had been done and before painting. Can you imagine how hard it would be on the neck working overhead on the flat undersides of those steamboats? Usually the other seams were checked for being tight, and maybe a strand put in where it was necessary. Caulking irons were usually in a shipwright's kit along with his pet caulking mallet. The ones used in Whitehorse were "T" shaped with the head as long as the handle, that created a well balanced tool. They had a slit opening between where the handle went in and the heads of the mallet. When the iron was struck, this area flexed, and right after the strike when it straightened up and it bounced the mallet back. So the shipwright would concentrate on striking as the mallet did not have to be lifted back like a hammer. What helped too was that the mallet was so well balanced. That is when the mallet gave off a chirping sound and a bit of a ring. Below I will attempt to draw you what the caulking mallet looked like from the side. Each man had his own pet mallet and his irons in his kit when he came up from Vancouver. I never seriously tried caulking as I thought my thumb or fingers would likely get in there. The mallet really has a nice balance and very light. So from memory I will try to draw the caulking mallet and irons for you. Once the steamboats were caulked, a small amount of water was turned into the compartments as there were possibly 4 solid bulkheads from the bottom to the overhead deck that separated the hull. From this the hull tightened up and the water pumped out before launching. In the event of breaking a plank between ribs with a rock in one compartment, the boat could be prevented from sinking. That was when two of us had to go in with hip waders and a flashlight and put in a soft patch and then the compartment was pumped out. I have had that pleasure, and it is as dark as the inside of a cow down there! A soft patch was a fir block with oakum on the under side, 4 inches thick and about a foot square. It was placed over the break and a 4"x 4" timber placed between the patch and the deckhead. Two wooden wedges were driven nose to nose to tighten the patch over the break. Only a person who has been down there appreciates what had to be done. If there was a foot of water you had to hold down the patch from floating while you put

in the timber and then drove the wedges. Usually two of us did the job in the dark. Lots of fun!!!



## THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES FROM NORMA WADDINGTON

I just wanted to say how much I have enjoyed the Moc Tel since it first started and have printed much of it for future reading. It's fun to see more people taking a turn at telling a bit about themselves or some part of their past involvement in the history of the Yukon.

I have also printed some of the stories for a good friend in Skagway, and she was thrilled. Bonnie Vars and Heather McFarlane brought back many memories of our school days with Lilius Farley and Doris McMurphy. I quite liked them both, as my favorite subjects were Art and Literature (not so, back then, with French and Math).

Having lived in the Yukon since 1943, I have a few good memories myself, of this wonderful part of the world. As my mother, Joyce Yardley, mentioned a few issues back, I recently spent a year and ½ shooting the Northern Lights on video. With the help of my husband Cal (sound etc.) and my son Kurt ( film editor) we have put together a video called "Yukon's Aurora Borealis" It mostly northern lights, set to music, as well as some scenery at the top end. People seem to enjoy it a lot and I had some enquiries as to where others could purchase it for Christmas gifts. It is carried in several downtown stores, and can be ordered on line at [www.yukonqueststore.com](http://www.yukonqueststore.com) under 'books and videos' or [www.yukonbooks.com](http://www.yukonbooks.com) under categories: 'video and dvds'.

To all the people who are writing in, keep up the good work !! Maybe some day, I will be brave enough to put in my 2 cents worth.

Cheers, Norma Waddington [norma\\*redwoodrealty.net](http://norma*redwoodrealty.net) (In Whitehorse)



**Mystery Building somewhere in Yukon - 1984**  
**Do you know where it is located?**

Photo courtesy Doug Bell [dougbell\\*yknet.ca](mailto:dougbell*yknet.ca)



**Mystery Building - 1983**  
**Do you recognize it?**

Photo courtesy Doug Bell [dougbell\\*yknet.ca](mailto:dougbell*yknet.ca)

Sherron,

You might want to pass along to Gus Barrett that I saw his book on display down at the news stand a few days ago. The top copy was looking well-thumbed, so it may do well during the Xmas season.

[Alf\\_abilton\\*polarcom.com](mailto:Alf_abilton*polarcom.com) (In Whitehorse)

# *Nuggets*

by Alf Bilton

We're no two alike to a casual glance, but each of us feels akin  
To others who settled up here in the North, and never spilled out again.  
We will never wash out at the pace of the rest, pushed through the sluices of life;  
We'll cling to the riffles we find for ourselves, rooted in spite of the strife.  
We're of flexible mettle, too tough to break, too stubborn yet to be gone;  
We will stay up here with the Northern Lights, let the rest of the world rush on.  
When its time for the clean-up, the torrent stops, and all is done but the sweep;  
I'd be one of the nuggets already here, and my northern heaven keep.

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## **RECREATION CENTER**

In the year 2000 the city of Cranbrook built a brand new Rec Plex including an area and aquatic center. It holds over 4260 seats, plus has 16 luxury suits and 19 club seats. When I first heard about it my reaction was too much money not needed, but since it has been here I have had a real change of heart. We get big name shows now, world skating shows etc, and of course we have The ICE. I went to a game tonight, nothing special middle of the week but that arena was over 3/4 full. I would love to see Whitehorse get a WHL team in there. I think it would be a large boost to the whole area. Never being a hockey fan my self I suddenly love our Kootenay Ice games. Also my brothers daughter was into swimming and I think a multi plex like that would have been a great benefit to her when she was growing up. If it helps to keep just a few kids off the streets and into sports I think it is a worth while adventure, even if its one we can't really afford.

Mogey Mogenson [elgolfo\\*shaw.ca](mailto:elgolfo*shaw.ca) (In Cranbrook)

## **VANCOUVER YUKONERS LUNCHEON**

A short message from the cold coast.

We went over to Vancouver yesterday. As usual a good time was had by all. Took the 830 ferry over. Took Don Machan with us, Butlers were unable to attend. Also met Neil and Frances McLeod on the ferry. About 55 in attendance - seems to slip a little every year. Lots of good food, door prizes, hugs and chatter. some of the M/T members there - Tina and Art parsons, Don Murray, Vivian, Lowell Blieler, Jim McCausland - Berezas.

Managed to sell eight more books while there so that was worthwhile. Got back home about 7.30 P.M., long day.

Penned the attached in case you need it for a Christmas issue. (if there is to be such)

Take care and have lots of fun.

Blanche and Gus Barrett [sourdoughs2@shaw.ca](mailto:sourdoughs2@shaw.ca) (In Qualicum Beach)

## **PARKING FINE INNOVATIONS**

I was reminded of innovative parking fines when our Whitehorse By-Law people came up with the idea of having violators pay parking fines with the amount of the fine in food to be given to those in need this Christmas.

Here's one Dawson used many years ago. These signs were stuck, on windshields, drivers side every time, instead of parking fines. I'm told the glue was very good, and that it took a long time to remove them. I have no idea how effective they were but it still brings a smile.

Proof, perhaps, that with a little thought red tape can be cut .....well softened, and, if you're not on the receiving end, bring a smile, or end up in a kindness as is happening in Whitehorse this month.????

Doug Bell [dougbell@yknet.ca](mailto:dougbell@yknet.ca) (In Whitehorse)

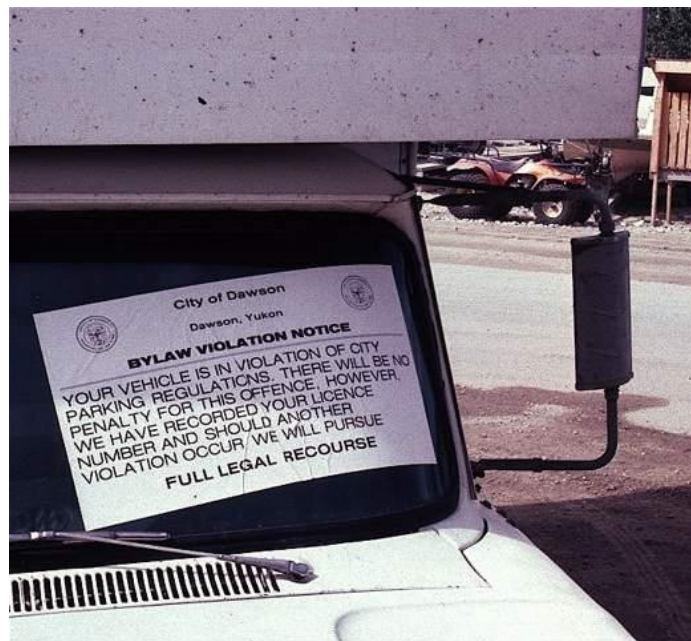


Photo courtesy Doug Bell [dougbell@yknet.ca](mailto:dougbell@yknet.ca) (In Whitehorse)

## **OBIT**

Evelyn (Nordling) Payette

PAYETTE \_ Evelyn (Nordling) passed away peacefully at Holyrood Manor, Maple Ridge, B.C. on 02 of December 05. Born in Dawson City, Yukon November 4th, 1916 and survived by her son Tom, 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. She will be missed by her family and friends.

Published in The Province on 12/5/2005.

## **NEW ADDITIONS**

I received your newsletter 139 from an old workmate. I do not know if I qualify as a recipient of your newsletter but I worked in the Yukon from June 1977 to October 1982 at Cyprus Anvil Mines. My family and I lived in Faro. We travelled and camped as much as we could. Looking forward to hearing from you one way or the other. Your newsletter was very informative and brought back many good memories. Thanks. Del

I now live in Queensland Australia in a small beach town called Allingham. It is not on the map of Queensland but is situated about 130 KM north of Townsville and 250 KM south of Cairns. I received the Email from Dal Varney who lives in Kamloops BC.

If you want the full address it is:

Odiel Delaere  
9 Bottlebrush St  
Allingham Q'LD 4850

All the best to you over the Xmas and New Year holiday. Del

Odiel Delaere [odelaere@hotmail.com](mailto:odelaere@hotmail.com)

## **QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

Almost all our unhappiness comes from comparing ourselves to others.

## **FAVORITE CHRISTMAS RECIPES**

Hello Sherron: Well Calgary went from +20 last week to -20 this week and snow. These are a few of my staple Christmas recipes. Have a wonderful Christmas and the best in the new year. Connie Casselman [caselman@telus.net](mailto:caselman@telus.net) (In Calgary)

### **Cheese Ball**

16 oz. grated med. cheese  
16 oz. Philadelphia cream cheese  
2 tbsp. chopped pimento (I never buy this)  
2 tbsp. green pepper  
2 tbsp. chopped onion  
2 dashes Worcestershire sauce

Chill not less than one hour and then roll in chopped walnuts.

### **Chilled Cucumber Spread**

2 pk. cream cheese (8 oz. each)  
2 tsp. lemon juice  
2 tsp. minced onion  
1/2 tsp. dill weed  
1/4 tsp. horseradish  
3/4 c. diced, seeded cucumber  
Dash of pepper  
In a mixing bowl beat cream cheese until smooth. Add lemon juice, onion, dill weed, horseradish and hot pepper. Fold in cucumber. Put in fridge for at least an hour.

THESE ARE SOOO GOOD, but very messy to make.

### **CHUFFIES**

1 cheddar cheese (Imperial in red tub)  
1/2 real whipped butter  
Combine the above

Cut crusts of a frozen loaf of unsliced bread and coat all six sides with the cheese mixture. Put on a cookie sheet and freeze for days and days.

When serving put on cookie sheet and bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Serve hot. Do not microwave.

When spreading cheese, put it on frozen, rather thick sliced bread.

\* \* \* \* \*

Submitted by Vivian Stuart (Lelievre) [lornellis\\*shaw.ca](mailto:lornellis*shaw.ca) (In Victoria)

**Antipasto**  
**(courtesy of my sister Karen Poulson)**

Boil the following for 5 min., drain & chop as desired:

2 lbs cauliflower  
2 lbs green pepper  
2 lbs red pepper  
2 lbs silver skin onions

Dice as desired:

1 tin black olives  
1 tin green olives  
1 tin yellow beans  
1 tin green beans  
3 tins mushrooms  
1 tin anchovies  
3 tins tuna, salmon or shrimp  
1 large jar dill pickles

Combine:

60 oz catchup  
1 ½ cups vinegar  
1 ½ cups Mazola oil  
1 bottle Chili sauce

Mix all together. Put in pint jars. Cook for 15 minutes in a water bath.  
Cool – Store – Eat and Enjoy!

Makes 30 ½ pint jars

\* \* \* \* \*

Submitted by Donna Clayson [ytdogteam\\*telus.net](mailto:ytdogteam@telus.net) (In Ardrossan AB)

### **PERFECT PUNCHES:**

The following recipes were issued by the Edmonton Police Service:

#### **7-UP CHRISTMAS BOWL**

2 1/3 cups frozen raspberries in syrup, partially thawed  
1 1/3 cups frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed  
5 ½ cups pineapple juice  
8 cups 7-Up chilled

Place raspberries and lemonade in a blender, process until smooth. Strain into punch bowl. Discard seeds. Stir in pineapple juice. Just before serving, add 7-Up.

## **APPLE CITRUS SPRITZ**

2 cups apple juice  
2 cups orange juice  
2 cups grapefruit juice  
½ cup lime juice, fresh squeezed  
3 cups ginger ale  
Ice cubes

In larger pitcher or punch bowl, combine apple, orange, grapefruit and lime juice. Just before service, pour in ginger ale. Serve over ice cubes in tall glasses.

## **Christmas Fruit Balls**

Submitted by Moge Mogenson [elgolfo\\*shaw.ca](mailto:elgolfo*shaw.ca) (In Cranbrook)

### **Mix**

1 pkg. coloured min. marshmallows OR  
30 1/4 each large marshmallows  
2 cups Graham wafer crumbs  
1/2 cup Red Marchino cherries, halved  
1/2 cup Green Marchino cherries, halved  
1 15 oz. can sweet condensed milk  
1/2 cup chopped walnuts.

Chill over night. Shape into 1" balls and roll in coconut.

Store in fridge or freezer. They taste great frozen also!!!!

## **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**. The goal of this project is to provide an opportunity for folks to reconnect.

– Sherron Jones [sherronjones\\*shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones*shaw.ca)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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