MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 187th Edition – December 31st, 2006

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones*shaw.ca

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



Whitehorse City Hall with Canada Winter Games Mural Photo courtesy Tim Kinvig kinvig*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Tom the Woodcutter

By Robbie Benoit cordrush*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

I was driving down the road one time ~
on a cool clear autumn day
When I spotted a pal with his truck in the ditch ~
on the old Klondike highway

Why, howdy Tom! Could you use a hand? ~
Are you sure that you're ok?
I'm fine he says, in a bit of a bind ~
but I'm not in a serious way

It was then I asked, how it came to be ~ That he'd broken his truck in half He said he was out, cutting firewood see ~ and the darned thing just collapsed

How big of a load, were you packing there ~ I asked kinda matter-of-factly he said the box was full, and stacked to where ~ he could count two cord exactly

Are you out of your mind? That's an awful load ~ stacked up on a half ton truck
With a load like that, on this rough road ~ that's really pushing your luck

He said it wasn't until, he'd shot the moose ~ things started going bad

He could only fit, the hind end on the roof ~ the rest, he'd shoved in the cab

Everything was ok, while the going was slow ~ but the roof had started to sag

And when he tried to pass, that motor home ~ the front end let go with a bang

He tried to turn the steering wheel ~
but the antlers got in the way
So he says to the moose, ain't that tough luck ~
you're gonna die twice in one day

Just then he spotted, his new chainsaw ~ as it sailed right through the air
He'd left it up, on top of the load ~ with his gas can and his spare

The saw hit the roof, of the motorhome ~ with it's Nevada license plates

Along with a big hind quarter was thrown ~ from the moose that he'd just slayed

It was sometime shortly thereafter ~
I happened to come along
That motorhome gone, his moose on the rafters ~
along with his new chainsaw

So if you live down in Nevada folks ~
and you own a big land yacht

If you recently toured these Yukon roads ~
and some extra luggage you've got

If you spotted some moose-ylaneous parts ~ that were riding piggy back

My friend Tom hopes, you enjoyed the roasts ~ but he'd like the chainsaw back.

Copyright to Robbie Benoit

Pack Dogs to Helicopters

Author Pat Callison – copyright.

CHAPTER 15 MAKING DO

There was another occasion when the phrase, "Necessity, who is the mother of invention," comes to mind and I don't think Plato had my Fairchild CF-ATG in mind when he said it.

During July, 1942, while operating Cassiar Airways out of Dease Lake, I had a request from a trapper at Lower Post on the Liard River to take him and his supplies to his trapping ground at Skinboat Lake, 200 miles north and east of Lower Post.

At that time I had a well known aircraft engineer working for me, Russell Jackson. Russ and I took our tool boxes and bedrolls and flew the 150 miles from Dease Lake to Lower Post.

The next morning I loaded the trapper, his outfit and 2 dogs, making up a heavy load of 700 pounds for the little Fairchild. After two hours flying we landed at Skinboat Lake where the trapper had a small cabin. We unloaded the aircraft, made tea, had something to eat and I was looking forward to a good flight back to Lower Post. It was only out about 5 minutes when the engine started missing and losing power, so I turned and flew back to Skinboat Lake. When I checked the engine I could see that one of the exhaust valves was not opening, so I adjusted the rocker arm until the valve was opening properly, then I started the engine and it sounded okay, so I took off.

I got just through the pass into the headwaters of the Coal River, about 25 miles out, when the engine started missing and backfiring through the carburetor.

The RPMs dropped from 1800 to 1300 and 'that was all I could get. I was sure the same exhaust valve was not opening and I knew I was not going to be in the air much longer. At that point I was over the headwaters of the Coal River which didn't have sufficient water to land a float equipped aircraft.

The fact that the only load I had was just enough gasoline to get me back to Lower Post was in my favour, I managed to keep the aircraft airborne down the Coal River a distance of 20 miles where the river was a little larger and there was a straight, if short, stretch of water. I had no choice, I was going down and all I could hope for was that I wouldn't hit a rock in the river. When I hit the river I saw a big rock about 10 feet from my right float while the tip of the left wing was not more than 20 feet from the trees and I was going down-stream.

Just as soon as the aircraft slowed down, I jumped out, and ran to the nose of the float. The water was about 2 feet deep and not far ahead there were more rocks sticking up out of the water. I jumped into the water, hung onto the float, turned the aircraft around, then I waded and pulled the aircraft upstream to the end of the straight stretch of water and tied it to a tree.

As soon as the aircraft was secure I started to look for the trouble which had brought me here. My suspicion that it was the valve I had adjusted at Skinboat Lake was correct, but I soon discovered I had a bigger problem than just a valve out of adjustment.

I removed the rocker arm so I could get hold of the end of the push rod. I pulled on the pushrod and half of it came out in my hand! I couldn't believe it. A push rod is made of steel tubing, the hollow centre about 3/8 of an inch, the length about 15 inches long with a steel ball in each end. For some reason, which I had never heard of before or since, the tube had broken off just about the centre of the rod.

So here I was 150 miles from anywhere, no spare parts, no means of communication, and I knew that unless I could get full power out of the engine there was no chance of getting the aircraft off this small stretch of water. I thought if I just had something to plug the centre of the rod, possibly I could run the engine. I had a fair set of tools and amongst other things was a C wrench. It was steel rod, one end straight and the other shaped like the letter "C". Altogether it was about 12 inches long. I tried the end of it in the hollow push rod and it fitted, with the total length just a little short of that of the broken push rod. I took the wrench, placed it on a flat rock and with the back of my axe head I hammered it until it was straight. I drove the two pieces of the push rod over the C wrench rod. It fitted! Snug and looked O.K.

I put all the parts back in the engine and adjusted the clearance on the valves, started the engine and it ran okay. So far so good, then I had to figure how I was going to get out of here.

While I had been improvising, time had been passing and it was now starting to get dark and under these circumstances I needed all the visibility I could get. I'll admit I had some doubts that I was going to get out with such a limited take off as this spot afforded. With the very short run for takeoff I was still going to have to start climbing fast to clear the trees at the next bend in the river.

The aircraft was light in weight and if I could get full power I had a chance to make it. By now it was too dark and there was nothing for it but to make the best of a night sleeping on the floor of aircraft minus a bedroll because I had cut down on my load as much as possible. I did have emergency food.

During the night I could hear the wolves howling and at times they were not more than 50 feet from the aircraft. I was glad when day began to break.

I towed the aircraft upstream as far as possible, tied the tail to a tree, got in and started the engine, then ran it until it had a good temperature for takeoff. I got out, and using a lighter cord, tied the tail to a bush, just enough to allow me to get back into the aircraft and get the throttle open. I had it all trimmed for takeoff.

I poured on the coal and little ATG pulled free and was off the water in about 500 feet and cleared the trees. So far so good, but I still had to fly right down the centre of the river following every bend until I could gain flying speed.

From there to the Liard River, about 100 miles, I followed the Coal River just in case my makeshift push rod didn't hold out and I would have to land.

Everything held together until I was 50 miles from Lower Post. The engine started missing a little. I was sure the broken rode was rivet- ting down and getting shorter and not opening the valve sufficiently. The last few miles it was missing badly and I knew it

wasn't going to function much longer. I was one relieved man when I put down at Lower Post.

Russ Jackson had heard the aircraft and was waiting for me at the dock. In those days we usually carried a complete cylinder assembly, so we immediately set to work.

We replaced the broken push rod, checked the engine and it ran like new.

I kept the broken, patched up push rod for a long time and showed it to aircraft people and they all said they had never seen or heard of one breaking as this one had done. It had certainly picked a rotten place to be the exception to the rule, and I don't know how long I would have been stranded or how long it would have taken me to get out of there.

To be continued

YUKON INFORMATION REQUIRED

Hello Sherron. My name is Peter Martin and I am one of your loyal readers of the MocTel, which I have been getting for about 1.5 years now. I live in Oshawa Ont. and was in Whitehorse (where I was born) from 1948-1955.

I am going out of town today on business for 2 weeks and I got an urgent request from my granddaughter Hannah (age 9) for information on the Yukon that she needs for a school project.

I would appreciate your help (and those of other loyal readers) if I could give Hannah Martin your e mail address so she could send you a note to get some or any of the information she needs.

I hope this note reaches you in time and please forgive me if this is too much of an imposition.

Thank you very much in advance.

Peter Martin thelmartin*rogers.com Oshawa Ontario

Have replied to Peter and have not heard from Hannah yet. – Sherron

TRIP ON THE WHITE PASS TRAIN

These 5 pictures are some of dad's slides of the White Pass & Yukon Route, again in the late 50's or early 60's. I think that is Mr. Lloyd Ryder riding on the back of the train in picture #10. I think this had something to do with the Lions Club and their trips.

Gina Span ginaspan*yahoo.com (In Coquitlam BC)

Lloyd had a look at the pictures and he says the man in number 10 picture (at the back of the train) is Jack Humme. He was an insurance salesman here in Whitehorse.

Marny Ryder marnyryder*whtvcable.com (In Whitehorse)

Hello Sherron: Good to have that cleared up and thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Ryder. Merry Christmas to all. Love Gina



Photos courtesy Gina (Hughes) Span





Photo courtesy Gina (Hughes) Span



Photos courtesy Gina (Hughes) Span



Jack Humme

ARTISTIC TALENT



Inside a Crocus
Photo courtesy Heinrich Lohmann heinrich*lohmann.ca (In Airdrie AB)

MESSAGE FROM MARIBETH

To all those in south western BC who were/are locked in by fallen trees, cut off from the world by downed telephone lines, or coping with damage to home or other property, I pray that your neighbours are looking out for you. To those who were/are shivering in the dark, I pray that you are safe.

I slept through the storm. I don't turn on the radio or television until 5 pm. I had early errands to do. I planned to deliver something to a friend in Coquitlam first then be back to the Mall for 9:30 then on to the church to pick up a soup pot.

Not far from home: traffic lights out, tree down blocking all access to Cameron Elementary, Lougheed Mall in darkness. Drivers were being good about 4 way stop procedure so I got to my friend's dark house within 15 minutes. Unfortunately, on my return I got caught in the morning rush that should have been over. It took me an hour to get home.

I had gone out to buy a phone that did not depend on electricity. When power goes out at our church, the sump pumps quit, and parishioners have to be phoned to come bail. I hadn't received the call last time because our power was out. I missed the call again on Friday, not that I would have been able to get in, with the car now off with Joy and the Skytrain affected by the outage.

Cell phone service was affected, too. I could get no signal when I was trying to call from the traffic jam. So much for my brilliant idea of giving the church office my cell number. As for why there were no messages on my phone when I got home at 10:15 but the fanout message from 9:15 was there when I went to use the phone at 12:15, I have no idea. Fortunately, it was not raining so there should not have been bailing to do. Today, I shall buy that no-frills, non-electric phone.

Maribeth Mainer mainerm1*shaw.ca (In Burnaby)

Yukon senator caps political career

Written by Julia Skikavich Courtesy of the Whitehorse Star, Dec 15, 2006

Ione Christensen has spent more than 30 years in public life.

She's served two terms as mayor of Whitehorse, the commissioner of the Yukon, ran to sit as the territory's member of Parliament and has spent the last seven years sitting in the Senate.

Throughout it all, Christensen's husband, Art, has supported her.

"He's put up with my nonsense over the last 30 years in public life and now that he needs help, it's time that I stayed home and didn't go running back and forth to Ottawa," she told a press conference at her Riverdale home on Thursday afternoon.

Over the last three years, Art has been suffering major vision loss that is irreversible, she said. His central vision is gone, and though he has some remaining peripheral vision, he now has trouble recognizing people, can't drive and needs help with tasks around the house, she said.

So, though, Christensen still has 22 months until her mandatory retirement from the Senate at the age of 75, she has tendered her resignation papers to the Governor General, effective Dec. 31.

"I felt I just wanted to go quietly into the sunset back to the Yukon," she said.

Christensen, 73, was appointed to the Senate of Canada in 1999 at the request of thenprime minister Jean Chretien.

She took on the position knowing that she would only have a maximum of nine years in the Upper House of Canada's Parliament, but felt her long list of experiences and employment background could serve the Yukon well.

Christensen first served with the treasury branch in government. She has been a justice of the peace and a juvenile court judge.

In 1975, she was elected to serve as mayor of the capital city in the territory and in 1979 she became commissioner of the Yukon.

All of the above positions were the first time any were held by a woman.

She has held executive positions at Hospitality North Ltd., Petro-Canada and Panarctic Oil Ltd.

In 1994, she was appointed to the Order of Canada for her life accomplishments in promoting, supporting and encouraging the preservation of Yukon history.

Applying her experiences in the Senate proved to be a privilege and an honour, said

Christensen.

Though, she added, that the experience could be quite lonely with long hours of hard work.

Christensen has worked in the Senate on issues that have included nuclear energy, water supply, global warming, first nations youth in urban Canada, first nation economic development, fetal alcohol syndrome disorder (FASD), cruelty to animals and the 2007 Canada Winter Games.

One of her proudest achievements while in the chamber was to serve as the sponsor to the amendments made to the Yukon Act.

Christensen had resigned her position as Commissioner of the Yukon after serving in the office for only nine months after the role of the position was redefined to little more than a mediator function. "They made the changes to the commissioner's duties; it was done through a letter from the minister of Indian and Northern Affairs," she said.

"At that time, because the changes were so profound, I felt that the changes should be made into the act so it wasn't just a letter and gave the legal certainty to the Yukon governments to be able to continue.

"That wasn't done and so 30 years later, I was able to take those changes through the Senate."

Work on cruelty to animal legislation to ensure it reflects the realities of northern and rural Canada and not just urban concerns and the push to try to get labelling on alcohol across the country to strive for the prevention of FASD are other achievements she points to. Though, despite her advocacy on both, neither have been entirely successful. Christensen also stands by her vote in support of the gun bill.

"You only oppose things if it's going to do any good," she said. "You don't vote just because it says gun bill. If it says gun bill and it's going to do something that's very negative then OK, I'm not going to vote for this."

She ended her time in the Senate with a final statement on Dec. 4 addressing the Conservative government's cuts to literacy programs. With Christensen's retirement at the end of the month, the territory may go without representation in the Senate for a long period of time.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has not yet filled the already 10 vacant seats in the chamber. He has indicated he does not intend to do so until the government's push for a reformed Senate is addressed.

It will mean added work for Yukon MP Larry Bagnell, said Christensen.

With each of the territories only having a single member of Parliament and a single senator, she said, the senators take on more constituency work than those in other regions.

The Conservatives, however, already tabled legislation aimed at the platform commitments made by the party during January's election.

The bill, released earlier this week, would allow voters to choose candidates to fill vacant Senate seats during a federal election. The prime minister would then consider the voting results before making any appointments.

Senate appointments have always been the prerogative of the prime minister. Allowing voters to actually elect senators would require constitutional change.

The government had previously tabled another piece of legislation that would limit senators to eight-year renewable terms.

Christensen said she doesn't like the proposed changes, adding it leaves a lot of unanswered questions.

It is unclear on if those nominated would be able to run again; if there would be a difference in powers between the two kinds of senators the legislation would make way for - the remaining unelected ones and the newly-appointed individuals; if there is a change in powers for a reformed Senate, enabling it to defeat confidence motions or deal with money bills; and, the money it would cost to get more staff and open more regional offices, she said.

"If it went through, it would make a profound change, and I don't know if we want that or not in Canada."

Christensen further added that changing the way the Senate operates requires a constitutional change.

"We have in Canada a process for changing the Constitution and changing the way Parliament is run; that is with seven provinces with 50 per cent of the population. That's the way it should be done. This is a backdoor approach."

There needs to be more dialogue with Canadians, premiers and the provinces about if the Senate truly does need to be reform, she said.

But to start that discussion, there needs to be a better understanding of the role the chamber plays, she said.

"It does play a very valuable role and it's a compliment to the House of Commons," she said.

Members of Parliament are often looking at legislation through purely partisan lens, she said, and must do so in looking ahead to the next election. MPs are also very busy people, in dealing with their constituents in addition to their responsibilities in the House, she said.

"The Senate is the corporate memory of government," she said.

It looks at legislation constitutionality, clarity, effectiveness and implications for minorities or regions.

The job of the Senate is to make the bills more effective and more usable for the whole country, she said.

"You never get a system that is totally free of problems. You just change one set of problems for a new set of problems," she said of the Conservative-endorsed changes to the Upper Chamber.

Christensen, however, said she doesn't have regrets about stepping away from the political arena now. She said she's out of politics now and doesn't have an interest in being involved in that lifestyle in the future.

She will be continuing to work on issues related to FASD in Yukon.

Christensen also wants to start working with hospice and plans to have a visible involvement in the Canada Winter Games.

She also wants to spend some more time on her photography, finish her autobiography and get back into hiking, kayaking and skiing.

She's hiked the Chilkoot Trail 20 times and thinks she'll be putting in her 21st trip this summer.

RECENT PHOTOS TO COME FROM TIM KINVIG

Hi Sherron, Your note reminds me that what with moving and contracts, I have been neglecting my cameras over the last while - so its about time I got them out and I will get you some photos in a couple of days.

In the meantime - I have a copy of a note sent out by Marj Eschak - an update on her son in Afghanistan. I thought it would be interesting to your readers so I checked with her and she said forward it on.

And all the best to you and your family for Christmas and New Year

Tim Kinvig kinvig*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

And now the Eschak note for the Moctel -

Subject: Tom's Latest from Afghanistan - 14 December 2006

From: "Marj Eschak" <marje*klondiker.com> Date: Thu, 14 Dec 2006 18:03:59 -0800

Tom called this morning from the mountains in Afghanistan. He has returned from his two week holiday through Europe where he visited Italy, Greece, and traveled throughout Europe via the Eurail. He did experience the "chunnel" and went as far as England. He and his friend Sail had a great trip. They stopped in Paris at the Eiffel Tower and because they had their back packs on were not allowed to use the elevator. Since there was no place to check their back packs – they simply said "That's ok – we'll take the stairs!", and then proceeded to trot up all those stairs – with backpacks – to the top of the Eiffel Tower!

Good thing they are in shape!

They were quite taken with the architecture and history in the places they saw. I did get a few pictures and will try to send them. Tom said his favorite places were Italy and Greece and he would like return with us one day. The Greek Islands are particularly beautiful.

So back to this morning – Tom called to wish me a happy birthday. He had scooped a satellite phone and had limited time to talk. The weather has now changed in Afghanistan. They are into their winter with rain and colder temperatures. It varies from 5 degrees Celsius in the mornings to as high as 25 degrees later in the day. Even the Canadians are finding it cold after being acclimatized to the hot weather. However, they aren't having near as hard a time with it as the Taliban. It seems the cold weather has slowed the Taliban somewhat, but the Canadians are not letting their guard down.

Tom said the guys received all their flea stuff that I lined up from Grant at Robbin's Pet Care in California. Carrie Greschner helped me research something they could use that

was not too caustic for their skin. She put me in touch with Grant from Robbin's Pet Care and he lined me up with a company in Florida that made a concentrate that was organic and good for fleas, flys, gnits, gnats and other biting insects!!! The company learned that it was going to the troops in Afghanistan and dropped the cost from \$10 per bottle to \$2 per bottle and shipped it to Tom. It got through!!! The guys use it on their boots & cuffs & when they go to sleep because along with the sand fleas there are scorpions and spiders that crawl up the legs of their cots – if they are in the cots! So that was a real hit!!! Thanks to Grant @ Robbin's Pet Care who researched this for our guys & coordinated with the manufacturer in Florida!

Tom confirmed that his platoon had received 25 some odd boxes of Christmas goodies and Yukon stuff from the Royal Canadian Legion – Yukon Branch. They were elated to say the least. There were enough goodies and treats that his platoon couldn't possible use it all, and he wanted to let everyone know that it has been shared with all the guys in their entire company!!!!! COURTESY OF THE YUKON LEGION!

The cheese, salami and crackers were a huge hit. The Yukon Brewing mugs, Yukon Legion shirts, Yukon Legion pins, and Hank Karr Cds with Ed Isaak, Ray Parks & Red Lewis – the Canucks - and others - have all been proudly placed in Canada House back on the main base. Only the Canadians are allowed to go there and it is quite predominantly YUKON THEMED!! The poster showing all the Legion volunteers is posted & displayed in Canada House and Hank's CD is played regularly! There are Yukon flags everywhere!! Some of the Christmas decorations were used to decorate the Canada House as well. Yukon Brewing mugs & Yukon Legion Hoodies are also quite predominantly displayed. The theme throughout Canada House is mainly YUKON!

The Legion also sent lots of flea collars and the guys are using them around the cuffs on their pants and sleeves – Big Thank You!!!!

Tom has decorated his LAV (Light armored vehicle) with some Christmas decorations and it is proudly carrying a Yukon Flag as well!!! They had to cut him back on his decorations – but he still got quite a few onto the LAV.

Tom wants everyone at the Legion to know that he is wearing his YUKON cap with the canoe & paddles on it – and is told regularly to take it off! However, it finds its way back just as regularly!

Everyone in the entire company wants the Yukon Legion members and volunteers to know that they have never seen a level of support like this before. His commanders have been on multi tours and they have never seen the support that the Yukon is sending – anywhere else in any of their tours!!!!

His guys are really impressed with the support from the Yukon – unparalleled!! They are getting lots of letters from the school kids with crayon posters showing "Our Canadian Heroes" and the troops are touched by all of this. Again these are all coming from the Yukon School kids.

Keith Clarke's class sent a number of emails to Tom and he wants me to let all of you know that he only gets about ½ hour on a monthly basis to catch up on his email. He called one night at about 3 a.m. to ask me to forward his email to Mr. Clarke's class. Unfortunately there was a glitch with the email and it didn't come through. He had tried to answer all of the questions sent by the class. It's tough when there are huge lineups for the computers – and sometimes they just don't come through. Unfortunately this one didn't. He will try again. He read all Mr. Clarke's emails out loud to his platoon – and all the guys enjoyed them!!

They share their mail because it's so important.

The support from the Yukon is overwhelming to the Canadian troops in Afghanistan. It's felt by every one of the troops in the entire company!!! The Yukon has made it abundantly clear that the Canadian Military is supported 100% and we are behind them. They are grateful for this.

When Tom was talking to me this morning I could hear gun fire and then he said that he had to go because they could see someone approaching their location. He asked me to pass along the heartfelt thanks from all the Canadians in their platoon who appreciate all the efforts of the Yukon Legion – you have made their Christmas!!!!

Hats off to all the Yukoners who support our Canadian Troops!

Marj & Katie Eschak

News topics from Gary McRobb's newsletter to his constituents.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Elaine Hurlburt on her new book: From First We Met to Internet. It's a remarkable collection of memories, stories and pictures from Haines Junction's beginnings in 1942 to present. It was launched at a Nov. 22nd Open House marking the Haines Junction College Campus' first twenty years.

Congratulations to team captain Jessica Trotter and her teammates on the Yukon's female Canada Winter Games hockey team for an amazing second-place finish at a mid-November tournament in Burnaby, B.C.

In Memoriam

Condolences to the family and friends of the following constituents who recently passed away:

Don Rooney, 65, of Quill Creek, Mile 1111, passed away on November 28th.

Wayne Hall, 54, of Haines Junction, passed away November 21st.

Norman Aubichon, 71, of Burwash Landing, passed away on November 6th.

Heinz Eckervogt, 77, a long-time Haines Junction area resident, passed away on July 1st while visiting family in his homeland, Germany.

Walter MacElheron, 44, a life-long Haines Junction resident and highways worker, passed away on July 25th.

Belated condolences to the family and friends of the following:

Alexander Richard (Dickie) Dickson of Burwash Landing, passed away on April 26, 2006:

Tommy Brown, 34, of Haines Junction, passed away on February 5, 2006;

Annie Nicholas, 95, of Haines Junction, passed away on December 28, 2005; and

Donald Tomlin, 46, formerly of Haines Junction, passed away on September 26, 2005.

In Gary McRobb's newsletter to his constituents he listed several obits and one was for Heinz Eckervorgt. Since he was mentioned in the MocTel a few times recently I sent the message on to Joyce Yardley and also replied to Donna Clayson and Moge Mogenson who had already received the newsletter and Donna passed it on. – Sherron

Thanks for sending this, Sherron. Heinz, and his wife, Katy were the German couple who bought Dezadeash Lodge from Norma and Cal in the early 70's. And of course Gordon and I had sold it to Norma and Cal in1968. Bun Beloud, who had built it from scratch out of an old US army building, was the one who sold us to us in 1960.

Cheers, Joyce Yardley Joyce*dataspan.ca (In Nanaimo)

I was surprised that Heinz passed away. Also, Moge I see you sent in some stories for the Haines Junction memory book. I received my book today. What a wonderful treasure! Sherron, are you aware of this book called: *From First We Met to the Internet* put out by the Yukon College in Haines Junction?

Below is the complete info on the book:

From First We Met to Internet

Stories from Haines Junction's First Sixty-Five Years as a Settlement 1942-2007 First Edition

Yukon College

Produced by Haines Junction Campus, Haines Junction, Yukon

Project Design and Coordination: Elaine Hurlburt

Book Design and Editing: Elaine Hurlburt

Typing: Natasha Morin, Millie Hall, Elaine Hurlburt, Angie Charlebois

Book Design, Layout, Editing: Egli Design

Would you like any other info?

Regarding the price: I don't know. You'd have to contact Elaine Hurlburt at:

ehurlbur*yukoncollege.yk.ca

Cheers,

Donna Clayson ytdogteam*telus.net (In Ardrossan AB)

More from Gary McRobb's Newsletter

Lodge Owners Hit

Driving our highways has become riskier with the closure of several highway lodges due to financial pressures coming from their own government.

Tougher standards for water and septic regulations will on average cost lodge owners tens of thousands of dollars.

Understandably, many of these small business operators cannot afford to pay out-of-pocket the high costs of upgrades or replacements to their systems.

The Yukon government could have eased the upfront burden by modifying existing loan programs that are repaid with low interest on annual property tax payments.

I made this suggestion three years ago but it was rejected by the previous Yukon Party government.

At least three lodges are affected in the Kluane region alone:

Kluane Village at mile 1118, Koidern River Lodge at mile 1164, and Bear Creek Lodge at mile 1022.

I will be following up on this matter in the fall sitting of the legislature.

COMMENTS FROM MOGEY MOGENSON FORMER LODGE WORKER AND DAUGHTER OF PINE VALLEY LODGE OWNER

That is a bit of a shock two of the Lodges [that have closed] were our neighbours one on each side Koidern was north of us and Kluane was south of us. They are coming up with to many rules and regulations up there. The lodge owners need to get together and all just shut down for a few days that would tune Whitehorse in. They don't realize we were running on our own power plants and totally self contained up there. Mogey

The people in Whitehorse while using the turn tap, sinks, showers and flush toilets have no idea what living up on the highway is like nor do they have any idea of what its like to have a 2 minute shower otherwise you may run out of water or over load your septic system. The lodge owners take great care to look after their wells and septic systems as that is there only means of water control.

In the winter you step over your water lines and septic lines or you drive the frost down and they freeze. Then you spend your day laying in the cold with a wood heater and a barrel of water over it making steam to thaw out the lines and you start in the sump so you know what your working in, we don't mess with stuff up there. We know what were doing and, we don't need any interference from city busy bodies that know not what they are talking about.

Sherron it just gets to me when city starts to mind country business, it is no different than the East telling the West what to do in Canada. Just because there are lots of them doesn't mean they know it all.

Koidern is twenty miles north of our homestead and Kluane is twenty eight miles south of us. They were our two closest neighbours so I know them well, and those places barely make a living out there, for the 24/7 work that goes into a place like them, for the convenience of our highway travelers. With ours down that would make 1093 to 1167 with out a service unless something new has gone up. That's eighty miles of nothing but winding road in forty below, no gas, no wrecker, no phone, you wouldn't get me on that road then. Mogey Mogenson elgolfo*shaw.ca (In Cranbrook BC)

Message from Gary McRobb

You are more than welcome to reference my newsletter.

White River Lodge is still open and operated by Bob Beattie, although it's closed in winter.

Attached is a recent letter from Obie at Burlbilly Hill in Burwash Landing.

Also will attach the Yukon News article.

I plan to do a tribute in the legislature for Heinz in the spring sitting.

Will send you that once it's done.

Season's Greetings to you and your readers.

Gary McRobb gm*northwestel.net

YTG couldn't give a damn about lodges

By John Obermeier, Whitehorse Star, November 29, 2006

The North Alaska Highway between Haines Junction and Beaver Creek will soon only have one stop for fuel and lodging.

Bear Creek Lodge at Mile 1022 has just been forced into closure and the owners left destitute. It really hurts to see this.

Mile 1118, Kluane Wilderness Village, also had to close after an \$80,000 septic upgrade, also forced into bankruptcy.

Jim and Dorothy Cook at Koidern River Lodge at Mile 1164 face the same dilemma on top of serious health problems. A mandatory septic upgrade will force closure there as well.

At the same time, our tourism has declined to devastating levels.

The Yukon government refuses to help these owner-operators and demands full payment for all septic upgrades.

The upcoming lack of service will, in fact, deter visitors from coming back or stopping at all.

Where is the compassion??

It's actually too late; the damage is done and is irreversible. One stop for fuel and lodging between Haines Junction and Beaver Creek, and no help if someone breaks down.

I don't think the Yukon government gives a damn ... it's too busy enforcing its rules and regulations and steamrolling over people's lives.

Sad!

John Obermeier Burlbilly Hill Burwash Landing

Highway lodges on endangered list

Yukon News, Wednesday, November 22, 2006 By Genesee Keevil News Reporter

MOVING ON... After more than 30 years in business, Bryant and Gail Jeeves have been forced to close down Bear Creek Lodge.

Bear Creek Lodge has been forced to close, leaving its owners destitute.

"We may have to declare bankruptcy," said 71-year-old Gail Jeeves on Monday.

The Yukon government required the Haines Junction lodge to complete a \$20,000 septic-system upgrade.

The elderly couple couldn't afford it.

"We asked if that amount could be stretched over the years and added to our taxes," said Jeeves.

"But they wanted the \$20,000 immediately."

Jeeves didn't have the money.

"It's not that we were refusing to pay it," she said.

"We just can't pay it right now. And they certainly could have made it easier for us."

Business was bad this summer, she added. One day, the lodge sold just one bowl of ice cream, worth \$1.50.

The rubber tire traffic just wasn't there this year, and Bear Creek isn't the only lodge in the Junction feeling the pinch, said Jeeves.

"It seems traffic is just going from one major centre to the next, and not stopping in between."

Jeeves and her husband ran the lodge, 10 kilometres outside Haines Junction, for more than 30 years.

And the full restaurant, bar, RV Park, 12 rooms, conference space that seats 50, and horse corral used to be busy, she said.

In their heyday, the Jeeves would winter in Arizona, or on Vancouver Island.

But this year, they were getting on the bus and heading to their daughter's home in Prince George.

"We couldn't even afford to fly," said Jeeves, the day before they left.

They're planning to spend the winter in their daughter's basement suite.

"Thank God for family right now," said Jeeves, who is too upset to start thinking about the future.

"We have nothing, no plans, and we had to leave while we still have our sanity," she said, noting that her 76-year-old husband is struggling with Alzheimer's.

"So it's all on me, and it's taking its toll," she said.

Ten years ago, the Jeeves sold Bear Creek Lodge, and bought a home on Vancouver Island.

But the new owners quit paying the mortgage and trashed the place, said Jeeves.

"We had to sell our house and come back.

"You must wonder why we haven't got more money, but we put our house and everything into this place, and that was the end of our nest egg."

Several weeks ago, the government took Jeeves to court, citing non-compliance of a health order.

"The Judge asked us why we hadn't completed the work, and I told him we just didn't have the money," said Jeeves, her voice shaking.

The Crown asked that Jeeves be fined, but the judge didn't feel that was necessary.

"He was very nice," said Jeeves, who found the whole procedure terribly stressful.

"It's a real shame when you see people who are on in years, and this is their retirement nest egg, and they're having to close their doors and maybe go into bankruptcy," said Kluane MLA Gary McRobb.

"They sank everything they owned into keeping these things going, and the government's own regulations have brought on these costs — that's hurt that should be put on this government."

And it should help balance out the cost, he said.

"The government knew about the problem, had the means to do something about it, and decided to do nothing."

To ease the cost of drilling a well, or bringing in power and telephone, the government established the well program and the rural electrical telecommunications program, allowing Yukoners to repay these sizeable costs gradually on their taxes.

"And the territorial government could have eased the up-front burden of the high costs required for septic and sewer upgrades, or new infrastructure, by modifying existing loan programs that are repaid with low interest on annual property tax payments," said McRobb.

Last session, the government debated the possibility of expanding these programs to include septic costs, he said.

"Minister Glenn Hart said he'd look into it, and that things would improve, but it seems to have been an election ploy.

"The Yukon Party rejected it, and now they've clamped down.

"But it could be a saving grace for those highway lodges and the people who depend on them now, and in the future."

Three lodges in McRobb's riding have closed because of the cost of septic upgrades, he said.

Kluane Wilderness Village closed after an extensive \$80,000 septic system improvement; Koidern River Lodge is having septic issues and can't afford to do anything about it, and Bear Creek has closed, he said.

"This has repercussions on the community, the amount of rooms available, the ability of Haines Junction to attract events and conventions, and moreover the safety of highway travelers," said McRobb.

"Think about winter travel, when you're having mechanical problems or bad weather conditions, these highway lodges were a godsend to many travellers over the years.

"These operators have worked diligently on the frontline of our tourism industry for decades, and they deserve a medal for all they've done to help our tourism industry — they don't deserve to be driven into bankruptcy by their own government."

* * * * *

After seeing the above articles –

I had no idea this was going on my god I knew Gail and Bryant when they took over Macintosh Lodge which was the old name I knew them well, there is a crick in the creek behind their place and I could always be guaranteed a couple good sized Grayling from there. I also knew the original owners very well, one was Andy forget his name. I also knew Jim and Dorothy Cook very well I went to their place after work to visit almost everyday. These people just make a living in the short summer to tide them over the winter what the heck does Whitehorse think they are doing. I'd like to see some of those government JA's out there on that highway when everything is closed down. All the towns are about one hundred miles apart all they have to do is break down and they'll

freeze their butts off. Those septic systems have worked for fifty years and then some why don't they leave the people up there do what they are doing. Those little lodges along the way are a part of the Yukon's heritage and there're destroying it. Without them they never could have gotten to be the tour place it is. I'm afraid I find politics [government] very destructive now a days. Moge elgolfo*shaw.ca (In Cranbrook)

MESSAGE FROM JOYCE YARDLEY

Hi Sherron, Another rainy day, but, as I tell Fred, we must live a charmed life, because although all those terrible storms (unheard of, I'm sure, in this part of the country) have not affected us where we live. They just missed us, except for one large snowfall which lasted a few days (strong winds and rain which seemed to come in the middle of the night, mostly.) What happened to so many others, we escaped, in this end of town; such as power outages, trees down over power lines etc. so we're really thankful for that. Watched it all on the news; apparently Stanley Park in Vancouver really took a beating. So enjoy the lovely weather where you are ...you haven't missed a thing!

Cal phoned yesterday to tell me that Laurent Cyr passed away in Whitehorse. His family, of course, was one of the old original Whitehorse residents ...I went to school with his younger sister Lily and my sister Wilda was in the same class as one of his other sisters, Gloria. Laurent outlived his wife, and most, if not all, of his direct family members. He was looked upon as being one of the knowledgeable historians of the Yukon. And had a memory second to none, except possibly, our late Henry Breaden. His wife, Corrine, also died in Whitehorse.

Joyce (Richards) Yardley Joyce*dataspan.ca (In Nanaimo BC)

OBIT PENDING

I am hoping that some of the VanBibbers or Chambers from Champagne will forward an Obit on Frank Chambers passing on the 22nd, we attended his funeral toady. I will speak with some of the family members to have them pass on the Obit, they are a very well known, large family and go back a lot of years.

Our weather is going to be $+2^{\circ}$ c for tomorrow. Since yesterday, we have experienced rising temps, at present it is -5 and is on its way up. There was a prediction for a heavy snow-fall for the area, but unless we get it overnight, it has by-passed us wholly. Just loving it all. We really do not have a lot of snow in the lower elevations, but the snow-pack looks great for the higher ground, sure hope there is the moisture content in it all as down here it is dry and fluffy. Have a great day.......

Carol Buzzell buzzy.cj@northwestel.net (In Haines Junction)

NEW ADDITION

Good Morning, Sherron, This is Noelle Misko here.

Keep hearing about this wonderful website so I would like to subscribe. Much belated, I know!

Here is my info:

Noelle Misko (nee Cyr)

email: sourdoughyt*hotmail.com

Currently live in Edmonton, Ab Ph. # 780 456 6811

Born in Whitehorse, YT December 25, 1944

Took my grade schooling at Christ the King Elementary School (situated behind the Sacred Heart Cathedral - down town)

My brother Raymond says you will put something about our Dad in the Moccasin Telegraph. I will thank you in advance.

Can think of our younger days...we never had a car, but Dad always had trucks. So he put gates down both sides of the flatdeck, and behind the cab. Then he put a chain half-way across the back...us kids would get on the deck and go for rides. We were supposed to stay behind the chain, but my brothers challenged that from time to time. :-). Dad knew every back-road, creek, berry patch for miles around. We would bounce around...sounds kind of funny now-a-days.... but that's how it was! We would find a creek somewhere and have a picnic of sandwiches. Drink right out of the creek. Always was music in the home! He could really whistle when he had his own teeth.we had 100's of 78 records that were very well played! Then came the 8 tracks, cassettes and of course always the radio.

And most of his life he would like to go for a drive....usually ending with a donut and coffee or ice cream.

My brother, Raymond, says you will put something about our Dad in the telegraph. I will thank you in advance.

The Funeral and Burial will be on January 6th 2007. Both parents died in 2006. Lots of history with those two people.

Sincerely,

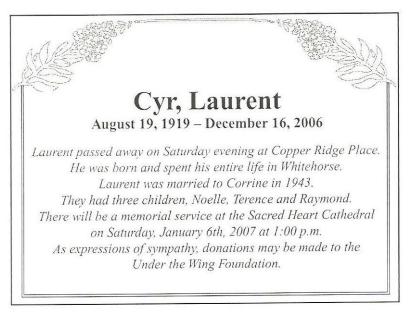
Noelle Misko One of the Cyr kids!

OBIT

Hello Sherron

I regret to inform you of the passing of my father, Laurent Cyr. He passed away on Dec 16th about 7:30 in the evening. He had been a resident of Copper Ridge Place for one year. Dad was born in Whitehorse on August 28 1919. Funeral arrangements have not been made yet. More info to follow.

Terry Cyr mccyr*sympatico.ca (In Cornwall ON)



Sympathy cards can be sent to the Cyr family care of Noelle Misko 15939 58th St. NW
Edmonton Alberta
T5Y 2R5

Donations may be made to the "Under Our Wing" foundation at Whitehorse General Hospital at - 5 Hospital Road Whitehorse, Yukon Canada Y1A 3H7 Please include full contact information for reply contact to you.

Good Morning everyone. Susie sent this to us this Morning...Love Gillian Campbell

Fran Dowie passed away this evening, Dec 21st 2006, at 9.30 pm. He was not in any pain, he died peacefully in his sleep. As information is available, I shall pass it on to you.

Susie

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

TO **FRAN DOWIE**

THE CLOVERDALE LEGION BRANCH #6

Monday January 8th 2007 2pm

If you do not wish to send flowers please send a donation to the Heart & Stroke Foundation in Fran's name thank you.

Marvin Josiah McGregor Born December 25, 1940 in New Westminster and raised in Maple Ridge, predeceased his parents Joe and Florence McGregor. Marvin was employed as a manager in CN Telecommunications, resided in: Lytton, Prince George, Maple Ridge, Edmonton, Watson Lake, Whitehorse, Ottawa, and after retiring to Qualicum Beach in 1994. Marv was an active associate member of the Bowser Legion, a talented builder, electronic technician, and often sought out for his problem solving skills. Passed away December 13, 2006 after an 18 month battle with cancer. Marv was admitted to Nanaimo General on December 9, 2006 and slipped away in his sleep December 13, 2006. Sadly missed by his children: Nicki and Brad, grandchildren: Kristopher and Breanna, brother Leonard and Norma McGregor, as well as Judy and many other friends and family. Memorial service at the Bowser Legion Branch # 211 December 28, 2006 11:30 am. Lunch to follow. Published in The Province on 12/21/2006.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Had to change the email address to

SMiddlebrook*cablerocket.com

Merry Christmas and have a happy new year.

Please change my address to fcurran*northwestel.net. I imagine you have heard that YKnet is no longer supplying email services, so I expect you will be receiving a lot of address changes,

Merry Christmas, and many thanks for doing such a great job. My donation is on the way.

Fran Curran

NEW ADDITIONS

I was visiting with Brent Hougen last night, chatting and looking at our early pictures of the Yukon ('48-'62). He mentioned that you were doing a historical web site about Yukon history, etc. It sounds very interesting and I was wondering if I could sign up for the "Moccasin Telegraph". As a side note, I knew a Sherron Jones..... and a Bill and perhaps it was you that worked with Marilyn at City Hall.

Have a nice Holiday Season,

Tom Law, Whitehorse tlaw*navigonet.com

RECONNECTION AFTER 35 YEARS

Hi Tom and Marilyn

We have thought of you lots of times and wondered if you were still in Whitehorse. Yes Tom it is I who worked with Marilyn at City Hall all those years ago. I was there when you dad was an Alderman and remember him well too. It was when we upgraded our Washer and Dryer that you bought our old ones and you were in your little house in Porter Creek. You folks shared some of your Shasta daisies which we had all the time we were at 86 Alsek. Still think of you every time I see a Shasta Daisy. Marilyn I remember the time we took a ride on a plane going out with a ball team and went to Calgary and on to somewhere to visit someone from you family. The plane if I am not mistaken was the Yukon Queen that Northward had and it was a charter. Also remember Marilyn and I taking motorbikes to the top of McIntyre Mountain.

Yes by all means I would love to add you to the mailing list - which I have done already and to the e-mail address list which is sent out to those in the group, periodically.

I started the project in Feb 2003 with the intent of being a repository of e-mail address for folks who had once lived in Yukon. My goal was to provide an opportunity for folks to re-connect. The project expanded almost immediately when people started telling interesting information about the time they lived in Yukon and I started asking if I could share it with the others who had signed up. It also expanded to include those who remained in the north which also seem natural since it also provided an opportunity to reconnect with those people. And here we are reconnecting after 35 or so years. The timing of us spending time with you was before your first child.

Tom, I have developed the project over time and just a few months ago added a server in our home in Vernon and now provide that service complete with our own private web site. It is not connected to the internet at large on purpose. I do not wish private information supplied when folks join up to be available to the internet at large - only to the group of Yukoners, past and present. I have faith that if they are willing to share a

little information about themselves and their family connections they will be equally motivated to keep the information safe.

I really would like to hear more about you and Marilyn and your family. Also has your dad passed on as most of our parents have. How many children did you two have and are they still in Yukon. Bill just looked at Canada 411 and saw 6 Law's in Yukon and you folks on Evergreen Cres. For your information Yukon Archives had been archiving the Moccasin Telegraph since it began. Heather Jones joined on soon after it began and took it through the hoops to have it archived. It is an excellent tool for folks to leave some written words in Archives for future generations to read.

Bill and I did travel to Whse and to Dawson last June where I was presented with a Commissioners Award for work on the Moccasin Telegraph.

Sure hope to hear more from you.

Meanwhile you can take a look the website. (Please do not pass the address around). Instead send only one sample edition to folks.

Will also send you a copy of the Ex-Yukoners and Sourdoughs list so you can see if you can find any old friends.

Luv to you both, Sherron (& Bill)

Hi Sherron,

How exciting to hear from you! It's kind of funny that last week I was rummaging through some old drawers and flipped open an ancient diary. "Sherron" popped off the page and I wondered who that was. I didn't remember you had spelled your name like that. Reading on it came to me out of a thick 35 or so year old fog – the trip we took with the ball team that you mentioned. I seem to remember us visiting my sister in Lethbridge. Guess I could check back in the diary but it would take awhile to find that page again. I remember our ski-dooing adventure in the night – was so impressed that you bothered to help get, load, unload the snowmachine to go with you since Tom was in Old Crow or something. Also the visits to your Marsh Lake cabin and "Password" games. And the City Christmas party at your place, etc.

Would you believe – I'm still working for the City! Started again in 1990 with the Maintenance and Safety Services Dept. Times have sure changed when we were such a small crew back then. I get Mon, Wed, Fri afternoons off, so it's not too demanding and I still have lots of free time. I'm working on deferred salary right now so I can take a year off starting July 2nd. Really looking forward to that. We have 3 kids, Kristine 34, Cindy 32 and Brent 28. I'll attach our Christmas letter so you can see pictures of them. What's Wesley up to these days? Tom's dad passed away in 1998, and his mom in 2003. My dad went at the age of 99 in 2004; the last of our parents.

Congratulations on your Moccasin Telegraph award. 'Tis really a neat thing you are doing. It would have been awesome to see you when you were up. We are on Evergreen Crescent. Tom's brother, George, is on Bamboo, nephew Richard on Centennial. Other Laws aren't related.

I have a sister-in-law, Jacquie Madsen, in Winfield and her family is around there; my brother passed away in 1996. We visited them last New Years. Next time we're through that way maybe we can look you up. How are you and Bill and is the Moccasin Telegraph a pretty full-time hobby?

Nice to be in touch. Merry Christmas to you both from us both!

Love Marilyn, Tom too Marilyn Law tlaw*navigonet.com (In Whitehorse)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Submitted by Vivian Stuart lornellis*shaw.ca (In Victoria)

Vegetable Rotini

2 ½ cups dry rotini or corkscrew macaroni

1 ½ cups fresh broccoli flowerets

1 ½ cups fresh cauliflowerets

2 med carrots, cut into strips (about 1 cup)

1 can Broccoli Cheese Soup

1 pkg (3 ounces) cream cheese softened (cream cheese with chives if desired)

34 cup milk

½ cup grated parmesan cheese

2 tbps Dijon-style mustard (optional)

1/8 tsp pepper

In 4 quart saucepan, prepare rotini. Add broccoli, cauliflower and carrots for last 5 minutes cooking time.

Drain

In same saucepan, gradually stir soup into cream cheese; add milk, parmesan cheese, mustard and pepper.

Over low heat, beat until cream cheese is melted, stirring often. Add rotini and vegetables.

Heat through, stirring occasionally.

Tip: You may substitute 1 bag (16 oz) frozen vegetable combination (such as broccoli, cauliflower and carrots) for the fresh vegetables.

Makes about 6 cups or 6 side-dish servings

DATES TO REMEMBER

Canada Winter Games, February 23 – March 10, 2007.

http://www.2007canadagames.ca/

2007 Yukon Quest, begins Saturday February 10th in Whitehorse.

http://www.yukonquest.org/servlet/viewnewslist?null&resolution=1024&referer=

Vancouver Yukoners Banquet

Just want to let Yukoners know that the reduced room fee at the **River Rock Resort** (\$149. 00 plus tax) is available for the whole weekend relative to our annual banquet March 31, 2007. Nice of them we think!!

They are actually now taking reservations for those of you who like to plan ahead. We are looking for a good turnout this year. Carol Clarke will be on the internet with more reminders as time draws nearer. Christmas first of course. In the meantime, pass the word.

Oh yes, tickets are still \$55.00 each. Remember - the Resort offers lots to do before and after our soiree.

Hope to see you all in March. Helen Munro

Dear Sherron,

Hope this finds you and hubbie enjoying warm, sunny weather. Have to say, today is without rain, high winds and sleet, and that, as Martha Stewart would say, is a very good thing. Actually it is very mild today.

If you don't mind would like to add a few more details re Banquet at River Rock. If people want to make reservations:

Phone: 604 247 8900 Fax: 604 207 2641

Toll Free Phone: 1 866 748 3718

Address: 8811 River Road, Richmond, B.C. V6X 3P8

We ask that you remind reservation desk that you are a Yukoner subject to special rates (\$149 plus 16% tax for a single or \$209 plus 16% tax for a two bedroom suite). These rates are available for the whole weekend. For tickets, please send cheque (made out to Vancouver Yukoner's Association)

to: Mary MacDonald Apt.309 - 5166 Halifax Street Burnaby, B.C. V5B 2N6.

Tickets (\$55.00 per person) can be picked-up at the Yukoners' Banquet registration desk on the evening of March 31.

Thank you, once again, Sherron for keeping us all in touch. Sincere best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Helen Munro

For more information re email you can contact **Carol Clarke** at <u>clclarke*shaw.ca</u> or **Helen Munro** <u>hmunro*shaw.ca</u>

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Moccasin Telegraph

c/o Sherron Jones # 483 – 5707 – E 32nd Street Yuma, Arizona, USA 85365 928-341-069