

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 278th Edition – March 1st, 2009

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



Lime Mountain - On a road trip from Carcross.

Photo courtesy Sue Veilleux soohenry2@shaw.ca (Vernon, holidaying in Yuma AZ)

Asked for help identifying this above photo and received this from Murray Lundberg.

That's Lime Mountain (Bove Island is right below it out of sight).

Best regards,

Murray Lundberg yukonalaska@gmail.com (In Whitehorse)

Hi Sherron, We always called it 'Book Mountain' because it looks like a book with a book mark in the middle, as seen from the Airport in Carcross. However, I suspect Murray has the right name for it. The picture is taken from the Skagway road just a few miles past Carcross, looking towards the east. In Hawaii at the moment so will keep this brief. Cheers, Norma (Yardley) Waddington norma@coldwellbanker.ca (Travelling in Hawaii)

Gus wrote this in time for and as a tribute to Don – to be read at the appreciation Luncheon. The luncheon was held in the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones Street in Qualicum Beach on Saturday, February 14th.

Don Machan, The Teacher

By Gus Barrett sourdoughs2*shaw.ca (written while holidaying in Bullhead City AZ)

There are stories told in the land of gold
Of the men who made their name,
By panning the sand in that frozen land
For fortune and for fame.
But they also tell of folks, as well
Who also gained renown,
Like one young man named Don Machan.
Who taught school in Mayo Town.

Now Don went north with a single thought,
Some sixty years ago,
To better the lot of the tiny tots,
And give them a chance to grow.
A man well trained for the task at hand,
With a strength not prone to tire,
He vowed to reach them and to teach,
The skills that they'd require

And teach, he did, those eager kids,
In the land of the midnight sun,
As he strived to find those fertile minds,
And he fed them one by one.
Each challenge met, an example set,
And they followed where he led,
His tone was nice, when he gave advice,
And they harkened to what he said.

Until at last, exams were passed,
It was graduation day.
And Don Machan, he shook each hand,
As he sent them on their way.
He was proud, you know, to see them go,
But he knew it was not the end,
For come the fall, he would get the call,
And his task would begin again.

Now, students, friends, compatriots,
Some from far away,
We all have come to Qualicum
For Don, on his special day.
To recognize his service
Unto his fellow man.
We're here to say, each in his way,
Thank you, Don Machan.

Don Machan's Day

What a treat to attend this Appreciation Luncheon for our old friend and former teacher. The Qualicum Beach Civic Centre is a beautiful building. And was a perfect location to hold this ceremony. We are sure there was at least two hundred friends in attendance to give Don his "day" of appreciation.

A terrific Scottish Piper, piped Don in to start the ceremony. Don's youngest son Robert toured his dad around the room twice, with the piper leading the way, and the crowd going wild with cheers.

We had an absolutely fabulous lunch of Sheppard's Pie, Coleslaw and homemade buns. A lovely program was carried out with many friends sharing stories and admiration for Don. The highlight of the speeches was Gus Barrett's poem. Harvey Burian read the poem out as Gus and Blanche are still away on holidays. Once again Gus has put words together that was most fitting. Don beamed away as Harvey read the poem to the crowd.

Among the guests were eight old Yukoners. Three of us were Don's old students from Mayo days. My brother Ted (North) and I gave a brother/sister tribute to Don as well. We shared stories of Don's years teaching us fifty-five years ago. This truly was an honor for us to be part of Don's special day.

Many thanks to the Qualicum group for this absolutely grand day. I know it meant so much for Don to be honored in this special way.

Karren & Bob Crowley kbcrowley@telus.net (In Sidney BC)



Warren Rongve, Ted North, Harvey Burian and Karren (North) Crowley with Don. Warren was a fellow teacher in the Yukon. Ted, Harvey and Karren were Don's students in Mayo, Yukon.

Photo courtesy Bob Crowley kbcrowley@telus.net (In Sidney BC)

Another note on Gus's poem...it was really well received and cheered as Harvey read it. Sort of hit the nail on the head with his words. Mind you, we are great fans of Gus's and always thrilled with his wonderful mind. We are so fortunate to have him as part of the MocTel family. He gives us many hours of pleasure with his words and wisdom about the Yukon. It always takes us all back in time.

Karren Crowley kbcrowley@telus.net (In Sidney BC)



Karren Crowley, Warren Rongve & Ted North
Photo courtesy Bob Crowley kbcrowley@telus.net (In Sidney BC)



Vera & Harvey Burian

Photo courtesy Bob Crowley kbcrowley@telus.net (In Sidney BC)

Special Appreciation Luncheon for Don Machan in Qualicum Beach

By Harvey Burian hburian@telus.net (In Parksville, BC)

On Saturday, February 14, 2009 about 150 friends and family gathered in the Civic Centre in Qualicum Beach, BC for a sit-down luncheon to honour Donald E. Machan for his accomplishments, not only in his current community, but throughout his life in the

various locations that he has lived, including the Yukon. Don, as many readers know, has been quadriplegic, for the past 2 ½ years following a serious car accident. He currently resides in Eagle Park Health Care Facility in Qualicum Beach, BC.

Included amongst those present were former students, former teaching colleagues, members of a number of service organizations and members of his immediate and extended family. The event was hosted by Don's friends from Qualicum Beach, many of whom have been involved with him over the years in the local Masonic lodge. Don was "piped" into the room while the guests stood and gave him a warm greeting to his "surprise" event. A delightful meal, with choice of red or white wine, was then served by the ladies of the Girl Guides and enjoyed by all.

The master of ceremonies for the event was Brian Ball, a long time friend of Don. He gave a brief summary of Don's life and his activities and positions held in the local Mason Service organization. Brian also introduced two men who have been closely associated with Don during his time in Qualicum Beach: Leonard Krog, MLA for Nanaimo and Art Skipsey a former mayor of Qualicum Beach, both who related the influence and friendship of Don Machan in their lives and expressed their appreciation for his untiring service to the community over the years.

The opportunity was then given for attendees to say a few words of appreciation to Don. Many individuals came forward to express how Don had influenced their lives over the years. I had the privilege and honour of extending greetings from several former Yukoners who were unable to attend the function and to read a copy of a poem composed by Gus Barrett especially for this event. The poem is entitled, "Don Machan, The Teacher" and is included below. Other former Yukoners who attended included Warren Rongve, who was a teacher in Dawson City when Don was in Mayo, Ted North and his sister, Karren (North) Crowley, who were students of Don in Mayo, Doug Marceau and at least two other individuals whose names I did not retain.

A number of Don's family, including his son Bob, four of his brothers and a niece were able to attend the event as well.

I was able to take some photos (that follow this article), which are not the best quality due to the low light level in the facility. Bob Crowley has also kindly provided some photos as well.

If any of the readers who have known Don wish to send him greetings or words of encouragement, his address is as follows:

Donald E. Machan
c/o Eagle Park Health Care Facility
777 Jones Street
Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 2L1



Brian Ball MC at the Appreciation Dinner Programme for Don Machan, Feb 14, 2009.
Don is seated in his wheelchair at the front facing Brian and surrounded by family members.

Photo courtesy Harvey Burian hburian@telus.net (In Parksville)



Leonard Krog, MLA for Nanaimo. Leonard was a Grade 9 student of Don's in Qualicum Beach and Don worked for Leonard on his political campaigns
Photo courtesy Harvey Burian hburian@telus.net (In Parksville)



Art Skipsey, former mayor of Qualicum Beach. Art is now involved with the museum in Qualicum Beach and Don volunteered at the museum
Photo courtesy Harvey Burian [hburian*telus.net](mailto:hburian@telus.net) (In Parksville)



Warren Rongve, former teacher in Dawson City and Whitehorse. Warren recounted how Don had been instrumental in establishing the student curling bonspiels in the Yukon and in helping to establish the Yukon Teachers' Association.
Photo courtesy Harvey Burian [hburian*telus.net](mailto:hburian@telus.net) (In Parksville)



Ted North and Karren (North) Crowley relating their remembrances of Don as their teacher in Mayo.

Photo courtesy Harvey Burian [hburian*telus.net](mailto:hburian@telus.net) (in Parksville)



Glen Machan, Don's brother telling about Don's youth and relating how the Machan name should really be pronouncedMACHan!

Photo courtesy Harvey Burian [hburian*telus.net](mailto:hburian@telus.net) (In Parksville)



Don surrounded by members of his family listens to the presentations.
His son Bob is immediately to his right.
Photo courtesy Harvey Burian [hburian*telus.net](mailto:hburian@telus.net) (in Parksville)



Don was moved to the front of the room while a bagpiper played a tune for him and us.
Photo courtesy Harvey Burian [hburian*telus.net](mailto:hburian@telus.net) (In Parksville)



The “piper” playing a tune for Don and us
Photo courtesy Harvey Burian [hburian*telus.net](mailto:hburian@telus.net) (In Parksville)



Don with his niece from Victoria, BC. She related visits with Uncle Don
Photo courtesy Harvey Burian [hburian*telus.net](mailto:hburian@telus.net) (In Parksville)



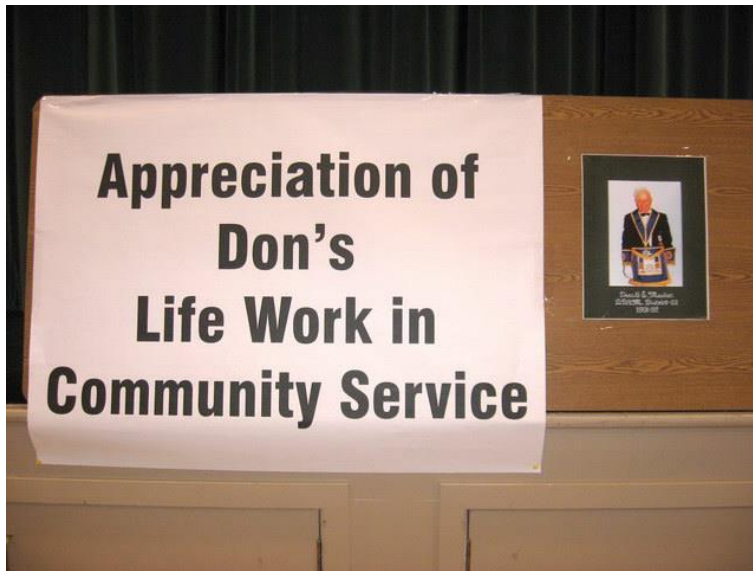
Bob, Don's son telling of his father's care for his family and thanking the planners for this celebration for his dad

Photo courtesy Harvey Burian hburian@telus.net (In Parksville)



Don with his son, Bob

Photo courtesy Harvey Burian hburian@telus.net (In Parksville)



The sign at the front of the room indicating appreciation for Don Machan
Photo courtesy Harvey Burian [hburian*telus.net](mailto:hburian@telus.net) (In Parksville)

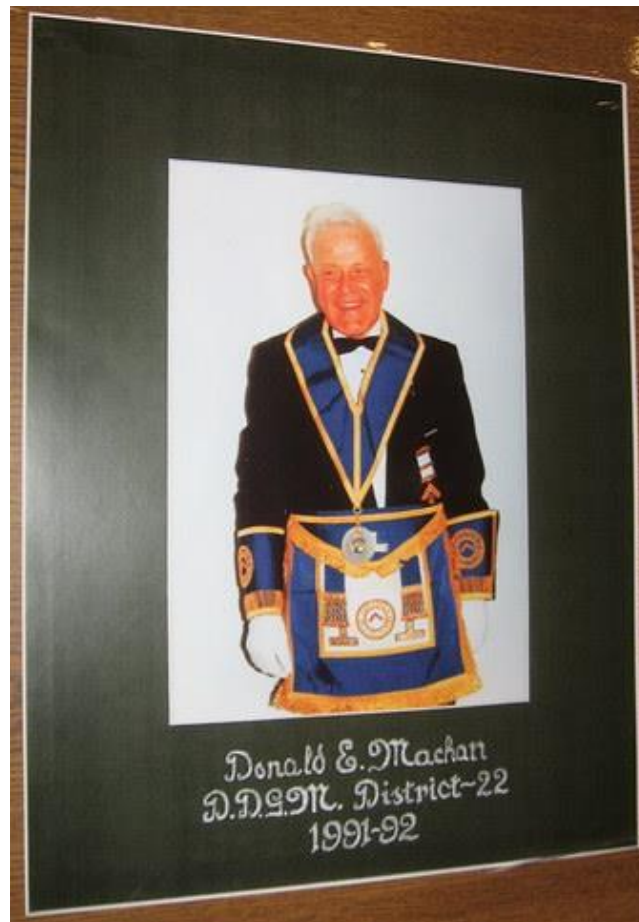


Photo of Don Machan beside the appreciation sign in his Masonic regalia
Photo courtesy Harvey Burian [hburian*telus.net](mailto:hburian@telus.net) (In Parksville)

RECORD SNOWFALL – HILLCREST SUBDIVISION

These are photos showing how much snow we have this winter taken Feb 22, 2009. This is a subdivision above Whitehorse called Hillcrest. New records have been set. An interesting note is that the Yukon, at least this area, does not usually get much snow. And many residents

don't even own a snow shovel.
Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Home in Hillcrest

Photos courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Home in Hillcrest



Home in Hillcrest

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Home in Hillcrest

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Moccasin Telegraph 277

We were among the many people who enjoyed the video's and music of Hank Karr last week. Bob's been humming for days, and is now bent on finding some of his music to buy. I guess I could write to my friend in Whitehorse and get her to purchase a few CD's for us. He has a terrific voice, sounds a lot like Jim Reeves, to us old western fans!

Karren Crowley

[I replied with this message:

Les McLaughlin would be happy to tell you how to get Hank's CD's or Hank would be happy to mail them to you. You could send him a cheque in the mail.

I looked up Al Oster's website today and he has his for sale too. Many of these, like My Yukon Book of Memories and Buckets of Steel and Paddlewheelers were written by Al Oster and are also sung by him.

Al Osters site is at

<http://www.alosteryukon.com/products.htm>

You can order by e-mail link on the site, also see the CD covers and prices there.

His e address is alosteryukon@jetstream.net

Les McLaughlin's e-mail address is

leslorn@rogers.com

Hank Karr's e-mail address is

hkarr@northwestel.net

I would suggest if you order them from the singers directly, ask them to sign them for you. Tell them you grew up in Yukon. They will likely have heard of the North name in Mayo.

Hank Karr's can be seen at --

http://www.eriksyukon.com/subpage-hank_karr_page.htm

More of Hank's songs at

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=5233241978680211874>] – Sherron

Funny thing is we lived in Yukon when Al Oster was in his “heyday”. In fact he worked at the airport when we lived in Whitehorse, and Bob was also at the fire dept. working with Bill Reid and Al would get together with Bill and play tunes. He was really popular with his music even back in the early ‘60’s. I can still hear him singing “The Squaws along the Yukon”.....hmmmmm I wonder if he had to change the name of that tune when

we all became so politically correct!!! It somehow loses the flavor when you need to change it to “Our first nations gals along the Yukon”.

Karren Crowley kcrowley@telus.net (In Sidney BC)

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH 277

Just a short note to say that I have really enjoyed the items from George Bliss – Highway Patrol. The situations are so Yukon.

I am sitting here reading MT 277 on this Alberta Family Day and thinking of how Yukoner’s are always family even to strangers.

I am looking forward to seeing some of these extended family members at the Vancouver Yukoners Banquet in April.

PS It is -24C here in Grande Prairie this morning. I am sure you are a little bit warmer where you are.

Dave Perks & Tina birdsivu@telusplanet.net (In Grande Prairie AB)

HI FROM AL OSTER

Hi Sherron

Hope you're having a wonderful winter down yonder. Pretty chilly up here with lots of snow where we are in Salmon Arm, but the mountains they say are only at 60% of normal. Gonna be a water shortage according to expert what-ers.

Thank you for the recognition in MocTel #277 that some of the songs by Hank on YouTube are my creations, except for "After Yukon" which is a great song. Les and Hank are doing wonders to promote Yukon's history and beauty. I'm very happy that my songs have not only recorded Yukon history foremost, but also helped to establish Hank as a nationally recognized Yukon artist My continued support and best wishes to Hank and Les, and to you and Bill too Sherron. Great work.

Remember my left eye cataract surgery almost 2 years ago, that I accepted with some surgical skepticism because of resulting double vision, blurred vision, etc. It has now materialized into a monster. The damage may be irreparable. Suddenly, with no warning, I lost about 90% of sight in that eye. The eye surgeon has advised there may be a 50/50 chance of partial sight recovery in a few months. "These things will happen", she commented and looked away. Needless to say I'm praying that some of the sight will return. Don't feel much like writing any more songs until some sight is restored. Got lots more to write about too.

Al Oster alosteryukon@jetstream.net (In Salmon Arm BC)

If each of us would add Al to our prayers, maybe he can experience a miracle. We need him to keep writing and preserving the history. – Sherron

[Feb 16, 2009 - That's twice now that I have heard the interior of BC is in for a water shortage. Had a phone call from Bruni Hoenisch in Vernon last evening and she said the same. Seems amazing to me to look at the webcam above our home in Vernon and see all the snow still there in February and think of it not being enough. Bill heard from one of his work associates today and he commented that the city was just getting around to some of the residential streets which were down to one way traffic due to the amount of snow on the sides of the roads. – Sherron]

KIDS ON 6th AVENUE



This picture was taken around 1948-1950. Location: on 6th Ave - between Alexander & Strickland.

From left: Joy (Fraser) Denton, Kerry Vars, Lyse Gilbo (sp) and Buck Fraser.
Photo courtesy Joy (Fraser) Denton joydenton@hotmail.com (In Whitehorse)

DRINKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

During my time in Whitehorse the only place you weren't allowed to drink alcohol was in the liquor store.

People "on the outside" were amazed at this and thought everyone, drank everywhere, all the time. This was not the case but the new found freedom the tourists had was quite unique to them. Every once in awhile you would see someone walking down the street carrying a bottle of beer. They were pretty sure it was okay but on seeing a patrol car thought maybe they should conceal the bottle to be on the safe side. No, it's okay they would tell themselves and display the bottle. Well, perhaps err on the side of caution and hide the bottle. No, it's okay to show it. You could tell which thought was in their head at any particular second as the arm holding the bottle of beer would be going back and forth like they were sawing wood with a Swede saw. I think right around the time I left Whitehorse it became illegal to drink in Rotary Park.

George Bliss [jrsports*sasktel.net](mailto:jrsports@sasktel.net) (In Regina)
Whitehorse Highway Patrol 1973-1978

The Al Oster Story

By Les McLaughlin [leslorn*rogers.com](mailto:leslorn@rogers.com) (In Ottawa)

The man who wrote the story songs that define the Yukon's colourful history and lifestyle may well have done the same thing in Saskatchewan or Alberta except for a fateful day in June 1957.

Al Oster had been touring the Peace River country with another musician when, on a whim, they decided to take a few days off and travel north on the Alaska Highway to Whitehorse just to have a look. At the time he had just sold his interest in a building supply firm and was living in Langley, BC.

Al had heard many tales about the Yukon's colourful characters and stories. The brief visit to Whitehorse did not disappoint him.

When he returned to Langley, Al talked his wife Mary into moving north to explore new challenges. She agreed. The 10-day journey over the very rough, muddy, dusty road ended in Whitehorse on July 30, 1957.

At the time, the town was at milepost 918. Al, who had written country story songs since he was a kid growing up on a poor dust bowl farm in Saskatchewan in the dirty thirties, instinctively knew the Yukon was the place for a songwriter. The song "918 Miles" was born.

Like most singers of an earlier era, he had come to love country music while listening to old time country radio stations on his parents "Zenith" battery powered radio on the Prairies.

Years later, he bought a guitar and learned to chord western songs while working in Alberta logging camps in the winter and on cattle ranches in the summer.

Al, who had been discharged from the Canadian army in Calgary in 1946, earned the nickname "Calgary Slim" while roaming around with his "dobro" playing buddy "Ray" playing theatres, restaurants, and dance halls in the Calgary and Edmonton areas. They called themselves "Slim n' Ray".

Then Al headed for Vancouver where he met his wife Mary. By 1957 when they moved to the Yukon, they had two children.

In Whitehorse, Al worked briefly at Campbell's Lumber Yard and then in Hougens Hardware department.

He also played in a country and western band with Johnny Hutsul, guitar player John Irwin, steel player Andy Donais and drummer Cal Waddington. But, the group sometimes played that new fangled music called Rock n' Roll.

One Saturday evening, they were booked to play a dance at the Whitehorse High School. Al always wanted to write a rock n' roll song especially for the high school crowd and the song "Midnight Sun Rock" was born.

Later, while working for Husky Building supplies, a customer came in to buy some special sized brass screws.

"We didn't have any in stock," said Al "so I gave the standard Yukon excuse" "They are coming in on the next boat which will arrive next Thursday." The unimpressed customer replied that everything seemed to be on the next boat. Al went home for lunch and in 10 minutes wrote the song "Next Boat".

"**Midnight Sun Rock**" and "**Next Boat**" were recorded on a single 45 RPM record, his first release. The first order of 1000 45's sold out and in 1959, Al re-recorded those songs on his first album called "Yukon Gold". That version of Midnight Sun Rock was inducted into the Nashville Rockabilly Hall of Fame in 2002.

In 1958, WHTV was began a cable service and manager Bert Wybrew accepted a proposal for a half hour weekly television program called "The Al Oster Show." It ran for two years.

Al also worked five evenings a week at WHTV as their first announcer/operator after finishing his regular day job at the RCAF base as a clerk.

By 1961, he had a growing collection of Yukon songs. In December, the CBC offered him a 15 minute radio show called Northland Echos. After a few miscues while taping at the CBC studios, Al began recording the show in his basement. The program aired for three years.

His band played the "Kopper King" and the "Bamboo" on weekends. Al didn't much enjoy the bar scene but, at the time, he didn't mind touring. With the release of his first LP, he was invited by Jake Doell's band from Vancouver to tour through northern Alberta. They developed a routine called the "Yukon Gold Show Tour."

The group featuring Al, Jake Doell, Ed Issac and Grant Wilson, staged an hour and a half of singing, a magic segment, a comedy routine and Johnny Cash impersonations while travelling as far north as Hay River, NWT.

The main theme was to promote the beauty and intrigue of the Yukon. Al sold well over two thousand "Yukon Gold" LP's during the trip, and wrote most of his famous "Paddlewheeler" song while driving between bookings with his bass playing sidekick, Ed Issac.

On the way home to Whitehorse after the three and a half month tour, they staged the show in every Alaska Highway maintenance camp. Al remembers that "they had a ball, but never again for me, he said. It's a rough life for a musician."

In the mid 60s, Al was a headliner on the first pan northern radio show out of Whitehorse called Northern Jamboree with the youthful voice of Les McLaughlin hosting the show.

In 1967, Al with Hank Karr and his group performed at the Canadian Pavilion at Expo 67 in Montreal. While there, the CBC recorded an LP featuring Hank and Al called "The Yukon Stars."

In 1968, his story song "Irena Cheyenne" earned him the first songwriter award ever presented in Canada by BMI.

And what of his other music ?

Al's classic song, "**My Book of Yukon Memories**" was written totally from the heart" he says.

"It still creates a feeling of "longing" when I sing or hear it. The music and lyrics came so easily."

"**Paddlewheeler**" is also his favourite because of how easily the lyrics flow together and, says Al, it's an easy song to memorize and sing. Like all of Al Oster's material, it tells a great story of the historic Yukon days gone by.

His song "**Waltz Of The Yukon**" is included in the Boy Scout and Girl Guide camp "sing along" song book, and at one time, "My Book of Yukon Memories" reached number 30 on the Billboard charts.

Today, Al Oster lives in Salmon Arm, where he operates a CD and DVD duplication service. But his attachment to the Yukon remains and his collection of Yukon CDs are sold throughout the territory creating a lasting memory of people, places and events that have shaped the Yukon's destiny.

For his role in recording Yukon stories in a musical format, Al Oster was awarded the Order of Canada in 1999.

P.S. Al Oster was awarded a Commissioners Award in 2006.

TRAVEL UPDATE FROM BETTY SUTTON

Call us crazy... but this is the Saturday of a week long celebration before Lent in predominantly Catholic Mexico and we are right down town in the middle of it all here in La Paz.... getting this hotel room was a miracle...

And....we are at the Hotel Pearla which is where the movie stars used to stay.... we have a pool right outside our door... I will take pictures but today's picture is of a Scott's Oriole in the campground where we stayed last night... AAA called Rancho Verde near San Antonio... we were at 2000 meters elevation and we certainly knew that when it cooled off last night.... our neighbours had a thermometer and it was plus 3 Celsius this morning... our stove fuel wouldn't work to make coffee this morning... says on the fuel can "won't work at Zero C..." and it was inside the vehicle all night!!! with a bit of shaking, we got the fuel to work.... and then it warmed up so quickly with the sun.... so... not sure how long we're going to stay here.... we're thinking of going on a boat cruise tomorrow to snorkel with the sea lions so that might be fun.... it's fairly inexpensive and will be shaded on the boat and they're serving Ceviche for lunch so.... it would be nice to come back and stay here at this wonderful hotel again.... the trip is all day so not fun to try to find a campground at the end of the day.... by the way, campgrounds are very very rare down here.

Paul just came back to get me... going to see the sites of Carnival... whooo hoo...

Betty Sutton elizabethsutton@yahoo.com (travelling in Mexico)



Scott's Oriole

Photo courtesy Betty Sutton elizabethsutton@yahoo.com (travelling in Mexico)



Gila Woodpecker

Photo courtesy Betty Sutton elizabethsutton@yahoo.com (travelling in Mexico)

Bi-Sicles Built for Two

by Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Two months trapped in the cold, ironically chained to this post, snow-ploughed up to the axles, rimed with forty below hoar frost, two cycles lean front to back as if they could support each other against the weather.



Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Ridden through summer's dust and mud they ended here, stopped here, transfixed by this impromptu hitching post until their transformation is complete. In the chill of December, exposed to the elements, bicycles become bi-sicles, bi-sicles built for two.

Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Livesey's General Store

by Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

The highway passes it by now, elevated, two metres above where the entrance used to be. The pumps are long gone, leaving holes like extracted teeth in the muddy soil.

“Private property” mocks the sign, surrounded by invading trees reclaiming the landscape as demolition by neglect destroys the builder’s dreams.

The roof has collapsed in spots; the fallen facade cracks underfoot; the shelves have fallen over, and the paintings are gone.

The only sign of the former owner is the door stop Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms moldering against the warped sill.

There have been other invaders. Cigarette stubs and beer cans show in the uneven twilight.

Nomads have probably slept here, though it would not have been pleasant.

Once the tiny two story living quarters attached to the larger store was a cozy place where John and Freda chatted with a pair of young teachers, and then shut down the shop before setting off to camp across Canada that winter thirty-three years gone.

They returned, but the store stayed closed the pumps idle. He painted Prime Ministers and she declined.

After her death, he left, returning only once. Shocked by decay and the ghosts of his

dreams, he retired south and fell silent as an abandoned roadhouse just south of Beaver Creek.

Lining Up a Legacy on the Yukon River

by Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Nicole Dextras was busy adjusting her letters on January 12. The temperature had moved up from -55 to a mere -30 on Monday and this had given her a chance to actually work adjusting the wooden frames that will soon be filled with water and frozen to seasonal permanence. The two metre high ice letters will spell out the word LEGACY for all to see as they travel back and forth on the seasonal ice bridge.

Dextras has been artist-in-residence at McCauley House under the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture's residency program and had hoped to finish this during her one month term in December, but the temperatures plummeted about December 21st and it has since been too cold to work on the project. She has decided to stay until it is completed, but noted sadly that she won't be here to see it float off down the river during break-up.

That might not happen anyway, A substantial Inukshuk was created just off the bridge last winter and looked like it would last, but between the assaults of returning sun and annoying people, it had crumbled before the ice headed north.



Artist Nicole Dextras worked at adjusting her Legacy to Dawson on the Yukon River on January 12.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

A Crumbling Legacy on the Ice Bridge

by Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

The crumbling legacy of an outdoor ice art installation sits just off the south side of Dawson's ice bridge. The plan was for artist Nicole Dextras to leave her 2 metre high ice installation LEGACY behind when she departed.

As Nicole put it, she really thought this project had to be a slam dunk in Dawson in the middle of the winter. But first it was too cold to do the work and then, when it warmed enough set up the frames and fill them with water, it carried on and got to be too warm for the ice to harden. The rollercoaster ride from -55 to 0 and back to the -20s probably had a lot to do with what happened when the wooden frames were removed at the end of January. This is all that remained as February began.



Crumbling Legacy

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Wave Forms

by Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

The snow comes off the roofs in waves this year, each layer distinct in its reaction to the waves of cold, warmth, ice fog and clear skies that have teased us this winter, each layer finding its unique coefficient of friction, allowing it to slip over



Waves

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

.....and under the layers around it, suspended at the tipping point in response to sunlight, wind, the call of the earth and the waning of winter.

MocTel 277 - Les McLaughlin article dredges up a memory

Another interesting edition of the MocTel and another ancient memory dredged up by Les McLaughlin in his article on the opening of the "old" new Federal Bldg. On Nov 5th 1954.



Gus Barrett and unnamed soldier on guard duty Nov. 5th, 1954.
Photo courtesy Gus Barrett sourdoughs2@shaw.ca (In Qualicum Beach BC)

I was on guard duty in red serge at the opening ceremonies along with a soldier from the local base.

Not sure what we were supposed to be guarding but I suspect we were there more for picture taking purposes than for anything else. Don't recall the soldiers name after all those years and really can't remember ever being that young. Ah, the good old days.

Gus Barrett sourdoughs2@shaw.ca (In Qualicum Beach BC)

Winter Carnival 1946

Just finished reading the messages. What a great surprise to see the winter carnival from 1946. That was a bit before our time up there, but we always enjoyed all the Sourdough Rendezvous when we were up there, especially all the dog races. Our family even participated in the bed races too. And how we would go then to all the dances and just pay once. Also it was great to hear Hank Karr's songs and see the scenery, the pictures were great.

Hope you are enjoying your stay there in Yuma.

Ron and I are off to Florida with our two sons next week. We are taking in the Blue jays baseball training there.

Bye for now Ron and Irene Taylor ireneelizabethaylor@hotmail.com (In Kamloops)

NORMAN "IAN" CAMPBELL

Hi Sherron: I am not sure if you heard that Ian died on Jan 26th. It was very sudden. I am thankful he didn't suffer and didn't have to go to hospital or a nursing home. Our oldest boy - Norman - was able to come home from Afghanistan. We had a memorial service for Ian on Feb 1st and Norman returned to Kandahar on Feb 11th. David was home from Calgary and Allan lives with us. I am so thankful for him.

Kay Campbell ciacam@klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)

ARE THERE ANY EX-RCAF LEFT IN YUKON

Just received an email from a correspondent on another email list of mine. He's ex-RCAF, was stationed at Whitehorse during the 50s and 60s and is planning on a return visit to Whitehorse this coming summer. In conjunction with that visit he asked me if I knew of any ex-RCAF personnel still living in Whitehorse and who had served there during the 50s and 60s.

Earle Smith - VE6NM t16ru672@telusplanet.net (In Grande Prairie AB)

If you know of anyone that meets this criteria, please contact Earle. – Sherron

WHO IS THIS MAN?

Hi Sherron ... I'm hoping some of your avid readers can help me resolve a mystery.

The attached photo was likely taken around 1962 or 1963 at Pleasant Camp Customs on the Haines Road. I'm guessing the year based on the approximate age of the cute little blonde girl (me!).

Am wondering who the gentleman is? Must have been someone special for my folks to take a picture of him standing with me??



(Stan Potter and Sue Stalberg)

Photo courtesy Sue (Stalberg) Thomas sue.thomas@shaw.ca (Vancouver Island)

Much thanks in advance for your assistance!

Sue Thomas sue.thomas@shaw.ca (nee Stalberg) (On Vancouver Island)

Hi Sue

Got an obit in the snail mail today [Feb 24, 2009] from Kay Campbell in Whitehorse. In it I read where her late husband Ian had been with Customs for 35 years retiring in

*1988. During his time with Customs he had served for a time at Pleasant Camp. So I took the long shot that she may recognize the man in your photo and she did. Here is her reply.
If you wish to ask her more please do.
Does the name Stan Potter mean anything to you?
Sherron Jones*

Hi Sherron:- Glad you got Ian's obit. The man at the Customs is Stan Potter - I am quite sure of that and I do know he was stationed there.
Regards, Kay Campbell ciacam@klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)

That is indeed Stan Potter, knew him for many years up there.
Gus Barrett sourdoughs2@shaw.ca (holidaying in Bullhead City AZ)

Stan Potter. Hmmmm ... My Dad, Jack Stalberg, likely knew him because Dad also worked at Customs before my birth, but at Beaver Creek.

I don't recall Dad ever mentioning the name though.

Maybe we were just driving though one day ...

Thanks again!
Sue Thomas

*Also sent the obit for Ian Campbell knowing Gus has served at Pleasant Camp too.
Here is his reply. – Sherron Jones*

Thanks, Donna [(Holbrook) Rivest, Blanche's sister phoned us to let us know about Ian's death. We had known Ian for over fifty years.
As a Matter of fact he was one of a group of friends who accompanied us from Whitehorse to Dawson in 1954 for our wedding. Ian was one of a bunch of young bucks who used to hang around the nurses residence for coffee, cards and company. Of course this was before he went to Nova Scotia and met Kay. I later worked with Ian in Customs, Blanche worked with Kay at the Hospital, and so the connections go way back. Sad that we are losing so many good friends lately.

Gus Barrett sourdoughs2@shaw.ca (holidaying in Bullhead City AZ)

YUKON QUEST 2009 has a winner – posted on www.Newsminer.com

Schnuelle sets record in Yukon Quest win; Neff only 4 minutes behind

By [Matias Saari](#)

Originally published Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 2:05 p.m.

Updated Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 4:04 p.m.

FAIRBANKS — **Sebastian Schnuelle** said he approached this year's Yukon Quest as a camping trip. He finished it as a record-setting champion.

Schnuelle hung on to edge Hugh Neff by four minutes Tuesday morning in the closest Yukon Quest finish ever.

It was a dramatic conclusion to a race that Schnuelle said he believed he had no chance to win until three mushers with a seemingly insurmountable lead faltered on Eagle Summit early Monday morning.

“By Central (Sunday night) I had kind of given up. I was like ‘They are way too far ahead,’” Schnuelle said as he stood atop a stage constructed of pallets at the finish line near the Cushman Street bridge.

Once Schnuelle got the lead, however, he held on. The wild-haired, 38-year-old German who lives outside Whitehorse, Yukon, left the final Two Rivers Checkpoint with a 35-minute advantage over Neff and gave back all but four minutes.

“Hugh kept me on the edge of my seat,” said Schnuelle, who listened to heavy-metal music by AC-DC on the nearly six-hour jaunt to cover the final 45 miles. “I could tell he was getting closer on the (Chena) river, so every corner I looked around and see if he's there.”

Neff, of Annie Lake, Yukon, and Skagway, was getting regular feedback about his proximity to Schnuelle.

“People would tell me 15 minutes and 13 minutes and then I heard five minutes, but I never saw him,” Neff said. “He was always around the next corner.”

Schnuelle's winning time — 9 days, 23 hours and 20 minutes — was 3 hours and 17 minutes faster than Lance Mackey's record run in 2007. A good trail and minimal extreme weather on the 1,016-mile route contributed to a speedier race for most of the 29 mushers who started on Feb. 14 in Whitehorse.

Mackey, the Quest champion from 2005-08, and Hans Gatt, the winner from 2002-04, were among the hundreds of spectators to see the pair arrive at 10:44 and 10:48 a.m., respectively, with the temperature just below zero.

Charlie Boulding's five-minute win over Bruce Lee in 1991 had been the closest race before Tuesday.

Schnuelle wins \$30,000 in a reduced purse of \$151,000. He had never placed higher than sixth place before in five previous Quests.

Schnuelle was led to the finish by huskies Vasser, a 5-year-old male, and Popcorn, a 6-year-old male. His primary leader, Inuk, earlier helped guide the 10-dog team from Two Rivers and will share the Golden Harness Award with Popcorn, Schnuelle said. Neff and Schnuelle, who have known each other on the mushing circuit for about a decade, congratulated each other at the finish.

“I’m happy for Sebastian,” Neff said, adding that but for one crucial moment this Quest was easily his best. “Hopefully, one of these days I can get a chance to win a race as well.”

That crucial moment was a two-hour time penalty Neff incurred in Central for mushing on a road instead of the adjacent trail.

“I don’t really worry about the time penalty. That’s history,” said Neff, who won \$22,000 and topped his third-place finish from 2005.

Schnuelle, however, recognized the importance of the penalty. He trailed Neff coming into Two River Checkpoint by 1 hour, 25 minutes but was allowed to leave 35 minutes before him after the penalty was assessed.

“In all honesty, I think that Hugh won this race. He would have been two hours ahead of me,” Schnuelle said. “He clearly had the better team. He knows that and I know that.” Neff likely would have won the race, anyway, had he and Little not spent six to eight hours on a stormy Eagle Summit late Sunday and early Monday. The pair couldn’t find the trail near the top and ended up hunkering down in their sleds sleeping for several hours until daylight allowed them to rediscover the way.

Schnuelle also trailed William Kleedehn by more than eight hours leaving Central, but overtook him on Eagle Summit after Kleedehn’s team stalled because his main leader was in full-blown heat. After spending 30 minutes to help Kleedehn get partway up Eagle Summit, Schnuelle, to his surprise, spotted Neff and Little about to finally get over the top of the 3,685-foot mountain.

“That’s when I turned around to William and was like ‘William, you’re on your own now,’” Schnuelle said. “All of a sudden they were close, from eight hours ahead of me to right there, so that was too tempting.”

Schnuelle took off in pursuit, passing Little on Rosebud Summit Monday and gaining some ground on Neff during an 82-mile push to Two Rivers.

When Schnuelle started this Quest, he was considering touring it with Mark Sleightholme, an Englishman who was running a team of his dogs. However, Schnuelle got antsy after a couple days and left Sleightholme behind, but did not get caught up

chasing the leaders. He rarely saw them because he stuck to a schedule of running from about 5-11 a.m. or noon, camping through the heat of the day and then running again from 5 p.m. to midnight.

“I camped pretty much the whole way,” said Schnuelle, a methodical musher known to pore over Quest and Iditarod statistics during the off-season. “I kept on doing that (schedule) no matter where I was.”

Figuring the leaders were out of reach in Central, Schnuelle even extended his wake-up time from 1 to 3 a.m.

“I wasn’t even in race mode anymore,” Schnuelle said. “Then things changed coming up to (Eagle) Summit and there they are.”

The final run from Twin Bears Campground to the finish was not stressful though he sensed Neff behind him.

“I would have been fine either way (with first or second place),” Schnuelle said. “I was enjoying myself to the fullest.”

Asked what his reaction would have been had Neff come into view, Schnuelle said “I think I would have started jogging for sure. If I would have seen him, I would have gotten a heart attack.”

Neff responded jokingly when asked what might have happened had he spotted the bedraggled Schnuelle.

“(The dogs) probably would have run the other direction because they would have thought he was Sasquatch,” Neff said.

Schnuelle, one of a handful of Germans who have moved to North America and developed a passion for mushing, surprised reporters in Central by revealing that this would be his last Quest because he’ll now focus on his sled dog and snowmachine tour business. Schnuelle still plans to run the Iditarod this year and next, and finished a career-best 10th there in 2008.

Winning the race did not change his plans to retire from the Quest.

“How much easier can it be? Step off on a good note. (It’s) perfect,” he said.

Neff came onto the Quest scene in 2000 and initially had a poor reputation because of dog care that was deemed suspect and clashes with race veterinarians and officials. He even coined the nickname “Huge Mess” and vowed to quit running the race because of its organization and management.

Neff also had a history of running his team hard for the first half to Dawson City in a top-five position, only to drop back multiple spots as his team marched towards the finish.

This year was different, however, as 3-year-old sibling leaders Annie, Watson and Walter enabled him to keep pace despite arriving at checkpoints a couple of hours behind Kleedehn but then taking less rest to leave right after him.

“It was easily my best Quest run ever, except for one moment,” said Neff, adding that he looked forward to a postrace shower, sauna and beer. “It was like living in a fantasy world for a week and a half.”

Jon Little of Kasilof placed third, 1:08 behind Schnuelle, and celebrated by throwing snacks to spectators assembled near the finish chute. Brent Sass is expected to arrive in fourth place this evening while Martin Buser, Michelle Phillips and William Kleedehn — the first to Dawson — are in a close race for the fifth- through seventh-place spots.



Mini re-union in Yuma

Joy (Fraser) Denton, Sherron Jones, Fred Cull & Joy’s husband Ron.

Joy, Bill & I, and Fred Cull were all neighbours on Alsek Road in Whitehorse 40 years ago. Ron and Joy came over from Indio California today (Feb. 18, 2009) and had lunch with us.

Photo courtesy Bill Jones ve7yi@shaw.ca (In Yuma AZ)

A day in the life of a busy woman

Wednesday (Feb 18th) we went over to Macaulay Lodge to play as usual and we were all dressed up in our Rendezvous outfits. It was an easy night because the Can Can girls came and did their dance routines. Snow Shoe Mary came with her group and they danced the Can Can on snow shoes and it made quite a noise.

Our dear friend, Barbara Currie, had a heart attack and we all went in to see her in her room. She is not in very good shape. She was one of the shareholders of the Travelodge when it first got started and we went to many of the meetings with her.

We left Macaulay Lodge and took our instruments and went right up to the airport. The guest fiddler, Gordon Stobbe, was coming on Air North at 10:00 pm. There was me and Bill Matiation on fiddles, Ken Mason on guitar, Jasna Todd on guitar and Paul Prevost on stand up bass. We were there early and we all played music for 45 minutes. The music sounded good in the airport with its high ceilings. There was hardly anyone there at first. As people started to arrive they sat in seats all around us and we ended up having quite a crowd. They sure enjoyed it.

When the time came we went over to where the arrivals come through and were playing fiddle tunes to greet the guest fiddler. He took his fiddle out of his case and joined us. Now we had more people with all the arrivals. It was great!

I was with Ken in his van and we drove the guest fiddler back to Mason's house for a cup of tea and plan a schedule for the weekend. There is a sound check tonight at the Yukon Art Center. The Fiddle Show is tomorrow night (Friday, February 20th).

Mason's invited me over to breakfast this morning as the guest fiddler is staying at their house. He is from Nova Scotia. There where lots of stories to tell.

Joe Loutchan and the group will be playing Thursday, Friday, Saturday and maybe Sunday from 1 – 5 pm, supper break and then 7 – 11pm in the evenings. I will join them when I can but I am tangled up with the Fiddle Show. It is so nice to be busy playing music.

I have some extra newspapers with the write up about dad [Bill Reid] & I will pick up some extra copies today to send to the grandchildren. I will mail the clippings out to you next week when the Rendezvous is over.

As soon as Blair Corley read it in the paper, he phoned me to see how I was doing. He sure liked dad.

The weather has sure warmed up and it has stopped snowing for a while.

The Quest dog races are on and they have all reached Dawson. They even have one guy from Jamaica that is running a team. This is quite a change in weather from where he comes from.

I will take pictures and keep you posted as each day progresses.

Rusty Reid rustyreid*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Moccasin Telegraph 277

Your mention of Al Oster reminded me of the singing cowboy from the RCAF base, Ben Kerr. He used to play at dances around Whitehorse for many years while stationed with the RCAF up there in the 50s and 60s. Last I heard he was somewhere around Toronto. Regards,

Earle Smith Earle Smith - VE6NM t16ru672*telusplanet.net (In Grande Prairie)

BEN KERR

Here is a story about Ben Kerr. Quite the guy. I am also attaching a photo from the web.

Les

Last week's Mocketl invoked the mention of a name few Yukoners will remember. It took considerable jogging of my memory bank to conjure a face to go with the name. Ben Kerr. Ah yes, Ben Kerr. Didn't he play the guitar and sing country songs wherever he could in the Yukon days of old?

Yep, that Ben Kerr. His name was mentioned by Mocketl contributor Earle Smith who was in Whitehorse when Ben was stationed there with the RCAF in the mid to late Fifties. Earle has a few memories of Ben and he also asked his RCAF friends to provide some insight into this ubiquitous character. They did and we will share those shortly. So who was Ben Kerr and why are we talking about him. Ben may not have been a household name in Whitehorse where he was stationed in the Fifties, but he sure made up for lost time when he ended up in Toronto. His offbeat accomplishments in the big smoke earned him a page on Wikipedia. Believe me, these days that is something to write home about. Here's what the Internet encyclopaedia says about our singing Whitehorse cowboy.

Ben Kerr (B: 1930 — D: June 17, 2005) was a Canadian author, broadcaster, musician and perennial candidate, who was most famous as one of Toronto, Ontario's quirky street performers.

Kerr was born in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia and spent fifteen years in the Royal Canadian Air Force before settling in Toronto.

In the 1960s, Kerr frequently played guitar in folk clubs in Toronto's Yorkville district working alongside groups such as Steppenwolf, the Mynah Birds, Rick James, Gordon Lightfoot and Joni Mitchell, and wrote songs for the then unknown Neil Young.

In 1969, he had a life changing experience when he gave up his three pack a day smoking habit and started taking a daily cayenne pepper cocktail. He credited the concoction with turning his health around and saving his life. For a time, he was an executive at the Toronto Harbour Commission. A fervent anti-smoking crusader, he quit in a rage in 1981 when a co-worker blew smoke in his face.

*He wrote a song, "Fire on One End, a Fool on the Other," about the incident. This inspired him to run from Toronto to Los Angeles to promote a smoking ban in offices. The run took him six months. He was also in the 1982 Trees music video "**Shock of the New**," appearing as a guy with an oxygen mask and a shirt promoting clean air in offices. (Search it on Youtube)*

*Kerr supported himself as a busker for the remainder of his life, singing with a karaoke machine in front of the Hudson's Bay department store at the corner of Yonge and Bloor streets. He was often voted "favourite street performer" in Now Magazine's annual Toronto survey. He continued to appear frequently on radio and television as an advocate for the health benefits of cayenne pepper, and was the author of *The Cayenne Pepper Cocktail Does it All*.*

As well, he was a perennial fringe candidate who ran in every Toronto mayoral election from 1985 until 2003, the last municipal election held before his death. In 1997, he placed fourth behind Mel Lastman, Barbara Hall and Don Andrews. In the 2000 election, he ran on a platform of waterfront renewal, backed by the self-penned campaign song "Fringe Candidate". Ben Kerr died on June 17, 2005 at his home in Toronto, at the age of 75. In 2007, Toronto City Council approved a motion to name a laneway near the corner of Danforth and Jones in Kerr's honour. Ben Kerr Lane was officially named on May 25, 2008.

Quite the story about Yukon Ben, don't ya think? Newspapers in Toronto carried his obit with glowing respect. The Toronto Sun wrote:

"He was the ageless crooner who spiced up the corner of Yonge and Bloor Sts. with his smooth country singing. He was the source of amused smiles from busy commuters who slowed their pace to read his sweatshirt slogans, such as "Better than Viagra." But Ben Kerr, better known as the King of Cayenne and for his runs for the mayor's office, died Friday, leaving a void on the corner he's laid claim to for dozens of years. The carrot juice, peppered with herbs and a healthy sprinkling of cayenne pepper, was Kerr's famous cure-all -- he claimed it also added heat in the bedroom. In his former life, Kerr did accounting and managerial work, and was also an executive at the Toronto Harbour Commission."

Ben was also connected with a group you may never heard of and probably have long forgotten. They were called the Mynah Birds, whose manager Colin Kerr, said to be Ben's brother, and a Toronto tavern owner, tried to make them into rock stars in the sixties. One of the Mynah Birds was Neil Young. Yep, the famous Neil Young. The original Mynah Birds group, which did not include Neil Young, recorded a Ben Kerr song in the 1960s. It was called the Mynah Bird Hop with Ben's brother Colin doing a strange intro and extro probably because he was - well - as eccentric as brother Ben.

As for Ben Kerr's Whitehorse days, Jim Thoreson sent the following to Earle Smith.

Ben was one of those characters that you don't forget. If I remember right, Ben used to sing on the radio once in a while. Les McLaughlin may be able to dig that up. Slow talking, deep voice. I saw Ben on a music video made by Jason McCoy singing Our Town, or My Town or something. I met Jason once and asked him about old Ben but he didn't know him they just got him in the background singing and playing his guitar. And this video was done in Toronto. I'm sure that picture is him. He was so skinny you could use him as a whip, when I knew him.

EUGENE HARVIE provided this tidbit to Earle.

Sure, Smitty, I remember the ole' troubadour, Ben Kerr. But, maybe I remember him for a slightly different reason: it was either the winter of '55 or '56 at the base outdoor rink where I first saw Ben Kerr. He was tending goal. He looked like a round little ball with his goalie pads and all the gear he had on. I remember him singing and playing his guitbox at either one of the messes or the Legion. And, I believe Al Hicks featured Ben on a Saturday morning at CFWH [swuf] if I'm not mistaken. Those were the good ole' days.

From: Buzz Bowman

To: Earle Smith -

G'Mornin' Earle: Read with interest the relayed messages regarding Ben Kerr. I worked with Ben in Whitehorse for several years. He taught me a lot about "speed-ball" pen-and-ink artwork and calligraphy. I often spoke with him when he was living in Toronto; visited him on a couple of occasions and we corresponded for several years before his death. When Ben was in Whitehorse, he had a terrible nervous twitch but in later years, when in Toronto, the twitch wasn't as noticeable, if at all.

Al Oster also remembers Ben Kerr.

"I knew him very well. He used to guest on my dance gigs, and I had him on my WHTV Al Oster Show quite a few times in 1959. He wasn't a bad singer, and a pretty good song writer. He released 3 or 4 - 45 RPM records. He was an Air Force Sergeant stationed at the Radio site in Whitehorse. He discharged here and went to Toronto to pursue a reasonably successful music writing career. While in Whitehorse he spent many, many hours playing his guitar, writing songs, and visiting our home, sometimes until 2 to 3:00 AM.

He wrote a lot of his songs in our home, and would record demo's on my equipment. He finally bought a semi-pro Tanberg tape recorder, and then a pro model Berlant Concertone and did all his own 45 RPM recordings at his home. His living room floor was a total mess of song books, patch cords, microphones, record players, music stands, guitars, guitar cases, etc. No place to walk, sit or stand. Gerry King (guitar player) and myself had great difficulty in finding a place to sit and help him with his recording sessions. Gerry played guitar and I operated the Concertone recorder, and played bass guitar for his 45 RPM recording sessions.

I'm very happy Ben found a niche of recognition in his life that brought a smile of fond remembrance to a few of us. He was eccentric and strange to some at times, but would never fail give all he could to someone in need."



Ben Kerr

MEMORIAL

Submitted by Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

This was in the Yukon News yesterday:

**A celebration of Life for Anna Maria (Anne) Domes
May 25, 1923 to December 26, 2008**

A Celebration of Life, followed by a reception, will be held for those who knew and loved Anne.

Saturday, February 28 at 2:00 p.m.
Heritage North Funeral Home

Please bring smiles, stories and hugs to share.

ARTISTIC TALENT



Grimshaw Junior/Senior High School

Image courtesy Madeleine Wakefield mwakefield@shaw.ca (In Calgary)

OBIT

Alfred “Fred” Berger

Fred passed away at 5:30 p.m. today. [February 17, 2009]

He felt no pain.

He had his wish in that he spent his last days at home. Our son Tony was here for the past couple of weeks and took over the care of his father.

The only indication that Fred might have known he was going was this morning, when I was washing his hands with a cloth, and he grabbed my hand and squeezed it as hard as he could. He could not talk.

He had excellent care from the medical people in Dawson, one of whom he even came out to visit him on his days off. They were and are wonderfully supportive, as are the people of this little community.

The ambulance has now taken Fred back to the nursing station.

Tony is making me a hot cuppa with honey.

Bye for now.

Palma Berger fpbrgr@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Norman “Ian” Campbell

May 16, 1926 – January 26, 2009

Ian Campbell passed away suddenly on January 26, 2009.

Ian was born in a little town called Invergordon, Saskatchewan, the eldest of three children.

In 1945 Ian moved to Vancouver where he worked as a “high-rigger” until the call of the north beckoned when he moved to Whitehorse in December 1949 to take a job in telegraphy with the White Pass and Yukon Route. In 1953, he accepted a new position with Canada Customs where he began a 35-year career, retiring in 1988, which saw him posted to locations such as Pleasant Camp, Dawson City, Little GOLD, Beaver Creek and Whitehorse.

In 1958 Ian met Kay Lamond from Sydney, Nova Scotia and returned a year later to marry her and bring her back to the Yukon where they remained and raised their family.

He was a member of the Masonic Order, Shriners, Eastern Star, Elks, Yukon Council on Ageing and Golden Age Society.

He was predeceased by his brother Murray and is survived by his wife; Kay, three sons; Norman, David and Allan, sister; Jesse and five grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on February 1, 2009 at the high Country Inn in Whitehorse.

Kay Campbell ciacam*klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)

NEW ADDITIONS

I'd like to sign up to receive MocTel.

I am always interested in the folks and events of Yukon past and present.

I received an e-mail from you forwarded by my nephew Dave C. Martin.

I resided in Cassiar 1978 and Yukon 1978-1992.

Thanks,

Trev Martin free2b1*shaw.ca

Victoria, BC V9B 4M4

250-474-0319

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

We cannot direct the winds...but we can adjust the sails. - Fouadette Brigitte Marco

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Hot German Potato Salad

Submitted by Florence Roberts yapper*klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)

6 baking potatoes
1/3 cup vinegar
2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp pepper
1 pound bacon, chopped
6 eggs
3/4 cup chopped green onion (and tops) or 1/2 cup chopped onion

Cook potatoes in boiling water, peel and dice. Add vinegar and seasonings. Fry bacon until crisp. Cook eggs four minutes. Combine potatoes, drained bacon, two tablespoons bacon fat, soft cooked eggs and chopped onion. Mix well. Serve hot salad on a bed of lettuce with big frankfurters. Makes 6 servings.

Note: finely cut garlic sausage and salad oil may used in place of bacon and bacon fat.

Anne Thomas

Powell River, BC

From a Whitehorse RCAF Womens' Auxiliary cookbook

DATES TO REMEMBER

Vancouver Yukoners' Annual Banquet 4 April 2009

Banquet tickets & code word for Air North special rate out of Whitehorse:

Vivian Stuart 250 383-1349 or lornellis@shaw.ca

Whitehorse folks may contact Gudrun Sparling.

Air North's special rate does **not** apply to online bookings.

Reservations for the River Rock Casino Hotel: **Very** clearly state you are with the **Vancouver** Yukoners; book before Mar. 3, i.e. at least a month in advance of the banquet. Book as early as you can to guarantee getting one of the rooms set aside until March 3. Outside of our reserved block, the hotel is fully booked for April 4.

604 247-8900 or 1-866-748-3718

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. There is an annual subscription fee for the Moccasin Telegraph.

– Sherron Jones sherronjones*shaw.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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