

**MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 281<sup>st</sup> Edition – April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

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



St. Paul's in a frosty winter covering. [Dawson]  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

***Poem by Rob Fast, Penticton***

*Submitted by Pat King [patkingis@shaw.ca](mailto:patkingis@shaw.ca) (In Penticton)  
(Verbal permission to share with the MocTel readers received.)*

***The Dedicated Force.***

*We are lucky in this country; A land so proud and free;  
To have such dedication and protection; from the mighty RCMP  
These dedicated men and women; put their lives on the line,  
To face the thugs who have big guns, so we have more peaceful times.*

*It may not seem they are always there,  
Or live up to their jobs.  
But remember they are usually shorthanded,  
And sometimes face overwhelming odds.*

*With all the gangs that are moving in;*

*We all need to be more aware,  
Share information when we have it,  
To show the police we care.*

*We owe this to the old and growing ones;  
To keep decent lives more safe,  
Till we have our neighbourhoods back again,  
And can live in our own space.*

*How many of us on a 12-hour shift;  
Face the dangers that they do,  
The senseless fights, drunks with cars;  
Just to name a few.*

*This force was only 300 strong,  
When they came out to tame the West.  
A feat that was only accomplished;  
Because they gave their very best.*

*Robert Fast, Penticton BC*

## **CB RADIOS**

As I mentioned before we had CB radios in our patrol cars. I was headed north by Marsh Lake just after the Squanga Lake lodge burned down and I could hear two fellas talking. They had the distinctive southern drawl and were chatting back and forth until I met one of them on a curve. He radioed back to his buddy that a county moutny was headed his way. I picked up the microphone and wished them a pleasant journey and suggested they spend less time talking and more time driving. All I heard was "Yes sir." and there was not another peep out of them while I was in radio range.

Life's too short to take things too seriously and since you only go around once, do it with gusto but do it safely.

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

## **MOCTEL 280**

Sherron, the photo of Cal Waddington and me from Tim Kinvig that was included in the last MocTel brought back memories of CBC Yukon in 1966 and '67. The photo was

taken in the CBC building on Third and Elliot in the fall of 1966. We had just returned from Dawson.

Cal had organized a series of concert/stage shows in all Yukon communities to be called Centennial Jamboree. They were staged as a lead-up to Canada's 1967 Centennial celebrations. We travelled to many communities and set up in the school gyms. Local people arranged to have their best and brightest performers ready for the "really big shew". Cal was the producer, I was the host and for the most part, Ed Kerry was the technician.

The concerts were well received and I am sure for some performers - perhaps the two shown in the attached Whitehorse Star story about the Mayo concert - they were hugely memorable occasions.

Attached also is a photo of Cal and I taken during the concert in Mayo.

Les McLaughlin [leslorn\\*rogers.com](http://leslorn*rogers.com) (In Ottawa)



ELSA MUSICIANS: Eric Grundmanis and Darryl Andison team up for the number they presented at the CBC's Jamboree in Mayo last week. A large and appreciative audience turned out for the show, kept moving smoothly by Les McLaughlin. The Yukon Jamborees are produced by Cal Waddington. Grundmanis photo

### **Elsa Musicians Eric Grundmanis and Darryl Andison**



**Cal Waddington & Les McLaughlin (1966)**

Photo courtesy Les McLaughlin [leslorn@rogers.com](mailto:leslorn@rogers.com) (In Ottawa)

Hi there Sherron, yes Darryl [Laing in the photo above] is my young brother, and I remember that night, it was a wonderful concert! He still plays the guitar, and is now happily married to a wonderful lady and living in Victoria, B.C.

Mary (Andison) Laing [mlaing2@shaw.ca](mailto:mlaing2@shaw.ca) (In Calgary)

## **LOOKING FOR PHOTOS or STORIES ABOUT T&D STORE**

My husband, my Dad (Bill Drury) and I have been compiling information about the history of the Taylor and Drury stores and any stories about the founders, my Grandfather W.S. Drury and his partner Isaac Taylor.

This project began with a collection of experiences passed down in the family. We have more recently been collecting articles from the archived editions of the Whitehorse Star and as many first hand accounts from former store managers as possible.

We would be interested in hearing from anyone who would like to share info about the stores, or any photos taken inside or out. First hand accounts are, of course, invaluable, but if anyone has family members who worked for T&D we'd like to hear about them as well.

Shirley (Drury) Odsather [wheelhousepottery@acsalaska.net](mailto:wheelhousepottery@acsalaska.net)  
Richard Odsather  
Bill Drury



Look out below as ice falls off the Old Courthouse. [Dawson]  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

*Heard from Marion Lyle that you had a story today about the passing of Bob Erlam, so have copied and would like to use it in the next MocTel. Just wanted to let you know I have it.*

*See its Stephanie Waddell and have her credit line included.*

*Thanks Jackie*

*Sherron*

Sorry this is so late getting back to you - Bob Erlam has passed away at 92 years of age. He was the publisher of the Whitehorse Star for 40 years and loved every minute of it. He was also a great storyteller, dogmusher, artist, wood carver, carpenter, etc. He will be missed greatly. Yes, go ahead and use the story.

Jackie Pierce

## **Legendary publisher dies at 92**

By Stephanie Waddell on March 27, 2009

Bob Erlam was a storyteller at heart.

And for every tale he had, it seems there's one just as interesting about him.

After Erlam's death Thursday morning in B.C., Yukoners are remembering the former Whitehorse Star owner's boundless energy, endless curiosity, long stories and advice he passed down.

"He'd come into the room and the whole place would light up," former Star editor Max Fraser said in an interview Thursday afternoon.

Before selling the daily newspaper to current owner Jackie Pierce in 2002, Erlam and his wife Rusty owned it for 35 years, though Erlam's history with the paper began in the early 1960s, shortly after the couple returned to the Yukon, with a cartoon penned by Erlam of a dispute between a local resident and the electric company.

He pinned the cartoon to the door of the Star and it ran on the front page of the paper the following day with then publisher/owner Harry Boyle asking Erlam if he'd work for him. Thus began Erlam's long career in the newspaper business following service in the Second World War overseas in North Africa and Italy followed by jobs in steam fitting, carpentry, electrical, and as a diesel operator after he and Rusty first came up to the Yukon in 1947.

The couple and their then 16-month-old son Paul came up to the territory at the insistence of one of Erlam's old army buddies who told him there were great opportunities here. The family found themselves living downtown with two of Erlam's friends and their wives in a two-bedroom house that had no running water; Paul sleeping in a dresser drawer.

Many remember Bob and Rusty as an "inseparable" couple and together they were an integral part of the Whitehorse theatre scene directing and producing a couple of plays each year, with Bob building the sets and producing the plays while Rusty directed the productions which attracted audiences of upwards of 500.

The couple was also behind the construction of the Whitehorse Drama Club on Second Avenue in those years, with the building serving as a rehearsal hall until it was demolished in 2002.

The family left the territory for B.C. in 1958, but two years later they were back and Bob went to work at the Star not long after that.

In a 2002 interview, Bob remembered those early days that saw him doing a bit of everything at the newspaper.

“I thought it was the greatest job in the world to be doing everything,” he said. “You know, you just weren’t doing one thing in those days; you were doing everything, taking pictures, I got to takin’ pictures, fixing presses and things like that. It was a ball.” The one thing he didn’t do though was a lot of writing. As he pointed out, he couldn’t spell so anything that might have been attributed to him as a writer had been vetted through Rusty.

All the while the couple was also raising their young son.

Paul remembers being very young when he and his dad would spend every Sunday heading out into the bush to go “hunting.”

“He would track animals,” Paul said Thursday afternoon, recalling carrying the .22 rifle his dad had cut down so he could lift it, and the days spent building a shelter and cooking lunch outside.

To this day, Paul refers to his mom and dad by their first names, something he picked up when he joined the Star staff years later after Bob had taken over the operations.

It was in 1963 that Bob arrived at work one day to find a note from Boyle saying he was now in charge since Boyle wanted to go back to law school.

While Boyle would go on to become a judge, Bob took over as publisher and then in 1967 bought the Star with Rusty.

He had convinced her to leave her government job in travel and publicity to write for the paper, under then editor Flo Whyard with Paul running the press for a few years already.

“It really was a family newspaper,” Paul said, remembering initially when people would come in and ask to speak to the boss, he’d tell them he’d go get “Dad” only to be met with confused looks.

With each member of the family playing a role in the newspaper, the family told the tales of events of both local and international significance happening in the territory from municipal and territorial elections to the climb then U.S. senator Robert Kennedy made up Mount Kennedy - named for former president John F. Kennedy, after his assassination - in the Saint Elias range.

As Bob once told the story:

Time Magazine had phoned the paper to get the story so with Time footing the bill, Bob hired a plane to take himself, Wayne McDonald, “a young air force chap” who would take colour photographs, and Alex Van Bibber, a guide and big game outfitter in case “anything went wrong and we got caught in a storm, I wanted someone with me who knew what the hell he was doing in the wild.”

At the Star, Whyard had to explain over the phone to Time’s staff there was only one flight Outside per day and that to even get the film to the flight, it had to come off the mountain first.

On the mountain, photos of the Kennedy party were being snapped, Bob getting one of Kennedy “unshaven, tired but triumphant” after a day of climbing.

The next day Bob found himself waiting for a ride that wasn’t coming.

“No one would take my film out, no pilots, no climbers,” Bob wrote. “So I thought what the hell and asked Kennedy if he would. He said he’d be glad to. So that’s how we got it out and my picture of him in Time (and on the front of the Star).”

When Gordie Ryder remembers Bob’s years in the territory, it’s not the Kennedy picture that immediately comes to mind, but rather a photo his friend took during a river trip one time when they came across two moose in the water.

The river trip was one of many the pair would share over the years, but it was rare to come across two moose like that so they slowed the boat down, Bob taking his camera out to get the pictures that would later turn up in the Star, Ryder recalled this morning. “We had lots of fun,” he said, recalling the many trips they made. The friends were also both members of the Yukon Order of Pioneers.

Weekend river trips with six or eight people in the boat at a time were often made in “celebration” of wrapping up the week with a 40-page paper, Ryder said.

Another river trip saw Ryder and Bob delayed for upwards of 16 hours after hitting rocks that banged up the boat so much it looked like cauliflower, Ryder said.

They had to stop to bang out some of the dents and then proceeded down the river at a slow two- to three-mile-per-hour pace.

Back at the Star, the newspaper continued to grow and change with staff and technology. The Star moved away from letterpress printing to offset printing with Paul working in the midst of the switch.

Working in the pressroom on Main Street, Paul was surrounded by rolls of paper and dog sleds (belonging to friends of Bob’s who would come by), another passion of Bob’s and one he found himself sharing with radio listeners in the southern United States one day. Setting up yet another story, Paul remembered his dad had between 15 and 20 sled dogs staked out in the forest until one day two were gone with a friend of his suggesting they had been eaten by a cougar.

Never actually having an office of his own at the Star, Bob was sitting in Pierce’s office one day when the phone rang.

On the other end was the producer of a radio show who had dialed the wrong number, but as they got talking, told Bob his radio show has him phoning and interviewing interesting people.

“Bob said ‘I’m interesting, put me on,’” Paul recalled.

So with that, the talk show host interviewed Bob who told him at -56 C he had just run his dog team, but he was down two dogs that had been eaten by a cougar.

“The guy didn’t know whether to believe him,” Paul said.

It’s one of many stories Bob would tell most anyone willing to listen.

To get the full effect of Bob’s stories though, you had to hear them from Bob, Pierce said. “We’re all going to miss him,” she said.

In 1972, Pierce met Bob when she dropped off her resume at the Star. He added her phone number to the “hundred and hundreds” of others he had written up on the wall and she left the building thinking she would have to begin her job search once again the next day.

“I thought, ‘there’s no way this guy is going to hire me,’” she said.

Instead, she got a phone call the next day that saw her become the Star’s manager of advertising, the only person in the department at that time.

As the years passed, Bob became a mentor as she watched him run the business and he passed on advice, which admiringly she didn’t always take.

He had his own way of telling people what he thought, Pierce said, recalling him saying at one time how much he could get done by coming to work at 5:30 a.m.

“That was his little hint,” she said.

As she told him at the time she came into work on Saturdays and through the week had to make sure her kids got to school and couldn’t make it here until 8:45 a.m.

Suggestions were also made to reporters, and in some cases they were harsher than others.

To this day, Fraser makes sure there's still a couple of shots available on his camera at any one time in case he comes across a picture while on the road.

It was a harsher piece of advice John Firth got when Bob fired him from his job as the sports reporter in the early 1970s. It's the only job Firth was fired from.

"It was the best thing that ever happened," he said this morning.

Just out of high school, Firth thought he was doing a decent job at reporting despite his lack of a formal education.

Then one day Bob took him aside and told him he was fired, stating that Firth could do better and should go to university.

There are few, if any, employers who would do that today, Firth said.

Firth would go on to get his degree in fine arts and creative writing, later returning to the Star as a reporter.

"I recognized what he did," Firth said of returning to the Star years later.

It was Erlam who Fraser remembers saying as a newspaper, "we're the opposition" to the government.

It was the job of the newspaper to criticize and expose wrongdoing, Fraser recalled, describing Bob as a "real champion of independent thinking."

The Star was continuing to grow with Pierce overseeing additional staff in the advertising department and the paper eventually moving from its Main Street location to its current Second Avenue building.

Under Bob's leadership, the Star never missed a paper during the move, Pierce said.

It was in 1979 that Pierce was offered a 25 per cent share in the company and in 1982 that she took over as managing editor when Bob and Rusty decided to move south, trusting Pierce with the day-to-day business.

Supportive of Pierce's decisions, she remembers in the mid-1980s as the economy was starting to pick up following the closure of the Faro mine a few years before when Bob gave her the go-ahead to purchase \$200,000 worth of computer equipment for the Star.

"We had to do something to keep up," she said.

Each Friday, she would get a call from Bob who checked in to see how things were going.

Even after she bought the paper - which was proposed by the Erlams - the Friday phone calls continued.

"He sure loved this paper," she said.

A gathering of family members will be held in B.C. later this year to remember Bob.

## **MOCTEL 280**

### **WHISTLE BEND SUBDIVISION – OLD RADAR SITE**

Sherron Jones wrote:

*Hi Tim*

*Just getting the Moctel finished and have a question. Is the location -- in the photo you have and refer to the Whistle Bend Subdv -- where we may have referred to as the Range Road antenna site.*

*Sherron*

Yes

Most of the old radio towers were removed from the Range Road Transmitter /Antenna site years ago. The only one remaining is the CBC's AM transmitter with its 286' tower antenna. This installation has to be removed as the whole area (formerly Range Road radio Site) is about to be developed as the new Whistle Bend Subdivision.

Tim

More info on the Whistle Bend subdivision can be found on the City's web sit:-

[http://www.city.whitehorse.yk.ca/index.asp?Type=B\\_BASIC&SEC={631AA75F-80A9-464C-91A4-950E4D5778AB}](http://www.city.whitehorse.yk.ca/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={631AA75F-80A9-464C-91A4-950E4D5778AB})

Tim Kinvig [kinvig\\*northwestel.net](mailto:kinvig*northwestel.net) (In Whitehorse)

## **YUKON GOLD DREDGES**

These mammoth machines have an interesting history. The last dredge to operate was owned by Queenstake Mining of Vancouver and was operating on Clear Creek in the 1980's. They moved a large dredge in there in pieces, built a huge machine shop and completely modernized the machine, complete with remote cameras. I had the privilege to be on board for a few hours and watch the dredge master do his thing and it was an experience I will never forget. **As this is only 20 years ago or so, perhaps someone out there would have a story and pictures of it.**

Regards

Don Frizzell [frizzell\\*northwestel.net](mailto:frizzell*northwestel.net) (In Whitehorse)

## **Stirring Up Memories**

Keep on doing what you are doing as it brings back many, many good memories. Growing up in Whitehorse in the early 50's with outhouses, water delivered and kept in a galvanized (clean) garbage can, muddy and then dusty streets was not always fun!! Today's issue #280 brought back smiles remembering radio before CBC with Joe Craig and then, of course, Terry Delaney, Cal Waddington and Les McLaughlin with the advent of CBC. The music from that era with Al Oster, Wee Willie, the Canucks, Hank Karr, etc. still continues to stir up memories.

Thanks for all you do, Laverne Rasmuson [rasmuson\\*klondiker.com](mailto:rasmuson@klondiker.com) (In Whitehorse)

*You will see in “New Additions” that Patricia (Kerry) Fraser has joined us, so asked Laverne if she knew her. This was her reply – Sherron*

I do not know Patricia (nee) Kerry as she would have been a couple of grades ahead of me in school but her brother, Mike Kerry, was in my class throughout high school and I have wondered where life has taken him. Mike, Fred Mandl and Wayne Simpson were considered the ‘brainiacs’ during those days and I was having a heck of a time with algebra (it must have been grade 10). I just seemed to have a mental block about the basis of the whole thing. Anyway, the 3 fellows stayed with me in the classroom one day after school to see if they could help. There was just something said or the way it was said and – boom – the mental block was gone and it all made sense. They likely don’t even remember the incident, but I have never forgotten it.

Take care, Laverne



Yukon Sunset near Watson Lake  
George Bliss [jrsports\\*sasktel.net](mailto:jrsports@sasktel.net) (In Regina SK)

## ROLAND AND YUKON FLAG VISIT AUSTRIA

During August 19, 2008 to August 21, 2008 I Roland Bressmer son of Karl Bressmer who worked in the Keno Hills Mine during the 50's visited a former co-worker Walter Peer who also worked in the Mine with my father who now lives in Innsbruck, Austria.

On my trip I brought along a Yukon Flag as you can see from the picture we strung it along his balcony. It was interesting to hear stories of friendship, hardship and of the conditions. We also made a trip to the Stubai Glacier that is over 3,000 meters high, the view is spectacular.

Roland Bressmer [rolbre1@hotmail.com](mailto:rolbre1@hotmail.com) (In Edmonton)



Walter with the beard (Left) and my father Karl (Right)  
Photo courtesy Roland Bressmer [rolbre1@hotmail.com](mailto:rolbre1@hotmail.com) (In Edmonton)



Walter and his Plum Tree.  
Photo courtesy Roland Bressmer [rolbre1@hotmail.com](mailto:rolbre1@hotmail.com) (In Edmonton)



Roland (Left) and Walter (Right) at his home in Innsbruck, Austria.  
With the Yukon Flag.

Photo courtesy Roland Bressmer [rolbre1@hotmail.com](mailto:rolbre1@hotmail.com) (In Edmonton)

## **BEARS OF KLUANE**

I put up a short video of some footage of bears I filmed in Kluane National Park.

Moctel readers might like see it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AQiE3S1JaA>

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

## **WHITEHORSE WATERFRONT TROLLEY, SILVER CITY AND ROBINSON ROADHOUSE**

I have another Youtube site with **three videos**. (So far) Moctel readers/viewers may be interested. <http://www.youtube.com/user/tagish11>

**Silver City:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgC31sABQpA&feature=channel\\_page](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgC31sABQpA&feature=channel_page)

**Whitehorse Waterfront Trolley:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6S7psAlqXXc&feature=channel>

**Murray Lundberg talks about Yukon Gold Rush Roadhouses:**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSc\\_onUmGIs&feature=channel](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSc_onUmGIs&feature=channel)

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

## **Events for Everyone at the 2009 Thaw Di Gras**

by Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

March 22, 2009

With temperatures ranging from -29 in the morning to -11 later in the day, it almost seems silly to call Dawson's annual Thaw Di Gras a Spring Carnival, but that's what it is, and the four day event had enough of a blend of indoor and outdoor events to qualify. The biggest outdoor event was probably the fact that the Moose Mountain Ski Hill was open all week (this being March Break at the Robert Service School) with snowboard and skiing lessons as part of the package.

Indoors, Diamond Tooth Gerties was open every night, with Friday night dominated by the ever-popular Adult Lip Sync event. It played to a packed house. There was a junior version of this same event on Saturday afternoon and Gerties seemed to be just as full.

Road Hockey was a popular activity in the parking lot beside KIAC's School of Visual Arts building during Saturday and Sunday. Just down the lane another group played out a Snowshoe Baseball tournament.

Each of the bars had its own set of events running. There were Pit Tavern Games at the Westminster. At the Eldorado Hotel there was Arm Wrestling. The Downtown Hotel provided a Rock Band Contest based on the popular video game.

On both Saturday and Sunday mornings it was possible to skip breakfast at home and feast on pancakes and sausages at the Curling Club, as well as take part in the turkey shoot contest. On Sunday there was a Chili Supper offered at the Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre.

Chili was also the subject of the cook-off outside the Pit at the Westminster.

For dog lovers there was a Dog Show on Saturday morning, a One Dog Pull event in the parking lot across from the Arena on Sunday and the Sunnydale Classic on the Ice Bridge that same afternoon.

The parking lot at Gerties was busy on Sunday afternoon with the Yukon Order of Pioneers Tea Boiling, the KVA's Egg Toss, Loonies in a Haystack, the Arctic Inland Log Sawing contest, the Grenon Toilet Seat Toss, the KVA Tug o' War and the Triple J Hotel's Table Top Curling.

For the artistically inclined there was an ice sculpture contest that ran through the weekend, and local artists Gaby Sgaga and Suzanne Hale provided an illuminated display while the evening closed with fireworks along the dike.



Road Hockey was a popular choice.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Showshoe baseball is more awkward but also popular.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



\* IMG-3254.JPG - The Curling Rink was Breakfast central on the weekend.  
(Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson))



Some of the dogs and owners who took part in the dog show.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



These youngsters put their best feet forward for the risky business of lip syncing to their favorite tunes.

Photo by Betty Davidson (In Dawson)

## **Sled Drop Was a Popular Event**

by Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

March 18, 2009

The Dawson Sled Dawgs are very happy with the public's reception of their new Trek Over the Top Event, the sled drop.

During each of the three Trek weekends Fireweed Helicopters came sailing up the valley between 4:30 and 5:00 on the Friday and dropped a derelict snow machine from 500 feet (152.4 metres) onto a target area festooned with stakes. The stake closest to the largest piece of the sled was the winner of the 50/50 contest, with a maximum prize of \$1,000 going to the winner.

“It worked out really well,” said Sled Dawgs’ president Tim Grenon, “because both times that the locals won it was a sell out so they each got \$1,000.”

Dawn Dyce won the first drop and Margaret Van Duson the third, with the second weekend, for about \$160 less, being won by one of the visiting Trekkers.

The third event was a little different than the others in two ways.

First, the Sled Dawgs had fastened a crash tests dummy on the snow machine, making it look for all the world as if someone was riding the sled dangling below the chopper. That was, indeed, the first reaction of a number of people among the couple of hundred along the dike when the helicopter came around the bend and approached the drop zone.

After the sled had dropped to the target area and the officials had measured the distances from fragments to stakes, the helicopter came down just south of the target and lifted a second sled into the air.

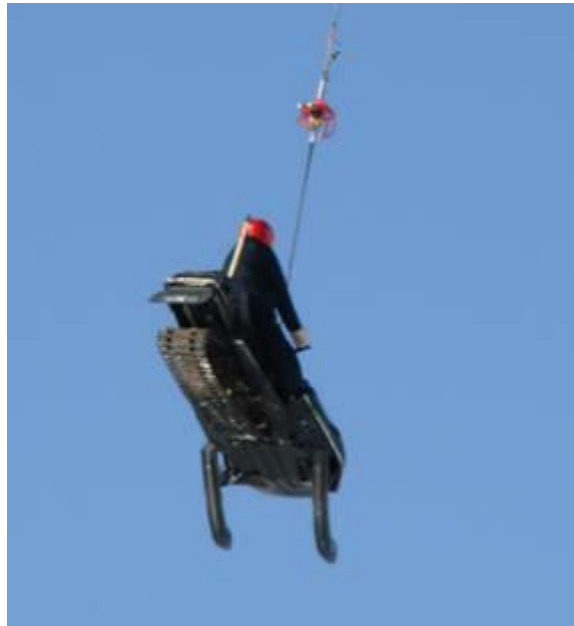
All of the contest drops had been stately affairs with the snow machine almost on a plumb line perpendicular to the ground; straight up - straight down.

For this bonus drop the Sled Dawgs and Fireweed had decided to see what might happen if they swung the sled around a bit and let it go at an angle to the ground, almost like it was thrown. It was more exciting and the debris scattered quite a bit more.

Sled Dawgs now own the groomer which was used to set the trail for the Trek on the Canadian side. The Dawson Trails Association which purchased the groomer in the first place, dissolved just before Christmas, and passed its assets on to the Sled Dawgs. "It was greatly appreciated," said Grenon.

He said the machine will be used to set trails for next week's Percy DeWolfe Race and also on the Moose Mountain Ski Hill.

"We're trying to get it out for more community events now," he said.



Sled and Dummy close up.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Say, is there someone on that sled?  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The dummy must have had a good seat belt.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The closest stake to the largest piece of debris won the prize.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The drop brought out a good crowd of spectators.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## Red Lantern Musher needed a Wake-up Call

By Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

Matthew McHugh was not quite as thrilled to win a Red Lantern for last place in the Percy De Wolfe Race as he was last year for winning it in the Junior Percy.

“So I guess I’m continuing the trend,” he told the banquet audience on Saturday night. “I have another red lantern to add to the pile.”

“Last year I ran the junior race. It was a great experience, and I received the lantern. At the time I was excited because I had just broken my lantern so it was great and I actually used it.

“This year I’ve run a whole bunch of races around Whitehorse -- and I’ve got a bunch of lanterns if anyone needs one.”

This year the race will be memorable for Matt for other reasons, which he sheepishly explained to the crowd.

“I want to apologize to Ed Hopkins. I hope I didn’t screw up things to bad there for you , Ed.”

“I normally know trail etiquette,” he said a little mysteriously before he launched into the story.

The background to the event that Matt was apologizing for is that he normally lives in Dawson City, but he’s been in Whitehorse all winter, so on returning to Dawson for the Percy Race he ran into a whole lot of people he had not seen for a while and visited a bit too late into the night before taking to the trail.

“And then you go to Forty Mile and see more people you haven’t seen for awhile and hang out there - and you begin to suffer from lack of sleep.”

By this time even those in the room who hadn’t heard a version of this story could see where it was going, and Matt had to pause quite often for the laughter to die down.

“So I was doing my run into Eagle and it was just beautiful out there, and I was in the moment I guess. I wanted to stop and check out my leaders...”

“Checking out your leaders in your sleep you mean,” Ed Hopkins yelled from the audience.

“Yeah, well, that’s what I was doing and I was warm in my parka and the snow just looked great, and I thought there’s no way those leaders are coming out of Eagle just yet, because I’m just going there.”

“Anyways, I left my headlamp on, which I guess was a good thing - and I woke up to Ed Hopkins leaders just about on my head there.”

Later Ed Hopkins told the story from his perspective.

“This is pretty damn funny,” he said. “I was leaving Eagle and I was always looking behind me, looking for headlights, till I finally saw them maybe 20 miles back.”

“I figured it was maybe Jeff and Hans, but then I saw this big bright light ahead of me. I thought I would just wait until my leaders zoned in on that and make up a little bit of time on these guys.”

“But I’m not going to turn my light on until I’m right there, because I don’t want those guys behind me to see exactly where I am.

So I’m watching this light. I’m getting closer and closer and closer. Then all of a sudden it looked like he just stopped. And I’m getting closer, and I decide that he must’ve seen me.”

“I can see this light bobbing, and I think he must be walking to the front end of his team. All of a sudden the light turns my way, turns back to his leaders, and I see his whole body go f-l-o-p.”

Ed used his arms to mime a body falling over.

“I’m thinking – what’s going on here? And I’m watching, and I know I’ve got to turn my light on now. So I turn it on and I see this back in this red coat with a ruff, and I think This guy’s got to be dead.”

“Then I look up and his sled is right across the trail too, right? And I think, ‘Aw shit’ because my leaders are already half way past his team and it was too small for me to hit my brake, and my one leader wanted to go underneath his handlebars and the other leader wanted to go on the other side.”

It wasn’t a really bad tangle, but it could have been a serious accident.

“I wake him up and I say, “Matt you’ve got to get your stuff off the trail, cause there’s two or three teams right behind me, and they’re going to be here any minute.”

Then Hopkins pushed off into the night, dousing his light, leaving McHugh to pull himself together and get moving again.

The last chapter of the tale was left to race winner Hans Gatt, who eventually passed McHugh going in the opposite direction.

“I just want to make a comment about the mystery musher outside of Eagle as well,” Gatt said.

“Ed mentioned that he saw two headlights quite a distance behind him. That was Jeff and me, and at the same time I saw two headlights about 10 minutes ahead of me and I was wondering what the hell was going on because I didn’t expect any mushers coming into Eagle by that time.”

“So I came closer and closer to the headlights and then the other headlight disappeared so I pretty much knew that one of them was Ed.

But then when the other musher came by me, he was just standing on his sled with a really grumpy look on his face. He didn’t look left or right and I didn’t know what was going on with him. I thought maybe there had been a fist fight there or something. Anyway, I couldn’t figure it out until I got to Dawson and Ed told me about what happened out there.”

The moral of the story would seem to be that social life at the Percy should be delayed until after you've won the race.



A sheepish Matt McHugh explains his breach of trail etiquette at the banquet.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Matt McHugh at the start of the race.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Ed Hopkins telling his side of the story at the banquet.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## MOCTEL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Now back home in Vernon – and received word from the bank today that they will no longer deposit the cheques made out to Moccasin Telegraph. (Unless they are deposited to a business account.) They say it is a legal matter. Please make your 2009 subscription

cheque payable to Sherron Jones. They did condescend to take the ones that were sent in during the past few months. – Sherron

## **FREE TELEPHONE (411) INFORMATION**

Now here is a service we all need and it's free!

When you need a business phone number anywhere in Canada or USA - phone 1-800-GOOG-411 ( 1-800-4664-411 )- a voice says "city and state", you reply - the voice says "business name or type of service", you reply - the voice says "connecting" - and your requested business or service answers the phone.

Keep a note of **1-800-GOOG-411 (1-800-4664-411)**

George Bliss [jrsports\\*sasktel.net](mailto:jrsports@sasktel.net) (In Regina)

## **Yukon Premier's reception in Ottawa**

We had a Yukon Premier's reception in Ottawa in February and wondered if you wanted some pictures from the event for the Moc Tel. There are ones of our new Senator, the Premier and our MP plus several of our Ministers. Afraid I am in a lot as a friend was taking the pictures..... Debbie

Debbie Kelly  
Office Administrator  
Intergovernmental Relations  
Government of Yukon  
707 - 350 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7S8  
Phone: (613) 234-3206  
Fax: (613) 563-9602

Attached pictures taken during a **Yukon Days' Reception in Ottawa** February 9, 2009 put on by the Hon. Dennis Fentie, Premier of Yukon.

This is the 2nd year we have had a day during Winterlude named Yukon Day by the Mayor of Ottawa.

Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly@on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Helene Thomson, Val Hodgson, Debbie Kelly, Yukon Senator Dan Lang  
Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly*on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Debbie Kelly, Yukon MP Larry Bagnell, Rose McConville, NWT Ottawa Office  
Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly*on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Yukon Carvers

Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly*on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Yukon Ministers Brad Cathers and Elaine Taylor; Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie

Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly*on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Chief Linklater, Ministers Cathers and Taylor; CEO Helene LeMay, NCC; Premier Dennis Fentie, Harley Trudeau, Vice Chief Rick O'Brien AFN; Larry Bagnell, MP; Alida Munro Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly*on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Helene Thomson, Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie and Debbie Kelly  
Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly*on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Sheila Clark, Premier's Assistant; Chief Joe Linklater, Vuntut Gwitchin  
Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly*on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Yukon Minister James Kenyon  
Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly*on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Angus Robertson, DM EMR; Yukon Minister Brad Cathers  
Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly*on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Yukon Minister Brad Cathers; Fed Minister Tourism & Small Business Diane Ablonczy  
Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly*on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Harley Trudeau, Debbie Kelly YTG Ottawa Office  
Harley Trudeau is the Senior Government Representative for Yukon in our Ottawa Office.

Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly@on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Rose McConville GNWT; Yukon Minister Elaine Taylor  
Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly*on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Dale Drown, Premier's Chief of Staff; Debbie Kelly  
Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly*on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)



Bob Carson, Nunavut Office Ottawa  
Photo courtesy Debbie Kelly [debbiekelly\\*on.aibn.com](mailto:debbiekelly*on.aibn.com) (In Ottawa)

## ARTISTIC TALENT



**Zoo Bridge on Twelfth Street**  
Image courtesy Madeleine Wakefield [mwakefield\\*shaw.ca](mailto:mwakefield*shaw.ca) (In Calgary)

## **OBIT**

Could you kindly place this obituary of our Mum in the Moc Tel, thank you kindly, Abe, Michael & Maroesja

### **van Oeveren-Saalborn**

Elizabeth Jeanette

May 29, 1920 - March 19, 2009

Born the 29th of May 1920 in Bussum, the Netherlands, died 19 March, 2009 in Tsawwassen. Predeceased by her husband Christiaan, companion Richard O'Hara and grandson Lucas Alexander Marcel. Survived by her children Maroesja Evelien (Rene Ickx), Michiel Christiaan (Danielle Belanger), Edward Alexander (Margaret McAuley), and grandson Christopher Michael. She leaves behind a sister Tanja Baretta (Pieter), sisters-in-law Michele Gouveneur, Alie Schenk, nieces and nephews in the Netherlands, New Zealand, USA and France. Liz and Chris emigrated to Canada in 1951 to seek a better life after WWII and spent the first three years in the Laurentians of Quebec, operating a chicken-in-basket restaurant. They moved to Lower Post, B.C. for a short while before settling in Whitehorse, Yukon, where they lived for the next twenty years. They worked in and managed hospitality businesses until they opened their own restaurant, the 202 Club in 1961. In the fall Liz would take time out from the restaurant business to cook for big game guides. She loved the outdoors and spent many hours on horseback hunting and fishing. She often said those were the best years of her life. In 1974 Liz and Chris retired to Tsawwassen. She worked as a homemaker for many years, tended her garden with loving care, had a menagerie of birds, and fed many generations of grateful backyard raccoons. In early 2004 she moved to the Waterford at Windsor Woods and shortly thereafter to the Care Center at the Waterford where she remained until her death. In respect of her wishes her body has been donated to the faculty of Medicine at UBC. NO service will be held. Liz's original outlook on life touched many lives. We thank those who, with their love and kindness, spent their time with her, as well as those who helped her cope with her dependence.

Just a line to let you know of the passing of **Chuck Hankins**.

Elwood Lyle [elyle\\*shaw.ca](mailto:elyle*shaw.ca) (In Kelowna)

*Chuck Hankins* daughter, Heather Fullager, has prepared a comprehensive look at Chuck's life and offered to share it with us. (see next) – Sherron

*If you wish to send along a message – Heather's address is:*

*Heather Fullager - Okanagan Engraving [heather@okanaganengraving.com](mailto:heather@okanaganengraving.com)*

# CHARLES (CHUCK) EDWARD HANKINS

Charles (Chuck) Edward, born January 14th, 1928, Bentley, Alberta, passed away peacefully on March 31st, 2009 in Vernon, BC.

He will be missed by his loving wife, Madeline of 55 years; one daughter, Heather (Doug) Fullager of Vernon, one son, Greg (Susan) of Pender Island, BC, one grandson, Dwayne Patchett of Vernon, five sisters: Elsie Herold of Drayton Valley, Alberta, Jean (Ted) Myers of Kamloops, Irene Hankins, Bonnie (Roy) Westenberger, and Janet (Deo) Singh, all three of Calgary; three brothers: Dick of Rimby, AB, Bert (Hilda) of Rimby, AB and George (Glenda) of Saskatchewan, numerous nieces and nephews and devoted friends in the Yukon, BC, and Alberta. He was predeceased by his brothers Bob and Jim and sister Myrtle.

Chuck was born and raised near Rimby, Alberta. He was lured to the Yukon in 1949 by the romantic images in the poetry of Robert Service, a favourite of his father's. On a trip "Outside", Chuck met Madeline Hummel in Vancouver, they married and went north to Whitehorse in 1953.

After a few years of prospecting, driving truck for the army and other odd jobs, Chuck got his start into aviation in the spring of 1955. He was working in the army fire hall when Gordon Cameron, the Whitehorse Base Manager for PWA, was short-handed. He knew Chuck and went to the fire hall where he found him rolling up some fire hose. He asked him if he would like to work on airplanes. With a grunt and a snort, He said, "Hell yes! Don't know much about 'em, but I always wanted to learn!" The years following saw Chuck become an aircraft engineer, bush pilot, then a helicopter pilot; flying initially for Klondike Helicopters, then becoming one of the founding partners in Trans North Turbo Air in 1967. In 1974, Chuck, Madeline and Greg moved to Salt Spring Island, where they became involved in the marine business. However, in 1980 the aviation business again called, this time for a division of Trans North in Alberta. Eventually, Chuck and Madeline retired to Vernon, BC.

A Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday, April 15th, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel of Pleasant Valley Funeral Home. A reception will follow in the Pleasant Valley Tea Room.

In lieu of flowers, those friends wishing to make memorial contributions in memory of Chuck may do so to The Canadian Diabetes Association, Suite 360, 1385 W – 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V9.



The early days in the Yukon



Chuck (front), sister Elsie and Brother Jim on "Old Punk" around 1933



Young student pilot Chuck Hankins, & Fleet Canuck CF-DPM – getting into the flying game. c.1955



Chuck Hankins with Trans North's first helicopter – the wooden rotor bladed Bell 47G-2, CF-ETR, shown here with winter cowls installed.



Chuck & Madeline  
1955



The old farmhouse where Chuck grew up near Rimby, AB



Al, Godon & Chuck with Trans North's  
Sikorsky (The Pig) 1973

## TRANS NORTH TURBO AIR FOUNDING PARTNERS

Alex Kapy, Gordon Davis,  
Ron Connely, Chuck Hankins



Ron & Chuck, Grand Cache 1982

Al Sieden, who worked for Trans North, also took the occasional well humoured poke at Chuck through his caricature drawings.



*More than  
a few  
fishing tales*



Chuck, Al & Gordon Davis



Bob Cameron, Al Kaptay & Chuck





Mexico  
1970



White Pass and Yukon Route Engine 73.  
Chuck was in Whitehorse for the Trans North  
reunion. It was his last trip to Whitehorse.



Elwood & Marion Lyle  
with Chuck & Madeline



Chuck & Lofty Aird with the car they  
bought together in Whitehorse in 1954



Chuck with Lofty & Audry in  
Desert Cove, Vernon 1990



Chuck with his brother's and sister on the family farm near Rimby, AB 2006  
Chuck, Dick, Elsie, Bonnie, Janet, George  
Bert, Myrtle, Jean, Irene



## *Alaska Cruise 2007*



CHUCK AND MADELINE'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
CALGARY 2003



Greg, Chuck, Madeline & Heather



Chuck and nephew Duane Hankins



Heather, Madeline, Chuck  
and grandson Dwayne Patchett



Chuck, Madeline & Lloyd Romfo



Heather & Doug's Wedding  
Vernon, BC - May 2008  
Greg, Heather, Doug & Susan  
Chuck & Madeline

Submitted by George Bliss

Hi George

Just to let you know that retired member Ivor Mast passed away in hospital in Richmond BC on Friday 3 April....had been in the hospital for about a week after falling and breaking his hip....funeral will be on sat 18 April in Burnaby, BC.... I will attend along with ret/S/Cst. Roy Downie....could you send a message to the vet's assoc in the Yukon and let them know as I can not find an email address for any of the members there, as I am using a borrowed computer... I know that Ivor retired from the force in the Yukon and lived in Whitehorse for many years after...he was employed after his retirement as a civilian guard at Whitehorse detachment for many years at least while I was stationed there from 1972 to 1982..you should remember him from your time at Whitehorse let me know if you need any more info..

Bill Hensley

Regimental #11195 Retired Sgt **Ivor Arthur MAST** died April 3, 2009 at Richmond, B.C. He served in the RCMP from 1931 to 1955 retiring as detachment commander of Mayo Detachment. Following his initial training he was transferred to Fort Smith, NWT. Because he had experience with dog teams and outboard motors he was designated an Engineer and was responsible for water transport in the summer months and dog teams in the winter. He served at Fort Good Hope where his only child Hope was born. He made winter patrols by dog-sled to Resolution, Reliance, Rae, Hay River, Providence and Outpost Island Detachments. Following his retirement he was employed as a guard at Whitehorse and was also was employed by Prospector's Airways. He was considered a legend in the North. The "Mast House", 209 Elliot St., Whitehorse, where he lived from 1961 to 1985, is now a heritage house and named for him. He was predeceased by his wife Martha and daughter Hope. The funeral will be held at 10:00 am, Saturday, April 18th, 2009 at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, 9887 Cameron Street, Burnaby, B.C.

## **MAST HOUSE IN WHITEHORSE, etc**



The [Mast House](#) is named for Martha and Ivor Mast who lived in it from 1961 to 1985. The frame cottage was built somewhere around 1901-1902. Ivor Mast was a retired R.C.M.P. officer who had been stationed at Mayo, then moved to the Department of Corrections at Whitehorse. Prior to 1961 the house had been used mainly as doctor's

residence and office. The first resident, Dr. F.J. Nicholson, was superintendent of the first hospital in Whitehorse and treated all White Pass employees in 1901-03.

Few changes have been made to the original structure. The building was moved from its original location to the row of heritage homes on Wood St. late in 1998 after an extensive campaign to prevent its demolition was launched by the YHMA and a group of concerned citizens.

**\*\* Ivor was a lifetime member of the Yukon Amateur Radio Association.** His call was VE7IAM.

**\*\*\* Describing the Mervyn House in Mayo –**

After the Mervyns moved out, **Corporal Ivor Mast and his family lived here from 1945 to 1949** and Mast's wife, Martha, bought the house from the Mervyns and rented it to the RCMP as a residence, office and lockup. The jail was a small room off the kitchen. Ivor added a porch and a separate door into the office.

**\*\*\*\* The Whitehorse branch of the B.C.-Yukon Chamber of Mines** held a kick-start meeting in the Parish Hall on the evening of **March 27, 1958**. Election of officers was paramount: **president, Ivor Mast**; first vice-president, Alan Kulan (Hall of Fame); second vice-president, James Hanna; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. E.M. Warren and council members were: Emil Forrest, Gordon Dickson (Hall of Fame), Chuck Gibbons (Hall of Fame) and Peter Versluce (Hall of Fame).

**\*\*\*\*\* PREDECEASED BY HIS DAUGHTER HOPE**

**MAST, Hope.** Born August 6th, 1939 in Regina, Sask. passed away peacefully in the caring hands of her nurse Neri on July 6th, 2004 after a battle fought with dignity and great courage. "Miss Integrity". **She is predeceased by her mom Martha Mast** and survived by her loving father Ivor Mast; her daughters Kelly (Bruce) Koski and Kim (Rod) Davison and son Rick Hubble. Hope had 5 grandchildren, Brian (Krista) Koski, Ellen Koski, Amanda Davison, Alexander Davison and Jessica Hubble. Hope is also survived by her cousin Deanna (Max) Cohen. Missing her also are her second family, the past and present, staff at Forbes and Boyle. She is also greatly missed by her special friends Karen (Fred) Goodyear, Gloria, Anita, Eileen and Foster, Lorna (Robert) Pennykid, Jeanie, Kuan (Kang) Tan, and Maxine and Fran Horner. Hope loved her family and friends and enjoyed gardening, cooking and sampling every food and dessert ever invented. Hope cooked homemade waffles right up to the middle of May 2004. Poached eggs were always a favourite. Hope will be cherished in our hearts forever. The family wishes to thank Dr. Bar-Shlomo and Dr. Segal, nurses Neri, Lita, Diane and Robyn Hunter-Kitamura, Gabriel and Brenda Gosen and the very caring staff at Richmond General Hospital. Service and reception at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, 9887 Cameron, Burnaby, Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, her family gratefully invites you to make a donation to your favourite charity.

\*\*\*\*\* EXCERPT FROM RCMP NEWSLETTER (Sept 2008)



**Ivor Mast, Reg No 11195 Born Aug 4, 2009** [correction 1909]

On Ivor's 99th birthday Ron deRoon and I went to visit him in Lions Manor, Steveston, BC, Room 601. We found him sitting on the edge of his bed and in pretty good spirits. He called Ron by name when we walked in the room. While we were there we got talking about dog teams. We asked if he worked with 10 dogs in a team and were informed that teams were made up of 8 dogs only. As mentioned he is in good spirits, but does not have many visitors and I know that he would appreciate anyone coming to call. - Kent Tubman

## **NEW ADDITION**

An old friend, Ira Saunders, former RCMP in Whitehorse, sent me a copy of the Moccasin Telegraph, and I'd like to join your readership.

I particularly enjoyed this recent edition as there was a fair bit on CFWH...I remembered it from pre-CBC times and then my dad, Ed Kerry, became the Northern Services Technician and CBC became very much a part of our family life. It was fun to see photos of the old gang, having gone to school with both Les McLaughlin and Cal Waddington.

Helen 'Buddy' Kerry and Ed Kerry and their babe-in-arms (me) were in the second wave of Yukon pioneers. Dad and 'Gertie' his small but mighty high-lift loader (now located in the Watson Lake signpost park,) worked on construction of the Alaska Highway from Fort St. John to Liard. I grew up virtually on the Alaska Hwy, living in skidhouses and tents

and then my first non-movable home, a tiny but wonderful log cabin on the shores of Teslin Lake. We moved to Whitehorse in October 1946 so I could go to school. Eventually we built on the corner of 6th & Main, and the house just continued to grow and transform much to the annoyance of the civic authorities. The property was sold in 1982 when we settled things after Dad's death. Folks might remember the massive and hilarious auction sale that took place, off-loading Dad's numerous and diverse collections and treasures. At that point Mom lived in Alberta and latterly in White Rock where she died in the early '90s.

For those who remember, my brother Mike Kerry married Shirley Hall (they went to school together in Whitehorse) and raised two sons in Surrey, BC. Sadly, we lost him about five years ago. Shirley and I did a fabulous 'nostalgia' trip up the Alaska Highway the summer of 2007, reminding ourselves of how vast and truly beautiful the northland is.

In 1964 I married a Vancouver fellow, had a wonderful 34 years with him, have three kids (one born in Whitehorse in 1967) and six grandkids. Lived for ten years in South Australia and am now semi-retired (I still like to eat, so I still work some) on Salt Spring Island.

Still hear a few familiar names and have a couple of special friends up there. Am going to my first ever Yukoner's Dinner next week and looking forward to connecting with other faces from the past.

My email is : [ciaab@telus.net](mailto:ciaab@telus.net)  
and my home phone is 250-537-1854.  
Address: 127 Stonecutter Way, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1J3

I'm always glad to hear of old friends and acquaintances.  
Cheers,  
Patricia Fraser (nee Kerry)

***Sent Patricia the Ex-Yukoners and Sourdoughs list and asked if I could use her reply.  
– Sherron***

***Patricia's first reply:***

Thanks heaps, Sherron.  
No, Dad wasn't into sports, but I certainly remember both Ralph Lortie (I went to school with his cousin, Alan Lortie) and of course Rolf Hougen was--and still is--a mainstay in town. In the early '60s I was Erik Nielsen's secretary both in the law office and in the House of Commons, as well as his Campaign Manager for one of the elections. Exciting times . Very different as well as more reasonable than current politics albeit every bit as passionate.

One day I'll have to poke through my boxes of old photos in the crawlspace...who knows what I might find?

Regards, Pat

***Patricia's second reply:***

What a hoot to go through all those names, some remembered, some 'oh wow', and of course many unfamiliar since I left full-time in late 1963. Thanks so much. So, how do I compensate you for all this?

Certainly you can use any part of my emails you choose. I'm also happy to put forward any comments on any subject you might find interesting. I've come to realize that my memories fall into the *historic* category now! How did that happen?? But I know a lot about a lot of things, having spent my first 23 years up there. It was a wonderful place to grow up in during a time that was perhaps less complicated than life is now where world-wide information is at hand instantly (but perhaps not always that accurately).

Again, thanks for your efforts.

Cheers, Pat

Hi again,

I thought maybe it would be helpful to have 'then' and 'now' photographs....if you need to fill space. The B&W of course is Erik in full flow of dictation to me in the Whitehorse Law Office in 1960, and the 'now' was taken 47 years later July 2007 with my buddy and school friend, Priscilla (Wondga) Quinn who still lives in Whitehorse.

Cheers, Pat



Patricia (Kerry) Fraser & Priscilla (Wondga) Quinn – July 2007.  
Photo courtesy Patricia Fraser [ciaab@telus.net](mailto:ciaab@telus.net) (On Salt Spring Island BC)

*(Priscilla went to school in Whitehorse but lived at 1016 and then moved to Ft. St. John for 11 and 12. Her dad was on highway maintenance. She lives in Whitehorse now. – Patricia)*



Erik Nielsen dictating to Patricia (Kerry) Fraser  
“Erik in full flow of dictation to me in the Whitehorse Law Office in 1960”  
Photo courtesy Patricia Fraser [ciaab@telus.net](mailto:ciaab@telus.net) (On Salt Spring Island BC)

*Still blows me away when I read information like this.  
My information tells me there are only 33,000 people in Yukon. – Sherron*

I am surprised I haven't heard of your paper before now, and it all came to light because of the death of a long time Yukon resident, Chuck Hankins who I had the pleasure of working with when I flew Helicopters for Klondike Helicopters.

I first went north at age 15 as a cooks helper at the Giant mine in Yellowknife when it was first starting up, my next trip up was to White Horse in the winter of 1947 to salvage the Canol pipeline.

After that I got into flying and started my Yukon time at Ross River flying prospectors, surveyors etc. because of the mine (later Faro), I knew many of the people involved such as John Brock, Pete Risby, Al Kulan and so on and I read all I can about what is going on up there and I'm sure your paper would be of great interest.

I keep in touch with a nurse that I met years ago in Aklavik and she now resides in W.H. her name is Dilys Ranson, just a great lady, but I haven't seen her for years, I talked with her this evening on the phone.

I would like to subscribe to your paper and I will give you my address

Hal Tetz        4732 Nordegg Cr. N.W.  
                  Calgary Alta T2K-2M5  
                  Ph. 403-289-6525  
                  E-mail [mznipg@shaw.ca](mailto:mznipg@shaw.ca)

What I would like to do is find out if there is anyone out there that was on the pipeline salvage winter of '47-48?

Hal

## **QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*To be happy, we must not be too concerned with others. - Albert Camus*

## **RECIPE OF THE WEEK**

### **Oyster Chowder**

Submitted by Florence Roberts [yapper@klondiker.com](mailto:yapper@klondiker.com) (In Whitehorse)

1 can cream of mushroom soup

1 can cream of celery soup

1 quart milk

2 cans boiled oysters

2 onions

¼ lb bacon

Salt & pepper

Dash soya sauce

Combine soups and milk and liquid from oysters. Chop onions and bacon and fry together. Add to fish mixture. Season . simmer for 15 minutes.

Tommy Thompson

Kemptville, Ontario

From a Whitehorse RCAF Womens' Auxiliary cookbook

## **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](mailto:sherronjones*shaw).

**MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH**

c/o Sherron Jones  
9205 Orchard Ridge Drive  
Vernon BC V1B 1V8

Phone 250-549-2736