

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 283rd Edition – May 10th, 2009

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



Crocus in Spring - Lewis Lake – April 2008

Photo courtesy Norma Waddington norma@coldwellbanker.ca (In Carcross)

The last Moc Tel was very interesting and it was nice to hear so many people responding. I, as well, am sorry that I missed the last ‘Yukoners’ but am happy that there were so many people there this year.

Spring has finally arrived in Carcross and the snow is melting quickly. The ‘summer people’ are starting to arrive and open up their cabins and the White Pass employers and employees are checking out the buildings and equipment for this summer’s tourist season. The Caribou Hotel is getting a major renovation and hopefully will be open this summer as well.

Cal & I have been trying to walk the dogs on the beach this week but the snow is too soft and we’ve been breaking through. Have been enjoying the ‘kite skiers’ going by our window this winter. I’m sending a picture taken last spring and one taken this week.

We had a lot of swans in Carcross this year, feeding and resting by the walk bridge. They finally packed up and all flew awaymaybe to join the large group at ‘Swan Haven’ on Marsh Lake.....perhaps because a bald eagle flew down and picked up a swan for dinner the other day. It was sad because it no doubt left a mate, and I understand they mate for life, but I guess that’s nature’s way.

I'm sending a couple of pictures of the swans as well. Although it is a little early for the wild crocus, I came across this picture I took last spring at Lewis Lake. The hills were covered with them.

Norma Waddington norma*coldwellbanker.ca (In Carcross)



Swans by the bridge – Carcross - April 2009.

Photo courtesy Norma Waddington norma*coldwellbanker.ca (In Carcross)



Windsurfer at Carcross – Lake Bennett – April 2008

Photo courtesy Norma Waddington norma*coldwellbanker.ca (In Carcross)



Kite skier at Carcross – Lake Bennett – April 2009.
Photo courtesy Norma Waddington norma*coldwellbanker.ca (In Carcross)

Yukon River Breakup a Surprise Sunday Treat

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

May 3, 2009

The Yukon River flushed at 12:17 p.m. on Sunday, much to the surprise of many people, who had thought that the mid river channel cut by water from the Klondike River, which cleared on Friday, would delay the actual breakup by giving the water somewhere to run.

Bill Kendrick was there on the dike when things started happening. As he saw it, the big sheet of ice began to shift, then the tripod moved and all the loose debris from the Klondike started coming downstream.

George McConkey and Brenda Barnes had actually made their way to the dike to look at that mid-river channel when they noticed the ice pan lift and begin to move.

“We were standing right here when it went out,” George said.

“Mike (a friend) said he had a ticket for about 15 or 20 minutes from then and I said I’d see what we could do.”

“We told him to jump up and down and it might help,” said Brenda.

“John and I looked up and I said, ‘I think that’s moving’,” said George.

Sure enough, it was. Minutes later someone ran to the fire hall to get the siren sounded and dozens of people started moving towards the water front.

“It’s good to see it moving,” said George. “This is the second time in four years I’ve seen it go out. It’s a good day for it to go out. It’s Sunday. Everybody has lots of time to come down here.”

Dozens of people were doing just that, reacting to the fire siren that had sounded about 12:22. Just a few feet away Tom Nichol had hauled out his fiddle and was serenading the departing ice chunks.

The wire tied to the IODE tripod in mid channel tripped the clock on the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre at 12:17. Official IODE clock watcher Joyce Caley walked over to the crowd with the clock to show it off.

The winning ticket, it was discovered later in the day, was held by local Kyla McArthur, who had picked 12:18 as her time.

On the far bank of the Yukon West Dawson residents could also be seen gathered near the ferry landing watching the river and waving.

“Now we can go home,” said George McConkey. He and Barnes live over in West Dawson and have been staying in Dawson since the ice bridge decayed a week or so ago.

The George Black ferry generally goes into the water from a week to 10 days after breakup.

There has been flooding in the valley this year. Rock Creek was badly hit on Saturday with the road from the fire station through the entry to the government campground flowing like a river. Reports were that the waters had subsided on Sunday.

Water was also high on the river side of Henderson's Corner but it had also gone down on Sunday.

Last year the river also broke on the Sunday over the noon hour, but last year it was May 4th. This year it's the 3rd.

There is still ice in the Yukon River above Dawson and the White River has yet to send its load past the town.



Joyce Caley and her son, Bruce, with the official time clock showing 12:17.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



River watchers on the deck at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Ice moving past the dike at 12:30
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Tom Nichol serenading the breakup.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The tripod heads north on its way to Moosehide.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

NOT MUCH SNOW LEFT



West of Haines Junction – April 27, 2009

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

Photos I took from a moving vehicle through the window coming back from Fairbanks, Alaska to Whitehorse on April 27, 2009. I was there from April 24 to 27. We saw a herd of caribou along with about two dozen on the lake ice as well as 7 moose, a coyote and numerous Cooper Hawks that fly along the Alaska Highway searching for a meal.

It was very nice in Fairbanks with temperatures between 46F to 68F. There wasn't much snow in Alaska, unlike here in the Yukon where we still have lots, however with temperatures hitting close to +20C I don't expect the snow to last long.

The St. Elias Mountains and the Alaska Range as well as the Kluane Region is beautiful, no matter the season. Hope you all get to visit the Yukon and Alaska, a trip well worth it.

Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Talbot Arms – Burwash Landing – April 27, 2009
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Final sign-off looms for veteran broadcaster

By Stephanie Waddell, April 24, 2009, Whitehorse Star.



The voice that launched CKRW [Ron McFadyen] on an early November morning in 1969 will sign off from the station for a final time at the end of next Friday's 5 p.m. newscast.

Photo by Vince Fedoroff

WATCHING HISTORY FROM THE MICROPHONE - When Ron McFadyen, seen in CKRW's studios this week, first signed on the air with the station, Pierre Trudeau was in his second year as prime minister, Richard Nixon occupied the White House, and the Beatles were still together. McFadyen's voice will disappear from the Yukon's airwaves in a week.

The voice that launched CKRW on an early November morning in 1969 will sign off from the station for a final time at the end of next Friday's 5 p.m. newscast.

Ron McFadyen is retiring after about a half-century broadcasting career that began at the age of 15. That's when he started hanging around a Cranbrook, B.C. radio station until officials with the broadcaster were persuaded to hire him.

It was a career that would see him move to Alberta and Saskatchewan before arriving in the territory on July 9, 1969 - 11 days before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon - to begin work getting the new private radio station started in Whitehorse.

At the age of 66, McFadyen says he is ready for retirement. He is looking forward to focusing on his family, doing work around the house, walking his dog and getting supper ready for his wife, Cathy, who is still working.

"The stars are aligned," he said in an interview Thursday of his pending retirement. McFadyen actually began his working life in the sixth grade doing deliveries for a pharmacy so he could have money for extra-curricular activities.

Radio was among those interests he had as a young man, not just in getting on the airwaves, but also in how the equipment worked, building his first "short wave radio" when he was in high school.

That was back in the days of soldering wires together, adding speakers, seeing what spare parts from broken TVs you could get from local stereo stores and reading up on electronics from magazines, he said as he recalled his first experience constructing a radio in his spare time.

"So I had this piece of equipment and I was having a devil of a time making it work - and back then, you're dealing with high voltages when you're working and tubes and all that sort of stuff - and I think it must have been just like Alexander Graham Bell." I had this chassis and I had this wire all the way out to the kitchen where my mom and dad were and then suddenly, I heard their voices," he said. "I thought, 'Holy Cow, this thing actually works!'"

He later started hanging around the local radio station - CKEK - until they eventually hired him for shifts from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. through the week and weekend sign-ons. That job led him to his career - and degree in "practical" - in radio, taking him initially to another radio station in Cranbrook, then on to a number of stations before he learned of the job with a new broadcaster taking to the air in Whitehorse.

"I didn't even know where Whitehorse was," McFadyen recalled with a laugh. "I looked up stuff in the paper and there were two channels of black and white TV, Kentucky Fried Chicken, but you know (it's) the land of the Midnight Sun and something new."

He packed up his 1961 Volvo, filling it to the roof with his belongings and headed north, marking his July 9, 1969 arrival date in the dust on his dashboard.

Whitehorse would become home for McFadyen though, as the broadcaster reported the territory's history to radio listeners throughout the Yukon at both CKRW and the CBC. That first morning, the CKRW building was full with people, like Hougen's owner Rolf Hougen, who had risen early and come down to witness the birth of a new radio station going to air at 6 a.m.

The next morning, McFadyen remembered, he was alone for the early-morning broadcast.

More than a few of those 6 a.m.-to-6 p.m. workdays during the first couple of years at CKRW took their toll.

Around 1971, McFadyen left the private broadcaster to take a job at Murdoch's gem shop, offered by his friend Mike Scott crafting jewelry. Scott had noticed McFadyen's handiwork when they were out snowmobiling one time and offered him the job.

"I was burned out," McFadyen said of his broadcast career at that point. It was time for a change, and the job at Murdoch's offered something new with the chance to tromp around the territory's gold fields on occasion to look for gold that could be used in the jewelry.

"I've seen large peanut butter jars full of gold nuggets," McFadyen said.

He just couldn't keep away from the radio business though, especially when a job opened up in the Whitehorse offices of the CBC in 1973.

McFadyen had always wanted to work for the national broadcaster, and though he didn't get a job there when he auditioned in the early 1960s, this time around, he did.

"I just loved working in radio," he said. It wasn't always easy though, especially during strike action in the early 1980s, when McFadyen and others were on the picket line for a few months.

There's some things you just don't forget, McFadyen said, noting some of the comments made to him and others about the programming being better when they were on strike and so on.

When they finally returned to the air, those same people would call to get their community announcements on the air, he said.

McFadyen would remain at the CBC until 1996, reading the local news in the mornings and later informing Yukoners about how their athletes were doing at local and Outside events.

He became one of the first Whitehorse reporters among others at the CBC to travel to each of the Arctic Winter Games starting in the mid-1970s.

It was during an Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife that he was joined by volleyball fans in listening to a gold medal match.

Rarely getting to listen to his own work during the Games, he managed to catch coverage he had done at one point. He was sitting in a car listening to it when a few people came over and asked if it was indeed the gold medal match. As the coverage wrapped up, he remembered, the listeners cheered for their team.

It was also covering sports that the energetic McFadyen learned how to interview children, one of the most rewarding parts of the job and with good reason.

Among his favourite memories in his job was being told by a parent about a young child who sat at the breakfast table hunched over his bowl of cereal until a report of his soccer game the night before came on.

The youngster began sitting up and listening, a wide grin spreading across his face as he heard the interview McFadyen had done with him.

On more than one occasion, the reporter would be questioned by his wife about why he came home with wet, grass-stained pants after a day of work where he had just interviewed kids.

After this long in the industry, McFadyen is ending his career interviewing the children of children he spoke to years ago.

His work has also seen him interview the likes of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the late CBC broadcaster Barbara Frum, singer Gordon Lightfoot and even a Playboy bunny over the years. Asked about the stories that stick out in his mind. He mentioned the strike by Yukon teachers early this decade.

At the time, the striking teachers were protesting outside the legislature, the chanting so loud it could be heard inside the government building.

McFadyen called the radio station to play back an interview with then-premier Pat Duncan, followed by a live feed with Paul Nordahl, then the president of the Yukon Teachers' Association.

In the background of his interview was the teachers' chants.
"It must have sounded pretty cool," McFadyen said, his excitement for live radio clear.

While radio provides an immediacy, live radio provides that at its best, and that's what McFadyen enjoys most about the media.

In 1996, he was one of eight people at the local CBC station to leave the corporation amid downsizing after he was offered a severance package - two months after he was diagnosed with leukemia.

"I was just devastated," he said.

It is a type of leukemia that is there, but not active, and now McFadyen makes an annual trip to B.C. for a check-up.

It's something that's made him focus on living for today and hasn't kept him from anything.

He enjoys a long list of extra activities like volunteering and running in the Klondike Road Relay, volunteering in the annual Kluane Chilkat Bike Relay and continuing his work with the Yukon Amateur Radio Association, which he helped start in the 1970s. He also volunteers with Sport Yukon.

His efforts have been recognized on a number of occasions by organizations, most recently with a nomination for the Volunteer of the Year Award in the city for his work with the amateur radio association.

After his time with the CBC ended, he went to work at Radio Shack until a job opened at CKRW in 2000 and, once again, he just couldn't stay away from the radio business. He was actually off of work for a few days on arguably one of the more newsworthy days into the territory's history when a Korean Air Jet, diverted from Alaska, was accompanied by Canadian and American fighter jets when it landed in Whitehorse on Sept. 11, 2001. The flight was believed to have been hijacked, and much of the downtown was evacuated. "The community panicked," he recalled.

What impressed him though was the Yukon government providing for the health needs of passengers on the plane, which was forced to sit on the runway of the airport, he said.

Over the years as well, McFadyen has learned to cope with Yukon conditions like the cold. At one point, he wired a hard-hat so it could be connected to radio equipment he could then keep in his jacket so it didn't freeze.

After decades in the business, McFadyen doesn't get nervous going on the airwaves. He has been complemented by former Whitehorse broadcaster and producer Les McLaughlin for never missing a broadcast when he had to phone it in.

Where his nerves kick in though, are during those community events he's emceed in front of groups of 900-plus.

Still, he's taken on the role many times, providing the voice of countless festivities around the city.

Along the way, he has had the support of his wife, son Troy and daughter Suzanne. “They’re such a crucial part,” he said, noting the hours he’s been able to put in during the evenings covering community events have been in a large part thanks to his family’s support.

More than once, McFadyen recalled his career with one line: “It’s been fun.”

After next Friday though, his voice will sign off one last newscast as he begins his retirement.

There’s little doubt he will be busy as he continues to volunteer with the radio association and Sport Yukon where needed.

Rock Creek Flood 2009

YTG Photos and background

At approximately 1700 on May 1st the Klondike River rose in the Rock Creek area due to ice jams. By 22:00 approximately 46 cm (18 inches) of water had flooded the Rock Creek Road and four properties.

The Klondike Valley Fire Department (KVFD) and Protective Services? Wildland Fire Management undertook to inform residents and monitor the situation as it developed.

In the morning of May 2nd the water depth on the Rock Creek Road rose to over 61 cm (two feet) in some areas, thus limiting area access to heavy equipment.

Water also impeded access to the Klondike River Campground.

The KVFD and PS Wildland Fire Management continued to on the ground monitoring and information sharing with residents.

On May 2nd, an Incident Management Team was established under the Yukon’s Emergency Measure Organization (EMO) with the Klondike Valley Fire Hall designated as the Incident Command Post.

The IMT consisted of members from the Klondike Valley Fire Department and PS Wildland Fire Management personnel, with support from KVFD members, Highways & Public Works personnel and volunteers from the Canadian Rangers.

Jeff Stephensen, the KVFD Fire Chief, acted as the Incident Commander.

By noon on May 2nd some of the residents requested assistance in being evacuated from their properties.

EMO contacted Emergency Social Services to make arrangements to meet with the evacuees and asses their needs once they registered at the ICT.

In total, the IMT assisted in evacuating 28 residents, one cat and one dog from the area as well as with one camper stranded in the KR Campground. Three residents were assisted by Health and Social Services to find accommodations in the City of Dawson.

On the same day, the Yukon Energy Corporation shut down power to the community.

At approximately 22:30, some of the ice jams released and water started flowing out of the community.

On Sunday May 3rd members of the IMT assessed the area and determined that the Rock Creek Road was only partially passable to trucks for local residents due to a washed-out culvert.

It also determined that roughly 22 homes were affected by the flood waters.

Residents began returning to their homes to assess the damage.

Inspectors from Yukon Environment also traveled onsite to assess any environmental risks arising, for example, from damaged oil tanks or septic systems.

The YEC restored power to the community later in the day on May 3rd.

The IMT will continue to monitor the Klondike River over the next 48 hours for water and ice flow.





Rock Creek Aftermath

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

photos by Liz Woods

May 4, 2009

Liz Woods hasn't seen this much ice in her yard ever in the fifteen years that she has lived on the creek side of the Rock Creek Road. The living portion of her house is well above any water damage that might occur, but this year she's got tons of ice on her lawn and a decent sized wading pool on the lower sections. Her driveway is completely blocked. In Rock Creek on Monday her telephone was still out of service as well as her internet.

At Henderson's corner the Vogt family's home was surrounded by water. Jack and Lucy cut holes in the plastic of one of their greenhouses so the water would flow through. The other one was high enough to be safe, though there was water at the steps of their house.

The water continued to flow next door, where Sonya Stephenson says it flooded their yard from the driveway back to their front yard.

"It would have been over the top of your rubber boots," she said on Monday, "and we've got a big hole in our driveway."

Their house is high enough to have been safe and the water continued around to the back of their property.

"We got nothing compared to Rock Creek."

Jeff Stephenson is a member of the Rock Creek Fire Dept. and said he felt that Rock Creek got the worst flooding he had seen in many years.

The Stephenson kids thought it was great fun and went rafting in their flooded yard.

"They rafted from the top of driveway all the way down."



A view looking up Rock Creek. - Photo courtesy Liz Woods



Woods' driveway won't be passable for quite a while yet.

Photo courtesy Liz Woods



The Kerr house can be seen across the creek, but it seems that most of the ice ended up on the more heavily populated side.

Photo courtesy Liz Woods

A Yukon Journey – Part II

By Don Taylor dontaysl@hotmail.com (In Watson Lake and Stewart Lake)

In the spring of 1954 I camped briefly at Rainy Hollow on the Haines Road, and for a short time, on the shores of Kathleen Lake. When the snow had gone I moved to the White River as an assistant federal Park Warden, under Chief Warden Joe Langevin from Haines Junction. This was an interesting summer, but as the job was seasonal I moved back to Whitehorse in the fall, spending the winter in the town fire-hall with Chief Fred Blaker, Danny Nolan and his crew.



Watson Lake, Yukon Territory }
 April 4th, 1957 }

To wit } Prospecting Agreement between
Don Taylor of Watson Lake Y.T.
and Bill Storie of Cassiar B.C.

That we the undersigned members of a joint staking venture in the Stikine River Area of Northern British Columbia, agree to share equally any capital gain accruing from the sale of claims staked, on a fifty-fifty basis. We also agree to share equally any expenses we may incur in this undertaking.

Signed this Fourth Day of April, Nineteen
Hundred and Fifty Seven, at Watson Lake in
the Yukon Territory.

Signed *Don Taylor* Signed *Bill Storie*

The rest is history... Elected to the Yukon Legislature in 1961 I had the honour of representing the people of the Watson Lake District for the next twenty four years, the last eleven as Speaker of the House. Now in my retirement years, I continue to remain active, assisting my community and Yukoners generally, wherever and whenever I can. In November of 1979, I started the 'Winter Sched', a nightly radio communications link with trappers and others living in the bush over the winter months. When I came to Yukon the military were then calling Dawson, Mayo, some of the creeks and the river boats, every morning and evening on low frequency 4270 Kcs. I started being part of this system with an old Mark 19 tank transmitter while placer mining in the spring of 1951 from Cotteneva Creek. Following this practice, beginning in the winter of 1979, I began a scheduled bush radio service on 4441.0 with many folks living in remote areas around the region. Each night at 7 pm I give the day, date and a precise time check, then call each station individually to check on everyone, making sure all are doing well. With everyone listening at the same time, if someone is in trouble and I can't hear them because of bad signals, perhaps someone else can, and will relay the message and details. In the late winter of 1994-95 I was even able to help out the RCMP Centennial Patrol traveling between Dawson City, Yukon and Ft. McPherson, NWT, when some of their own communications failed. It's a service I enjoy providing, and the rewards are when our stations are collectively able to get folks out of unforeseen difficulties! This coming winter of 2009/10 will be my 30th annual 'Winter Sched' presentation.

Retiring from public office in 1985, I moved permanently to my home at Stewart Lake, located some 40 miles by air to the north of Watson Lake, Yukon and reside there ten months of the year, spending a month or so each spring and fall at my trailer residence in Watson Lake. For many years I operated with three guest cabins, as Taylors Place Fishing Camp, but when CPAir closed down its flight services to Watson Lake back in the late 90s, business fell right off to nothing.

Looking back over these past years, I feel it was extremely fortunate that my early trails led me north to spend my life here in Yukon. I will be forever grateful to the great many people I encountered in those early years, mostly for their valuable friendships and encouragement. A young lad in search of adventure and a future in Yukon could have asked for no more!

April 10 /2009



The other is my current comm center, and the red radios are Spilsbury/Tindall SBX11As. They are HF units I use for my winter Sched, and the list gives you an idea of some of the camps I am in contact with. The others are mostly VHF TK760 and marine radios. I also attach a couple of pictures to give you an idea where I spend most of my year at Stewart Lake. Thanks for your interest, Don



Solar power – Don Taylors Place at Stewart Lake



Stewart Lake
Image courtesy Don Taylor



Don Taylor – 2008

Photo courtesy Don Taylor dontavsl@hotmail.com (In Watson Lake and Stewart Lake)

Taylor, Donald Emerson (Watson Lake) B. Sept 22, 1933 at Toronto, Ontario. S. of Emerson R. Taylor and Olive Kennedy. Ed at Lambton Kingsway P.S, Toronto, St. Andrews Coil. Aurora, ant. and Lakefield Coli., Lakefield, ant. Active in Mining Exploration and Aviation since 1949. Former Dir. Yukon Chamber of Mines. Charter Member of Watson Lake Lions Club, and Lodge #565 B.P.O.E. Member of Commonwealth Parliamentary Assn.; Royal Cdn. Legion br.#254; Yukon Order of Pioneers; Whitehorse Lodge #46 AF&AM and Yukon Shrine Club. First elected to Yukon Legislature in 1961, re-elected 1964, 1967, 1970, 1974, 1978 and 1982. Appointed Speaker Dec 13, 1974, re-appointed Dec 1978, and July 1982. Retired in 1985. Continues as Citizens Advocate.

Party politics Ind. Address: Box 53, Watson Lake, Yukon, YOA 1 CO, - E-mail: dontavsl@hotmail.com Phone-(867) 536 7575.



DC3 on floats
(Military C47)

Image courtesy Don Taylor dontaysl@hotmail.com (In Watson Lake and Stewart Lake)

High Water on the Yukon

by Dan Davidson

May 4, 2009

All that water is actually on the other side of the dike, but it's not often that you can see it that clearly from the top of 7th and 8th Avenues. The White River cleared on Monday, flushing out the Yukon River upstream of Dawson. As usual, this secondary breakup left a lot more ice stranded on the shore than the original surge.

High water marks down at the ferry landing indicate that this surge was several metres higher on the shore at its peak than when these pictures were taken.



From top of 7th Avenue, looking down Duke Street.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



From top of 8th Avenue, looking down Queen Street.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The high water mark at the ferry landing.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

A MESSAGE FROM BILL WEIGAND

Our good friend and Author June Hutton (formally of Whitehorse some years ago) has just had her novel called "Underground" launched here in Vancouver by Cormorant Books with a great attendance. As part of the story is based in the Yukon she was recently interviewed by Dave White on CBC North Radio. We thought more Yukoners' might want to know about this excellent book. To learn more about the author and her book you can Google June Hutton Cormorant Books to view a neat interesting trailer.

Bill & Jeri Weigand bweigand@shaw.ca (In Steveston)

Her website is at <http://www.junehutton.com/>



June Hutton & Jeri Weigand
Photo courtesy Bill Weigand bweigand@shaw.ca (In Steveston)

Dome on the River Marks North Pole Anniversary

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

That strange structure at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon Rivers is not a new system to recording the annual spring Break-up.

The Geodesic Dome, along with the solar panels powering the radio transmission

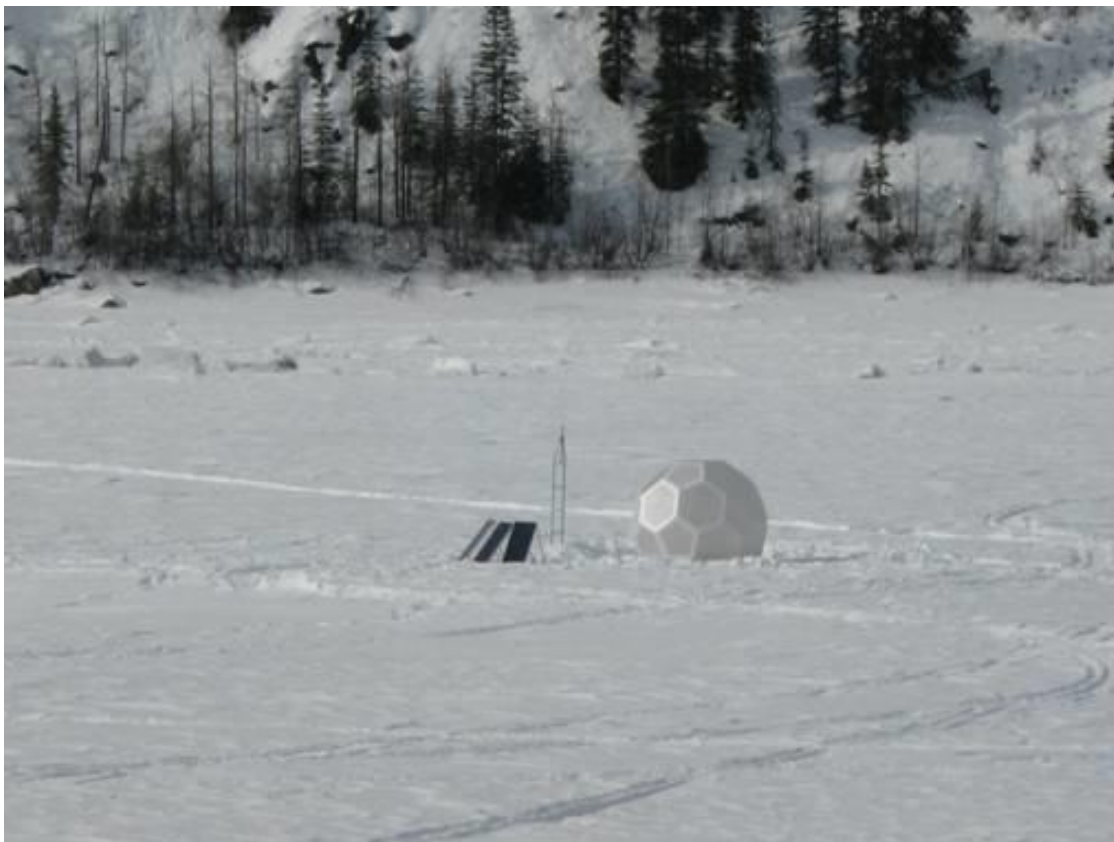
equipment inside it, is part of a project called Gravity's Rainbow. The microphones picked up a real time sound feed from the two rivers.

The soundscape project, created by Charles Stankieveh, was presented at the KIAC School of Visual Arts on April 6 to mark the centenary of the discovery of the North Pole on April 6th, 1909.

The concert of river sounds was introduced by a short talk about the history of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line in the Yukon. The stations typically featured domelike structures to house the radar arrays.

Buckminster Fuller perfected the design of Geodesic Radomes in the 1940s.

Stankieveh's artists statement says that "Gravity's Rainbow engages the ideology of Arctic Sovereignty as mediated and created with communication technology, from the failed World Telegraph line of the mid-1800s, through the Cold War DEW Line, to contemporary internet infrastructure."



While the tracks indicate that many people have ventured out to look at the Dome, any curious individuals should note that a hole of open water has opened behind it since this photo was taken, and that the icy current is very swift.

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

Cool Rods on the River

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

Given the assumption that there's nothing cooler than a skid that feels out of control but isn't, what better way to experience that thriller than to build your own little race track just off the ice bridge on the Yukon River and spend better than two hours on a pleasant Tuesday night negotiating the curves.

So that's what a bunch of Dawson's good old boys and girls did. They ploughed out the track on Monday night, leaving lots of big snow banks to crash into if things got out of hand, and spent Tuesday night zooming around it well into the twilight, which lasts well past 9:30 these days.

To do this properly you need a beater of a vehicle, something with a manual shift, preferably a stick shift, and a set of tires that grip just enough to propel you around the track, slewing at every bend and curve.



All this ice should be gone in about a month, but it's fun while it lasts.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Cool Rods.

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

COMMENTS FROM MYRNA BUTTERWORTH

MocTel 281 great pictures of all at the Yukoners. Really enjoyed photos of the kids I went to school with, where has all the time gone?

MocTel 282 memories of CFYT and CBC in the 50's from Ted North and Harvey Burian lots of stories there.

Looking forward to Don Taylors stories as I often listened to Don's reports from his home in the Bush out of Watson Lake keeping everyone in contact with each other.

Summer IS coming slowly but surely, our next event in Dawson is Breakup, hopefully sometime within the next 3 weeks.

Take care.

Myrna Butterworth myrnab@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

RCMP PHOTOS AND STORIES – Can anyone help with this?

We hear the RCMP are gathering for an event in Whitehorse at the end of May. Triggered me to look in the "old pictures" box and I came across this photo taken at the RCMP Ball on May 29, 1970. We see Commissioner Jim Smith, Dorothy Smith, Inspector Bob Wood, Helen Wood and then ?... Bob and Edi Cousins and Jeri in 2nd row. The RCMP members were so much a part of every Yukon community over the years and it would be great to see more RCMP memories and photos in MocTel. We enjoyed the George Bliss Highway Patrol stories, thank you George. The annual ball was a popular event for many years. Must be more pictures out there. More stories. Perhaps someone will fill in the names on the front row.

Regards Bill Weigand bweigand@shaw.ca (In Steveston)



RCMP Ball – 1970

Photo courtesy Bill Weigand (bweigand@shaw.ca) (In Steveston)

The front row, L to R are Yukon Commissioner Jim and Dorothy Smith, myself and wife, Helen, Alaska State Troopers Commissioner Mel and Shirley Personnett - Judge Hank & Jeannie Madison. 2nd. row: Dic & Marge Coates (DPW), Captain Richard L. Burn, Alaska State Troopers, Bob & Edie Cousins, Bill & Jeri Weigand. I have many other photos taken at various social events during our three years in Whitehorse. We were looking forward to attending the festivities in Whitehorse this year but health problems dictate otherwise. Hopefully we will be able to attend the next 'Northern Nite' wherever it is held.

Bob Wood rwood51894@aol.com

RUPERT THE ROBIN

I had to fix Rupert the Robin on Youtube. So the video is now at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ve7D8T0YBxA>

Regards, Les McLaughlin (In Ottawa)

Re: Recent Moc Tel story regarding Don Taylor

Greetings Don:

I am writing about your Moc Tel photo with 5 fellows in it. The caption under it is: *Slim McMillan, Ed Blyler (Bleiler), Dr. Hans Froberg, Mike McCallian (McCallion), Alex Beret*

I have corrected the spelling of Ed Bleiler, my father, and Mike McCallion, who for many years worked off and on for my father.

I suspect you met this rag-tag group on a prospecting trip. Dr. M.H. Froberg was a Toronto geologist who worked for what is now Tech Corp. Tech formed a small Yukon based exploration company called Gaymont Prospecting, which my father was in charge of. Dr. Froberg would come north each year during the active summer exploration season. I suspect also, your photo was taken between 1954 and 1957. Those were the years in which Gaymont Prospecting was active in the Yukon. This company was formed during the period of the Kluane/Burwash nickel strike and the Clinton Creek asbestos discovery. Tech was also hopeful that more silver bearing galena might be found in the greater Mayo area.

I notice you sold some gold to R. G. Lee, who owned the Key Bird store in Whitehorse until his retirement to Victoria in 1956. Gordon Lee was my uncle, married to my mother's sister, Evelyn.

I suspect we met during the period you were active in Yukon Politics. Many years ago I was President of the Klondike Placer Miners Association, during that very turbulent period when the Federal Government was bent on exterminating placer mining. After graduating from UA Fairbanks, I went to Australia for 10 years. After returning to Canada with my Aussie wife, we spent 30 years in the Yukon mining on Highet Creek in the Mayo region. My grandfather and father mined there earlier, with my grandfather starting his operation in 1903. I finally mined the property to exhaustion by 2004. I think our family can claim the longest period of mining on one property in the Yukon--and that wasn't Dawson property. My grandfather, like many others, got to Dawson in 1898. He did acquire property on Lovet Gulch/Bonanza and mined there for 5 years before going to Mayo.

The photo you emailed to Moc Tel is probably better than how it appeared on the web. Could I ask you to please email me a scan of the photo.

Regards: Lowell Bleiler [vanyukoners*aol.com](mailto:vanyukoners@aol.com) (In Vancouver)

Lowell,

Thanks for your email, and sorry I couldn't get back to you until now. The fellow in the plaid jacket is me, and the sixth fellow on the right is 'Alex Berry' representing Conwest Exploration. Throughout the early 50s I did quite a bit of staking for different companies but have few pictures left. Got to run, but I am not very good with computers so hope this will work better. Regards and good to meet you,

Don Taylor dontaysl@hotmail.com (In Watson Lake or Stewart Lake)



Don Taylor, Slim McMillan, Ed Bleiler, Dr. Hans Froberg, Mike McCallion, Alex Berry
Photo courtesy Don Taylor

EAGLE ALASKA TAKES HIT FROM MAJOR ICE JAM

Hi Sherron, these are some pictures of the Flood at Eagle, My daughter Robbie sent them to me from a friend in Eagle. The water has started to recede, but the mess is something else. Thought you might like to see them. It is really so devastating, one can't imagine.

Myrna Butterworth myrnab@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

I tried to e-mail MocTel reader Jean Turner in Eagle and the e-mail was returned. - Sherron



OBIT

My brother, Ray, worked on one of the Paddlewheelers on the Yukon River, between Whitehorse and Dawson City. A few oldtime Yukoners will remember him including Bill Drury, Babe Richards, Gudrun Sparling, and Lloyd Ryder.
Joyce (Richards) Yardley

Raymond Eric Coke Richards (Sept. 28, 1919 - April 19, 2009)

Ray Richards peacefully slipped away April 19th at the Al Hogg Pavilion, Peach Arch Hospital in his 90th year. He is survived by Anna Richards, mother of his children, Raymond (Gwen) of Rock Creek, Tom (Shirley) of Logan Lake, Bob (Patricia) of Penticton, Eric (Barbara) of Oliver, Linda of Vancouver, his five grandchildren, Scott, Kelly, John, Annemarie, Michael and great grandson Michael. He is also survived by his sister Joyce Yardley, of Nanaimo.

He is predeceased by his father and mother, Eric and Grace, his brother Ted, and sisters Dora and Wilda.

Ray enjoyed spending time in the outdoors with his family in his younger years. He loved his mining, writing and photography.

We thank the staff of Peace Arch Hospital for the excellent care, love and compassion shown to our father during his stay with them and for making him feel as part of their family.

In lieu of flowers, any donations to Alzheimer's research would be appreciated.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Once again here is my new address:

(#105) 4200 Grandview Drive
Castlegar, BC, V1N 4X6

My phone number is (250) 304-2273

My EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

bestoptions@shaw.ca

Bye for now,
Ruth McCallum

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action.-
Benjamin Disraeli*

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Pate Chinois

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

1 lb hamburger
1 can whole kernel corn
Mashed potatoes

Boil meat until it changes colour to a light brown. Add spices – pinch of cloves and salt and pepper. Place meat in casserole and corn on top of meat and finally add potatoes to fill casserole. Spread butter on top of potatoes and place in oven preheated to 400-450 degrees until brown.

Claude Dupre
Montreal, Quebec
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.ca.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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