

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 288th Edition – July 19th, 2009

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



Fireweed along Top of the World Highway – July 2009
Photographer unknown

Canada Day in the Klondike

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

July 2, 2009

Canada Day in Dawson really got under way about 11 a.m. when the sound of horns blaring announced the beginning of the parade, led this year by M Divisions new retro RCMP black & white cruiser, followed by most of Dawson's detachment led by Sgt. Dan Gaudet.

This will be Gaudet's last Dawson parade and he was greeted along the way with shouts of "We'll miss you Dan."

The Hän singers followed in full regalia, singing the traditional "Flag Song" from the back of a pickup truck.

There were lots of children on decorated bicycles this year, as well as city manager Eldo Enns on his Victorian two wheeler.

The combined Dawson and Klondike Valley fire departments filled out the parade, causing some tourists to wonder just how many fire trucks a town this size needed. They hadn't noticed that several of the machines, including the one ridden by Diamond Tooth Gertie and her Girls, were antiques from the Fire Fighters' Museum, fired up for their two annual outings.

Taking about fifteen minutes to pass any particular spot along the route, the parade wound down King St., along Front St., up Princess St. to Fifth Avenue and along past Victory Gardens to Minto Park.

Formalities began at the Gardens with the raising of the flag by Legion members and the singing of "O Canada" by Diamond Tooth Gertie.

Attention then shifted to the podium and microphone on the Museum's front steps where executive director Laura Mann introduced the speakers for the morning.

Mayor John Steins led off with some reflections on Canada Day.

"What's Canada Day all about? It's a day that we can all afford to stop momentarily and reflect on the privilege of living and thriving in a great country, a country that was built on the blood, sweat and tears of our predecessors who carved out a place in the world where every opportunity is available to those who dare try.

"We have it all, folks. We have natural beauty, boundless forests, abundant clean water, natural resources and invigorating fresh air to breathe.

"It's also a day to rejoice in Canada's diversity, where tolerance and recognition of cultural differences is embraced and celebrated.

We truly are a nation of nations, setting an example for the rest of the world on how we can all live and work together while respecting our differences.

Steins noted that Canadians tend to be quiet and unassuming about their accomplishments, but that Canada Day was a day when we "were allowed to blow our horn at least once a year and celebrate our great country."

In keeping with that theme MLA Steve Nordick wasn't content until he'd coaxed several cheers from the crowd as he began.

"Welcome to Dawson City, one of the best places on earth to celebrate Canada's 142nd birthday.

"We are all here today continuing to celebrate this great country of ours. If you are a visitor to Canada please visit with my fellow Canadians and experience all this community has to offer for then you will understand and know why I am proud to be a Canadian."

Minister of Tourism Elaine Taylor spoke next. "It's my honour and privilege to be back here in Dawson City, the heart of the Klondike and, I have to say, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else on this particular day, especially given the weather."

Dawson, she said, had been significant to the original inhabitants of the area even before the Gold Rush, and it took on a different significance after that event.

"That (discovery) changed life here ... and changed the tone of the Yukon as well."

Taylor mentioned the development of the arts in Dawson and the historical significance of buildings like the one housing the Museum, designed, as were several key buildings in town, by dominion architect Thomas Fuller.

In particular, Taylor celebrated the life of Martha Black, an early female political pioneer who was also an entrepreneur, miner and environmental champion.

Dan Lang celebrated his first Canada Day as the Yukon's senator in Dawson City, much to his evident delight.

"We know that Dawson City is the heart of the Yukon and your good mayor told me it is also the real capital of the Yukon."

Lang brought greetings from Prime Minister Harper, whose brief visit here last August apparently left a strong impression on him. "He spoke of how highly he thought of Dawson City and how it tied into his idea of the northern priorities of the government of Canada."

Lang recalled the Dawson flood of 1979 and commented on how well the town had come back from that low point to what it now was.

"What a transformation. What a beautiful community, and all you people in Dawson City have to take the credit in making it the community it is today. It's certainly a nice community when you walk around as a visitor."

"Each and every one of us who were born here, we have won the lottery," Lang said.

The day continued with Lang cutting the Canada Day birthday cakes and the hundreds of people on the museum grounds partaking of the Country BBQ lunch, as well as participating in the country style dancing on the boardwalk.

Elsewhere, outside the Fry Recreation Centre and Diamond Tooth Gerties, the annual

Yukon Goldpanning Championships had begun registration and were getting under way, taking up most of the afternoon. After last year's downpour, the sunny skies and heat of this Canada Day were a distinct improvement.

There was also a road hockey contest under way at the tennis courts behind the swimming pool, where a Twoonie Day swim was under way.

At the Dänojà Zho Cultural Center there was beading and Hän games, and just up the street there was live music at the Gazebo.

The day ended with the annual Klondike Placer Miners' BBQ & Dance, which began with a concert for kids.

Dawson was packed for the day and spirits were high this year.



Diamond Tooth Gerties and her girls in Dawson's antique fire truck
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Future firefighters perch in the doorway.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Front Street was packed as the parade went by.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Old and new cycles.

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



The Rec. Center organized the bike parade.

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



The Han Singers were in the parade for the first time this year.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Senator Lang cuts the birthday cakes.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Diamond Tooth Gertie sings “O Canada” with the Mounties and the Legion.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



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



Elaine Taylor

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



Everything Old is New Again with this Crown Victoria.

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



Mayor John Steins.

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

YUKON MUSICAL HISTORY BEING PRESERVED

Sherron: There was an interesting gathering in Whitehorse on July 4th, 2009 - these photos show three people who have a lot of talent and who's contribution to the Yukon has been outstanding.

Al has written, composed, sang and produced over 100 Northern and Yukon songs. Hank Karr has sang and produced CD's of many Oster songs and other northern ones, and Les McLaughlin has worked with both as a producer.

Currently Les is working with Oster on a video production of his life.

He is also working with Karr on a DVD of Yukon songs illustrated with scenery and photos.

Al Oster has written and recorded authentic northern songs in verse and in song that ranks him as one of Yukons leading historians.

Rolf Hougen marg@hougens.com (In Whitehorse)



Les McLaughlin, Rolf Hougen, Al Oster, Hank Karr
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen marg*hougens.com (In Whitehorse)

Hi Sherron. Yes we had a swell time in Whitehorse when the four of us - Hank, Al, Rolf and myself - got together. In his note, Rolf could have added his own immense contributions to the Yukon including its musical history. As owner of radio station CKRW which is celebrating its 40th year in 2009, Rolf has been a major contributor to the ongoing promotion and preservation of the Yukon's colourful past, present and future. Yukon performers are often featured on the radio station and coverage of special events like the Sourdough Rendezvous, sled dog races and much more is an important element in creating a culture of support for Yukon music and history.

At our get together in Whitehorse, it was the first time in many years that Hank, Al and I had an opportunity to share some stories and laughs about the good old days. It was back in 1965 that I hosted a radio show called Northern Jamboree which was led by Hank Karr with weekly guest appearances by Al Oster. The shows, first produced in the Whitehorse Inn ballroom and then in the CBC studios at Third and Elliot were first produced by Cal Waddington and later by myself. Northern Jamboree was the first syndicated radio program to be heard across the CBC's Northern Network. Copies of some of the broadcasts - those that survived - are now in the Yukon archives. In later years, we produced a series of concerts called True North which were aired and later televised

across Northern Canada as well as a series of broadcast recordings of northern entertainers such as Al and Hank.

In addition, Al Oster once worked as an on camera host for WHTV which was until recent years owned by Rolf Hougen whose contribution in bringing television service to northern Canada cannot be over-stated. So it is fascinating to see how the circle of relationships and friendships continues to grow. As Rolf mentioned, I am presently working on a new DVD of northern songs with Hank Karr as well as producing a series of video stories on the life history of Al Oster.

Today, both Al and Hank have CDs and DVDs of their northern music for sale and both are very popular with both Yukon visitors and residents alike. Hank's composition called After Yukon is quickly becoming a Yukon anthem as is Al's Yukon Book of Memories. So you can see that our get together was not only a recollection of past performances but a look to the future as well.

Best regards

Les McLaughlin leslorn@rogers.com (In Ottawa)

MOCTEL 287

Hi Sherron

Just finished speed reading Issue #287 and KUDOs to you for it's a fine publication and now I can contact some of my old buddies like Val Scheck and Allan Ashby.

Take care and have a good weekend and someday soon I will send you the next (SAGA) chapter of my life after leaving the employment of White Pass & Yukon Route in year 1969 until current.

Best regards

Gerry Garant ggarant@shaw.ca (In Abbotsford)

MOCTEL 287

Hi Sherron!

Oh my goodness – just have to take time out to thank you for the update on Eagle!

The Dawson folks have been our steady and saving grace through this whole disaster! We will never, EVER be able to adequately express our thanks for everything compassionate Dawsonites have done for our community.

We never had any doubt BEFORE the flood ... but now we know even more deeply. You folks are our true neighbors, brothers and sisters. Bless you all!

(And a loud bark-out to Max Bowie for those bags of food – from Duke and Stryder!)

John and Madeleine – a truly well-deserved celebration! You are jewels of the Yukon.

Jean Turner njturner@aptalaska.net (In Eagle AK)

MOCTEL 287

Sherron, just a quick note to say how much we enjoyed Gus Barrett's "Father MacNaught". We always enjoy his poems very much, but this was priceless. Thank him so much for us and tell him to keep them coming. Also thank you for keeping the Moc Tel coming. It's also priceless.

Cheers, Helga Crosby fore65@shaw.ca (St Andrews by the lake, near Kaleden BC)

Two e-mails in two days from the Crosby's....can you imagine that.

I hope it's not too much of a bother, but I need an updated Yukoner's list. I wanted to wish John Gould a happy 90th birthday but the list I have is 2008 and John is not there.

Many thanks, Karl Crosby

Helga and I met John and Madeleine Gould in 1972 - the summer we lived in Dawson City while I was doing the gambling feasibility study for Diamond Tooth Gerties. John took me under his wing and introduced me around town and Madeleine taught Helga how to bake bread. Helga used Madeleine's bread recipe for years....it was wonderful bread. John was one of the people who was always enthusiastic about the future of Dawson City and one of the town's biggest promoters. He was one of the pioneers of the tourism industry in the area and it is only fitting and most deserving that he was recognized for his significant contribution over so many years.

Vi Campbell was one of our wonderful neighbors that summer and we met so many other people whose names we see from time to time in the MocTel. We still talk about that unforgettable summer and the memorable people we met like the Frys and the Bremners. We used to visit a wonderful old gentleman out on Bonanza Creek. I think his name was Pete Pomachino (spelling?). I believe he worked on the dredges at one time and he loved to talk to the Pauli and Scott who were three and five at the time. He always had

something good to eat for them. He kept his food in a cold space beneath the floor of his cabin.

I remember the day I met Black Mike Wenniger (spelling?) for the first time. He waved his cane at me and shouted that he knew I was that "government man and suggested that I leave town" or words to that effect. This went on for the first two or three times we met until Mike decided that I just wasn't in town for the day. Thereafter, he would give me a curt nod when we passed on the street. I was kind of sorry to hear he died many years later. I thought he might live forever as some said he was over 100 even back then.

We spent many a long Klondike day exploring the creeks, boiling water for tea and having lunch on tailing piles. There is no question that the Klondike wove its spell on the Crosby family that summer and left us all with great memories.

Karl Crosby fore65@shaw.ca (St Andrews by the lake, near Kaleden BC)
Yukon Department of Tourism and Information (1970-1980)

MOCTEL POWER

Just thought that I would like to pass it on that the Power of the Moccasin Telegraph has worked once again. In the new subscribers column a couple of issues back I noticed a Carol Gordon-Cooper became a member. Carol and I went to school in Whitehorse and were in many of the same classes. We would also "run into each other" in town right up into the mid seventies when I left the Yukon. After reconnecting with her we have been able to enlighten ourselves as to where old friends etc. have gone. Some good news and some not! Glad to be here! Thanks.

Cheers, Harry Miller ee.miller@shaw.ca (In Coombs BC)

CORRECTION

As always I enjoy reading MocTel. In the last issue of MocTel you had printed the recipe for the "Pumpkin Nutmeg Rolls", which I submitted.

You indicated I live in Slocan, B.C. We live in Slocan Park, B.C. Slocan is 25 miles north of us. I know it is confusing; quite often we get mail that is addressed to us but sent to Slocan rather than Slocan Park.

The website www.slocanvalley.com explains this area very well.

Cheers, Elena Popoff popoff47@xplornet.com (In Slocan Park BC)

The Heat Didn't Faze Panners at this Year's Gold Panning Championships

by Kristen Carlson

Submitted by Dan Davidson

Klondike Sun Student Reporter

July 4, 2009

The heat didn't keep the crowds away at the 2009 Yukon Gold Panning Competition in Dawson city on July 1. In fact, after last year's chilly torrential downpour, it was welcomed.

Bleachers in the recreation centre parking lot were full and the fences around the 30 gold panning basins were lined with cheering onlookers as competitors bent over their metal pans, hurriedly swishing gravel in the water, then carefully placing precious, shiny flecks into their glass vials.

The Championships got started with the Sourdough Open, for men and women over 60. Old-timers took to the basins, pouring buckets of gravel into their pans and skillfully extracting their gold. Art Sailer was the winner, collecting 5 gold flakes in 5 minutes and 30 seconds. In second place was Robin Archibald, and third was Noreen Sailer.

In Cheechako open, visitors to Dawson took to panning. Contestants came from Alaska, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Ontario, B.C, Alberta, Quebec, Germany, Switzerland and New Zealand. Brad Rowe from B.C. took first place having collected 5 gold flakes in 8 minutes and 54 seconds. Second was Pam Atkinson, and third was Micah Quinn.

The Youth 12-15 category came next and Andrew Steventon from B.C. took first place having collected 3 flakes in 14 minutes and 46 seconds. Alicia Atkinson came in second and Erin Delaney was third.

In the Kids under 11 years category, Connor Atkinson from B.C was the winner, collecting his flakes in 21 minutes and 20 seconds, followed by Madison Stevenson and Connor Fellers.

The Klondike Open category saw Herbert Zeman of Austria win in 2 minutes and 40 seconds, followed by Paul Robitay and Robin Archibald.

The Corporate Challenge 'gold' went to French Hill Mining, whose members collected 32 flakes in 33 minutes and 44 seconds. In second was Gold Bottom and third place went to the Ace Placers.

Finally, the Yukon Open saw Dawson's own James Archibald collect 9 flakes in an impressive 3 minutes and 3 seconds, winning the tournament for the second year in a row and beating last year's time by more than two minutes.

Archibald says he has competed in gold-panning championships for the past 25 years and has been to the world championship six times. Having been in the mining business for 49 years, he is of the longest-time miners in Dawson. He says he doesn't practice for the championships, but he does some panning when he's prospecting for gold. "There's no secret trick to it," he insists. "It's all hard work."

Second place went to Diane Schroeder from Dawson. Archibald and Schroeder both won a cash prize and the chance to go to Biella, Italy for the gold-panning world championships at the end of August.

"I can't believe it," said Schroeder with wide eyes as she was gifted her award. Lorraine Miller, also from Dawson, came in third place.

Winners from each category received ribbons this year, as well as pencil crayons for the youth. Cheechakos were awarded with a certificate of participation, and all contestants got to keep their vials of hard-earned gold flakes.

Pat and Jordie Jordan came all the way from New Zealand to watch and take part in the championships. They planned a trip a year ago when they heard about the special Canada day event from friends.

"The day has been just great," says Pat who stayed to watch the competition until the end. MLA Steve Nordick, and Minister of Tourism and Culture, Elaine Taylor, were spotters for the gold-panners, making sure contestants followed the rules and weren't interfered with while they panned.



Proud winners of the Cheechako (newcomer) heat, Micah Quinn, Pam Atkinson and Brad Rowe show off their ribbons. This category was open to newcomers and those with little to no panning experience. Photo courtesy Kristen Carlson (In Dawson)



French Hill Mining took gold in the Corporate challenge. Photo courtesy Kristen Carlson (In Dawson)



Paul Robitay, Noreen Sailer and Art Sailer rush to find their gold.



An excited audience cheered on the gold-panners in the intense summer sun.
Photo courtesy Kristen Carlson (In Dawson)



Winners of the Klondike Open heat: Herbert Zeman, Paul Robitay and Robin Archibald.
Photo courtesy Kristen Carlson (In Dawson)



First and second place in the Youth 12-15 category: Andrew Steventon and Alicia Atkinson. Missing is third place winner, Erin Delaney.
Photo courtesy Kristen Carlson (In Dawson)



James Archibald, Dianne Schroeder and Lorraine Miller were top three in the Yukon Open. Photo courtesy Kristen Carlson (In Dawson)



Connor Atkinson and Madison Steventon [Stevenson ?] placed in first and second, respectively in the U-11 competition. Missing is third place winner Connor Fellers
Photo courtesy Kristen Carlson (In Dawson)

A MESSAGE FROM BETTY (GORDON) LONE

Seems I have had far too much to keep track of lately; just got back from the north again as went to get more stuff done at moms [Jean Gordon]. It's quite a job when all is left behind. One wonders what to do with a lot of things. I really appreciate all the work you do on Moc Tel. There are a lot of people that are new to me but I enjoy all the news of old friends and comments by the newer ones. It makes me feel even better about the time period I was raised in as I still feel I had more out of life in those years than any of the later ones. We lived and experienced life and everyday was an adventure. Keep up your good work and enjoy the summer.

Betty (Gordon) Lone

LONE, Betty (GORDON) lonehbk*xplornet.com (Born in Dawson, lived Granville, Mayo & Keno until 1959) Morden MB

Faro Kicks Up its Heels at 40

by Dan Davidson

July 4, 2009

Faro, once the second biggest community in the Yukon, and once responsible for one-third of the value of the territory's economy, now bills itself as "Yukon's Best Kept Secret", but the little town built on several "benches" on the side of a mountain, was blowing its own horn loudly during the first week in July.

It was time for Faro to celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Faro has seen hard times and boom times.

The original town site burned to the ground before anyone ever got to live in it and had to be rebuilt.

As a company town in the strictest sense of the word, its prosperity always fluctuated with the fortunes of whichever company owned the mine, so there were good times and bad, strikes and lockouts, and a succession of owners whose misadventures elsewhere jeopardized the lives of people who wanted to live in Faro.

When the mine was shut down and the entire work force let go in 1985 (not 1982 in spite of what may be recorded elsewhere) families had to leave, since their homes were all company owned.

A couple of revivals down the road that was no longer the case, as two later owners

divested themselves of staff housing and workers were able to buy the places in which they lived. So the final shut down in 1998 was a different matter.

In 1985 numbers had dropped during a three year period from over 2000 to under 75, and the school population from 500 to 7 that September.

In 1998 hundreds of people stayed, and the population eventually stabilized at around 350 in the winter and over 400 in the summer, with around 45 school students.

So - in 2009 it was time to celebrate history, and survival and the future.

Events began on Canada Day, which included a 10 km Farothon, a parade, BBQ's for noon and supper, and a meet and greet jam session at the Campbell Region Interpretive Centre and in the new Gallery Gift Shop that ran well past midnight.

There are phases in the life of Faro and Mayor Michelle Vainio says that about 40 people from the pre-1985 population squeezed into a group photo that night.

Mine tours ran once or twice a day over the weekend, and passengers got a look at the reclamation work which will be part of Faro's next 15 years.

Thursday was the day for open houses. A group that varied in size from half a dozen to two dozen toured the Faro Bible Chapel, the Conservation office, the RCMP detachment, the Gallery, the Yukon Energy Corp. plant, the Health Care Centre, Del Van Gorder School, Yukon College, the town offices, the Liquor Store (for a free tasting event) and the Public Library.

The school and the library were hotbeds of nostalgia as old school yearbooks and many issues of the Raven newspaper were on hand to be leafed through. At least one old birth announcement was photocopied that day.

Golf enthusiasts skipped the open houses and toured the community another way, taking a swing through the town by following Faro's unique nine hole course.

There were two dances, a bingo game, demonstrations by local artists and a karaoke night at the Studio Lounge.

For outdoors types there was a release of fish fry at Fisheye Lake on Thursday evening, and a Friday afternoon hike to Van Gorda Falls.

Several hundred people turned up for the festivities, although they didn't all come at the same time and they could not all stay for the entire party.

The John Connolly Campground in town was booked to capacity for all four nights, but the town has lots of spaces where there used to be staff ATCO trailer housing, and it was easy to provide water to some of these for overflow parking.

While YTG's Johnson Lake Campground on the Faro access road is well appointed, attractive, and fitted with lots of pull-through sites, this was an event about people, and campers who wanted to be where the people were.



Welcome to Faro - The sign at the town's entrance welcomes visitors to the Yukon's Best Kept Secret.

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



Golfing - The town's golf course winds through the town.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Checking Memories - In town council chambers people poured over a display of old photographs, trying to put names to faces.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Health Centre - You can't plan to have your child born in Faro any more, but some of the parents in this group recalled the days when you could.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Mayor Michelle Vainio kisses the cod to become an honorary Newfie. Faro was once one of Newfoundland's larger villages.

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



Lush Faro - Once known as the "land of burnt sticks" Faro is now surrounded by a lush boreal forest and eco-tourism is part of this former mining town's future.

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



Mine tour - A group hears how the toxic tailings from the mine's heyday are being treated. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Uffish Thoughts: The Changing Face of Faro

by Dan Davidson

July 6, 2009

There's a rock in the mostly gravel field behind where our house used to be in Faro. It's somewhat less than a metre high, but when our kids were just over a metre high, 24 years ago, it seemed to them an impressive boulder and they used to troop out there with my mother when she came to spend part of each summer with us.

It took me a while to find it last weekend, my orientation being hampered by the fact that our spacious double-wide trailer is no longer there. Three of these units were owned by the Yukon Housing Corporation and housed three teaching families, all of which had children born around the same time. All of these are gone now, and I understand this corner triple lot is the most likely site for a new seniors' complex which will be constructed in town beginning next November.

Perhaps those two things say a lot about what has happened to Faro.

Jim McLaughlin, former MLA, former mayor, former theatre owner and many other things, tells me that all the doublewides except one have been moved out of the town since I last visited.

Most of the smaller trailers of that vintage are gone too. Overflow camping for the 40th Anniversary weekend was along a street just down Ladue Drive from our old place, a street once lined with single-wide yellow and brown ATCO trailers, part of a trailer park that extended along several streets and up past our house.

Trailer parks are generally thought of as impermanent places, no matter how long some

of those in Whitehorse may have been in existence. Our neighbourhood was a sign of Faro's transience. Yukon Housing was never willing to invest in more than trailers for Yukon government staff in Faro, who were mostly teachers, though there were social services, territorial office and liquor store employees as well.

That the corporation would now be prepared to invest in a fourplex for seniors is more than just a spinoff from the government's anxiety to spend all that stimulus money coming the territory's way.

It's indicative of another change in Faro as well. In my day - 1979 to 1985 - there were no seniors in Faro to speak of. In a population that grew to about 2200, with over 500 kids in the school at its peak, there were maybe eight to a dozen seniors, and they were honorary grandparents to every child in town.

The reason was simple. Hardly anyone owned a house in Faro in those days. There were two rows of privately owned dilapidated trailers just down the street from where we lived, but that was it. If you weren't employed by either the mine or the government you had no place to live, so retired people moved on.

There are lots of grey and white haired heads in Faro these days. The demography of the town has changed radically. Not only is it one quarter the size in total population and about 12% of the size in school population, it is skewed to the older end of the age scale. The youngest member of the town council is in her mid- 50s, so she tells me.

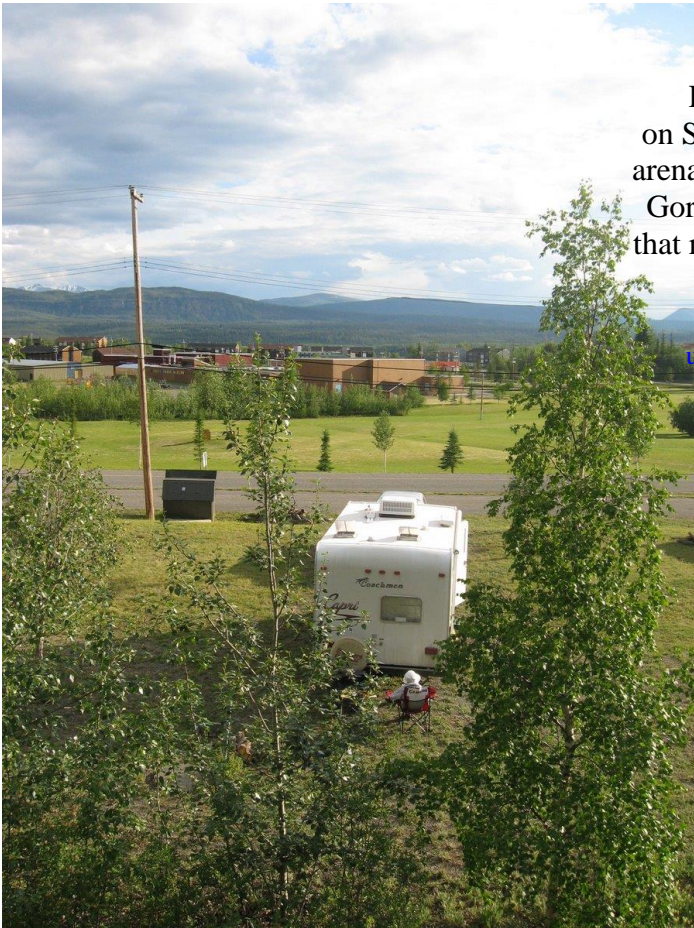
Quite a few of Faro's citizens are retired folk who bought their homes for perhaps 10% of what it cost Cyprus Anvil to have them built in the 1970s and 1980s. Their choice of residence no longer depends on their employment and they have chosen to live here.

Some of them, like the Boyle family, are old time Faroites who came back to a place they remembered fondly. Others, like Dale Gibson, the president of the rapidly growing Anvil Range Arts Society, moved here three years ago, after he and his wife researched the town and decided that it would be a good place to spend their retirement years. Gibson tells me they should have made the move sooner.

Faro may have been created for the sole purpose of housing mine workers, but it seems quite clear that people have found other reasons to be there in the 11 years since the mine was officially declared closed.



From Faro you can get a good look at the surrounding mountains.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



From the overflow camping site on Sheldon Road you can see the town arena, recreation centre and the Del Van Gorder School beyond the golf course that runs through what used to be a mud bog.

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



FARO - 42° 14' N, 123° 20' W - SITUATED IN THE SELWYN FOLD BELT RICH IN SILVER, LEAD AND ZINC - EXPLORATION FOR MINERALS BEGAN IN THE LATE 1800S WHEN THE VANCOUVER DEPOSIT WAS DISCOVERED IN THE 1890S. EXPLORATION OF MINERALS BOOMED. DR. BARTOLO - GEOLOGIST-MINING ENGINEER - LIKELY NAMED THE TOWN FROM THE FIRST CLAIM STAKE ON THE BREADBOY - NAMED FOR A CARD GAME WHICH WAS POPULAR DURING THE GOLDRUSH OF 1860. JOE LADUE - LOCAL NATIVE TRAPPER WHO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE DISCOVERY OF A VERY RICH DEPOSIT OF MINERALS WHICH LAY ON HIS TRAPLINE. AL KULAN - FOUND THE PRESENT OREBODY - PROSPECTOR/BUSINESSMAN.

These murals are displayed outside the Faro Recreation Centre tells the town's story. Photos courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



SUPPLIES WERE FLOWN INTO THE CAMP ON BURNT ROSE CREEK ON A BEECH 10 AIRCRAFT.
 1965 - ANVIL MINING COMPANY (COPPER - COPPER) EXPLORATION COMPANY
 1966 - ANVIL WAS BUILDING A ROAD TO CONNECT TO THE CAMPBELL HIGHWAY THROUGH VANGORDER CREEK - BURNT CREEK AND ACROSS THE PELLY RIVER VIA A FERRY (1967) - CAMPBELL HWY FROM CARMACKS TO LITTLE SALMON IN 1967 - TO FARO IN 1968 - FRIDAY JUNE 16 1969 FIRE DESTROYS THE NEW TOWN (LIGHTNING - OTHER) - FIRST PEOPLE MOVED INTO THE REBUILT TOWN IN SEPTEMBER 1969 - 1970 - JANUARY 28TH - ANVIL PROJECT OPENS - 1970 - JULY 17 - FARO OBTAINS OFFICIAL VILLAGE STATUS

1969 THE CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES - FIRST NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH (ORIGINALLY A SCHOOL BUILDING OWNED BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, DISMANTLED AND BROUGHT FROM KENO TO FARO WHERE IT WAS RECONSTRUCTED - DIRECTED BY FATHER PIERRE RIGAUD - LOCAL ARENA NAMED AFTER FATHER RIGAUD - FARO DEPOSIT RICH IN LEAD, ZINC OTHER MINERALS - LEAD-ZINC CONCENTRATE IS CARRIED OUT OF FARO IN ORE TRUCKS ("PUFFIN" TRUCKS - ORIGINALLY FLAT-TOP POTS) TO THE DOCKS AT SKAGWAY, IN ALASKA - 1972 - CABLE TV - 1970 - CBC RADIO COMES TO FARO - FIRST RAVEN NEWSPAPER ISSUED -

FATHER RIGAUD IN HIS GARDEN - ORIGINAL POST OFFICE IN 1920 "DOWNTOWN" FARO - FARO HOTEL - PERMAFROST CAUSED THE GROUND TO HEAVE AROUND THE BUILDINGS - HENCE "TITIN HILTON" 1976 - STRIKE / DURING THIS TIME LOCAL YOSU USWA HELPED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - BRANCH 207 - FARO AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE UNION HALL - FARO AIRPORT / SNOW MACHINE RACES ON JOHNSON'S LAKE (1973) NEAR THE FARO AIRPORT -





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



MESSAGE FROM BILL KLASSEN – Faro, McMillan Pass/North Canol, Carcross

As I mentioned a few years ago when I first subscribed, I arrived in the Yukon Territory in May of 1966 as a constable in the RCMP, stationed in Teslin. I served in a number of communities in the Yukon and met my wife, Rayanne, the summer I was the constable at the Burwash Landing summer detachment in 1967. Two of our four children (who were all born in the Yukon), and their spouses, and four of our five grandchildren live in the Whitehorse area. After leaving the RCMP I worked for the Yukon government and in the private sector. Now I'm more or less retired but still involved in environmental assessment of development projects like mines.

My wife and I just spent a good week camping with Carl Lofroth -- now living in Terrace but a former resident of Beaver Creek and Watson Lake where he worked for CNT -- and Bev Buckway, who was a little girl at Beaver Creek when I was the constable there. We went to Faro for its 40th Anniversary celebration and had a tour of the former Anvil mine site, now being actively reclaimed (at considerable taxpayers' expense). **We drove up the North Canol Road to Mac Pass and enjoyed the spectacular scenery.** The Itsi Range with its glaciers is especially impressive. We travelled down to Teslin Lake along the South Canol and had success fishing for grayling at one of the six crossings of Rose River. The Canol Road is my favourite route in the Yukon and I recommend your readers take the time to enjoy it, whether they are visiting the Yukon or living here.

Regards, Bill Klassen wjk*yknet.ca (In Whitehorse)

Hi Bill

Excellent, thank you very much. Have added your message to the next edition.

Can you drive the Canol up to MacMillan Pass? Isn't that east from Ross River? I am thinking it is the same area Jeanne Harbottle spoke about in her book -- when her first husband was trapping up the Canol when it was an abandoned pipeline road. She later did big game hunting in that area.

Would love to drive the Canol Road. How far does it go now? We tried going in from the Alaska Hwy once and turned around when it was in washout condition. Would also love to drive the newer highway to Ross River from Watson Lake. At least I think I have seen one on the maps.

My Bill has been talking of maybe making a trip north next summer, but I think we would have trouble leaving our place in the summer.

(ie. Irrigation failures etc. Several times this year a sprinkler has stuck open and continued to spray until we catch it. When Bill checks the zone valve it is plugged with

silt or a gel like substance; great Okanagan water.) Haven't said anything to him yet, but maybe the answer is to house trade for two or three weeks.

Thanks again Bill. Please send along a few photos from your trip and tell us more.

Sherron

Hello, Sherron:

Yes, you can drive the North Canol, the section from Ross River to the Yukon/NWT border all the way to MacMillan Pass. The road had been closed until a day or so before we drove up and the Highways crews and contractors were busy filling in some washouts. There were large holes that spanned the road that were full of water. Bev's pickup truck was up to its bumper in water in at least one of those holes. However, North American Tungsten has a tungsten deposit in the development stage right on the border, called Mac Tung, and the company had three tractor-trailer units haul equipment in over the road while we were there and one of the NWT big game outfitters had a cattle liner come in loaded with horses. So the road's not all that bad although it might be a challenge for an automobile. I believe the Yukon government has just announced a seven-year program to upgrade the North Canol.

The South Canol, from Johnson's Crossing on the Alaska Highway to Ross River, is in pretty good shape. You can drive it in an ordinary car quite comfortably.

I believe you're right that Jean Harbottle and her first husband, Tom Connelly, trapped in an area off the North Canol but it's been years since I read her book, so I don't remember exactly where.

The newer road you mention, the Campbell Highway (named for Robert Campbell of the HBC) runs from Watson Lake past Ross River and Faro right through to Carmacks. From Carmacks to the Ross River junction it's a very good road; from Ross River to Watson Lake it's narrower, a stretch of road I've not driven in about eight years. It too goes through some fine country.

I'm copying this to Bev Buckway who took a lot of pictures on the trip. Since she's more adept at getting digital images from her camera to her computer than I am, perhaps she'll send you some shots. She's on holidays right now and won't be back until sometime next week.

Regards, Bill

Sherron, My best bet is to send these a few photos at a time. Hope you can piece these together. - Bev Buckway balc*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Bev Buckway, Rayanne Klassen, Bill Klassen, Carl Lofroth

Carl was up visiting for a few months, and suggested a trip up the North Canol. We drove through Carmacks to Faro to catch part of their 40th anniversary, taking in a tour of the Faro Mine before heading north.

Photo courtesy Bev Buckway bale*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Photo courtesy Bev Buckway bale*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Had success fishing for grayling at one of the six crossings of Rose River.
Photo courtesy Bev Buckway bale*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



An example of water on the road. We had no difficulty on the road, although it is a slow road (second or third gear most of the way), which means you enjoy the scenery along the way. A delightful road for anyone that watches birds.

Photo courtesy Bev Buckway balc*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Bill Klassen in one of the abandoned vehicles.

Photo courtesy Bev Buckway balc*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Amazing that the road was built with the equipment shown here, compared to the typical construction equipment we see in use today.

Photo courtesy Bev Buckway balc*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Narrow road, one lane bridges.
Photo courtesy Bev Buckway balc*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Numerous lovely spots to camp along the way.
Photo courtesy Bev Buckway bale*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Strawberries, sweet little strawberries.
Photo courtesy Bev Buckway bale*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Very near the YT/NWT border.
Photo courtesy Bev Buckway balc@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



The mountains are on all sides-spectacular.
Photo courtesy Bev Buckway balc@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Rayanne & Bill Klassen, Carl Lofroth on the walking bridge at Ross River
Photo courtesy Bev Buckway balc*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Once off the Canol, we toured through Teslin, Tagish and Carcross to complete the loop.



Rayanne Klassen in Carcross, checking out the historical sign. Note the healthy rhubarb.
Photo courtesy Bev Buckway balc*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



The old hotel in Carcross is undergoing renovations
Photo courtesy Bev Buckway balc*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

A message for all the people that used to live in the Yukon and have not been back for awhile - pack your bags and come on up and reconnect. Many things have changed, and many things are just the same-fabulous scenery, lots of wildlife, friendly folks, the fishing is good, lots to see and do including cultural activities and recreational facilities-here are two links to get your planning started.

<http://www.visitwhitehorse.com/> <http://travelyukon.com/>

Bev Buckway balc*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

TOP OF THE WORLD – July 2009

Bill Jones received these photos from a neighbour of ours here in Vernon. The neighbour had received them from a friend in Quesnel. We do not know who the photographer is, but thought you would enjoy seeing them. Perhaps someone will recognize the vehicle.
– Sherron Jones sherronjones*shaw.ca (In Vernon)

Subject: Top of the World July/09

This is an area known as the "Top of the World Highway", going from Tok, Alaska, to Dawson City. Dawson calls it the Sixty Mile after a small river which has a lot of gold mining. Alaskans call their side of the border the Taylor Highway. I worked at the Clinton Cassiar Asbestos Mine which is off the Sixty Mile. We used to go to Action Jackson's to have a few beers. It's too bad there is so much smoke in the air. The sight of mountains in the distance for 360 degrees can be breathtaking. Wildfires are how we pay for this hot summer I guess. Eleanor





Smoke from wild fires



Hills are purple from the fireweed











WARNING

The area west of the Forty Mile River Bridge along Clinton Creek is subject to extreme flash flood events. Floods may be triggered by rain or physical instability. These events may occur at any time without warning.

PERSONS TRAVELLING IN THIS AREA DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK

Contact Government of Yukon at 867-667-3208 for further information.

Yukon
Energy, Mines and Resources



Road to Clinton Creek





Top of the World Highway





Action Jackson's in the distance



Action Jackson's



Action Jackson's



Action Jackson's



Action Jackson's



Canada Customs in the distance



Dempster in the distance



Fireweed



Fireweed

CF-CPY ON THE MOVE AGAIN

I heard recently that CF-CPY had been taken down off its pedestal and was being moved to the Transportation Museum. – Sherron

On Thu, Jul 16, 2009 at 10:52 AM, Sherron Jones <sherronjones@shaw.ca> wrote:

Hi Murray [Biggin]

Hear that CF-CPY has been moved. Any ideas for details for the MocTel?

Sherron

Hi Sherron- I just arrived home a few minutes ago. CPY was moved at 0400 this am and I was in attendance. I have been doing photo work all week and will call Donna who can arrange all the news and get it to you. Right now I'm going to catch some zzzzzzzzzzz's as I have a CASARA meeting tonight. Will try to get out to Donna's tomorrow.

Regards to you both,

Murray Biggin c1966-gjvp@klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)

On Thu, Jul 16, 2009 at 2:12 PM, Sherron Jones <sherronjones@shaw.ca> wrote:

Think Donna is still in Edmonton ???

Is CPY going to be on a rotating pedestal at the Transportation Museum ?

Sherron

Good morning Sherron - Didn't know Donna was away. And yes the DC3 is still giving us a wind direction. When I had left the site at noon yesterday the construction company still had the tail wheel snubbed down to 2 pieces of equipment but when I went to my meeting last night the aircraft was moving happily in the wind. I have unknown number of photos throughout the whole process and as soon as Donna returns I'll start my story of CPY. Sorry about the delay but this guy had to get caught up on his sleep. Another lovely day with smoke haze lingering about but for me it's too hot. It's been mid to high 80's (mid 20's to 30 one day past?) Hope all is well with you and yours.
Murray.

ARTISTIC TALENT



Praise

Created by Madeleine (Millen) Wakefield

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

I finished another doll, named Praise, and have attached her image for you. You can see part of the stand as it was borrowed from one of the other dolls and hooked into Praise's belt to showcase her. I have yet to order a stand for her – each is custom made, as the dolls vary in height - and when it is ready, it will hook under her arms, so you will not notice that part of it.

Hugs,
Madeleine

OBIT



Douglas James Thomas
May 13, 1944 to Dec 4, 2008

Doug was born and raised in Victoria B.C. He was active in Sea Cadets as a teen and a member of the Victoria Reef Rovers Scuba club. He started his interest in Amateur Radio there and continued his studies after he moved to the Yukon and gained his Advanced Amateur status. His call was VY1BD. Doug loved to chat with the older fellows and communicate by Morse code.

Doug had 3 sons, Dean, Kevin and Shayne. In 1977 he moved to Haines Junction with Dean where he lived until his death. For a short while he worked for the Department of Highways. Later he started wilderness guiding and led many adventurous trips in the back country.

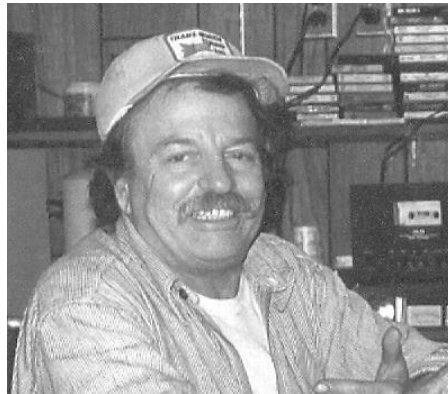
In the later years he worked as a guide with Dalton Trail Lodge and was very knowledgeable in fly-fishing and fly-tying.

Doug had a great sense of humour and brought laughter wherever he went. He could keep clients entertained around the campfire with a good Yukon story or a joke. He was also an excellent cook and could whip up a tasty meal over the campfire. Doug was a good handyman and was able to fix most anything. He always had some building project in his mind.

Doug left to mourn his wife, Carol, his 3 sons, 4 grandchildren and many friends in Haines Junction.

As his tombstone will say "He made us smile"

Submitted by: Carol Thomas pinelake*northwestel.net (Haines Jct.)



Norman Herbert Bastien Sr.

June 30, 1925 (Toronto, Ont.) – June 14, 2009 (Haines Jct., YT)

The family of Norm Bastien Sr. sadly announces the passing of their loving father, brother, grandfather and great-grandfather just 2 weeks shy of his 84th birthday.

He is survived by his sister Olivia Gooderham from Victoria, children Margaret (Paul) Arnoeld of Prince George, Norm (Jean) Bastien of Haines Junction, and Phil (Deborah) Bastien of Whitehorse. He leaves behind 11 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren from extended families. He was predeceased by his youngest son VanKarl in 1960, loving wife Olive in 1973, and youngest daughter Bonnie in 1998.

Norm enlisted in the Army during WWII and sometime after his discharge, he found his way to the Yukon in 1954. He was able to gain employment working on the Alaska Highway and brought his family to Haines Junction in 1955. After retiring from YTG, Highways Dept in 1986, he lived on Vancouver Island for 16 years before moving back to the Yukon in 2002.

Norm was an avid hunter and fisher and met many good friends on the lakes and rivers in the Yukon. A chance encounter on the shores of Dezadeash Lake with Harold and Betty Hamilton from Salinas, CA in the mid 1960's resulted in a friendship that spanned 40 years.

A keen hockey player, Norm played on the Army team in Whitehorse, as an ad hoc condition of employment when he first came north in the mid 50's. He later played with the BA team from Haines Junction with good friends Bill Brewster and Ken Baltimore. He was especially proud of his time as Assistant Coach with the first Jr. B team from the Yukon to participate in the Canada Winter Games.

Norm was an accomplished heavy equipment operator and one of the first instructors at the Yukon Vocational and Technical Training School in Whitehorse. Many of those maintaining Yukon highways today were taught by Norm.

Norm will be forever remembered best by friends and family for his amazing sense of humour and wit. And he never lied, only stretched the truth a bit.

The family would like to express their sincere and heartfelt thank you to the Haines Junction Seniors for their years of friendship and companionship; Dr. Anderson and all the staff, past and present, at the Health Centre who over the years have tended to not only his physical care but also his emotional well being; the Haines Junction Ambulance Crew for their gentleness and professionalism; Constable Dane McCarty of the Haines Junction RCMP for his support, assistance and compassion and Sharon Miller of Air North Airlines for her assistance.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Haines Junction on Labour Day weekend in September.

Phil Bastien pdbastien*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)
Norm Bastien hondahog*northwestel.net (Haines Junction)

John Anthony Coldwell

May 26, 1917 - July 13, 2009

Mr. John Coldwell peacefully passed away from us on Monday, July 13, 2009 at the age of 92 years. John was predeceased by his wife Pat of fifty years in 1995 and son Brian (Donna) of Kamloops in 2005.

John was born in North Battleford, Saskatchewan to Anthony and Linda Jane (nee Scott) Coldwell, where he grew up on a small rural farm with his three sisters, Myrtle, Marcella and Peggy, all of whom predeceased him.

John joined the army in 1941 as a member of the Canadian Corp. of Engineers, and was deployed to London, England. In 1943 he was reassigned to the Seaforth Highlanders and shipped to the Italian front. John was injured three times, and eventually, in a battle

in the Po Valley in Italy, a mortar shell injured his leg resulting in his being shipped back to England. John was returned subsequently to Calgary, Alberta for his discharge.

On Christmas Eve of 1943, John had met a bubbly Irish girl named Emily Gitrapp (later to be known as Pat) at a train station in Windsor. They were married on June 6, 1945 in Slough, England after his injury return. It was almost a year before Pat was able to join him in Canada when John was undergoing his discharge.

They moved to Edmonton, where John worked for a short time before they decided to seek their fortune in the Yukon frontier. John moved to Whitehorse in the winter of 1946 to find employment, whilst his young bride waited in Edmonton for the imminent birth of their first child, Brian. Pat and Brian then migrated to the Yukon in the spring of 1947 and the young family settled in Whitehorse, where they went on to raise five sons and a daughter. John spent his career in Yukon working for various federal departments in various capacities and was most proud of achieving his 1st Class Steam Engineer's Certificate.

John will be deeply missed by his children: Dennis of Whitehorse, Michael of Prince George, Cormac (Kim) of Vernon, Danny (Kelly) of Kelowna, Janet Gutowski (Walter) of Whitehorse, and daughter in-law Donna Kuromi of Kamloops, and his many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Services will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Saturday, July 18 at 11:00 AM.

Donations may be made to the Sacred Heart Parish.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Change of address for Edward Mikolas, it is: ecmik8@shaw.ca

Ed Mikolas

NEW ADDITIONS

I'd like to buy a year's subscription for my younger sister's (Teri McNaughton) birthday on July 12. Teri and I will be the same age for a month and three days! I'll send a cheque next week. Her email address is mcnaughtont@yahoo.ca.

Madeleine Wakefield mwakefield@shaw.ca (In Calgary)

Why thank you Sherron....that was certainly very thoughtful of Maddie...

Thanks for the greetings...have a super summer.

Cheers. Teri

Hello, Sherron:

I dropped off your e-mailing list a couple of years ago when I was experiencing difficulty with my e-mail service provider. Bev Buckway sent me the latest version of the Telegraph and I'd like to renew my subscription.

So, what is the current cost of an annual subscription?

Thanks.

Bill (and Rayanne) Klassen wjk*yknet.ca (In Whitehorse, Y.T.)

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

Please remove me from your list. I have enjoyed reading MocTel but due to health concerns in our family I don't seem to have much free time lately. Hopefully will be able to rejoin at a later date.

Regards & thank you for all the effort you put in making MocTel so interesting for everyone.

Millie (Speer) Bodnar

BODNAR, Joe & Millie (SPEERS) millie_speerbodnar@hotmail.com (In Yukon 1943-56 Swift River, Brooks Brook, Whitehorse, etc) Dawson Crk/Apache Jn

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

I had amnesia once -- or twice.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Submitted by Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)

Tomato & Onion Salad

Sliced Tomatoes
Sliced Red Onions

Add - olive oil - for that size salad I made- three times across with oil
Add - Balsamic Vinegar - about the same amount
Add - white vinegar - about 1/2 - 1 oz
Italian Spices sprinkle over
Ground Garlic to taste
Ground Pepper to taste
Salt
Marinate for at least 30 minutes

Enjoy

DATES TO REMEMBER

VANCOUVER ISLAND YUKONERS PICNIC

Saturday, August 15th
11am-3pm
St Mary's Church
2600 Powder Pt. Rd., Nanoose, B.C.

Hwy. 19 to Northwest Bay Rd. turn at the Petro Can station to Powder Pt Rd. right turn and just over the tracks St. Mary's Church is on your right.

Contacts: Sharon Redmond 250-713-6509 or Harriett 250-714-2774

Hope all is well with you and you will be able to attend. Thanks.

Harriett Butterworth harriett3@shaw.ca (In Nanaimo)

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

c/o Sherron Jones
9205 Orchard Ridge Drive
Vernon, B C V1B 1V8 Phone: 205-549-2736