

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 302nd Edition – January 24th, 2010

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



Berries & Leaves

Photo courtesy Doug Bell chechako46@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Linda Goyette: Seeing Unusual Encounters and Stories from the Margins

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

December 1, 2009

Linda Goyette is fascinated by five different kinds of stories, she explained to her audience of a dozen at the Dawson Community Library on November 23. Goyette is the latest in a distinguished line of writers-in-residence at Berton House.

She is currently working on a project which combines several of her interests. Under the working title of the Kids North Project she is writing a book about “true stories about childhood from northern Canadians of all ages. (as well as travelling) through time to find the children who lived in the North long ago.”

She told her audience she didn’t really like attending readings herself because the authors often presented their work in such a flat monotone. Goyette, a former journalist, doesn’t suffer from that affliction.

Mind you, she was speaking to people that she had met rather than a room full of complete strangers, Linda and her husband, Allan, have been busy in the town since they arrived and have been quite visibly enjoying themselves immensely.

“I feel that I know a little bit about each one of you,” she told her audience, “and that I’ve made quite a few ‘friends to be’ here.”

She began the evening by discussing why she likes to work with non-fiction.

“No story that I could ever invent intrigues me as much as the stories I hear from other people. I’m more interested in them.

“I like the detective work that goes with researching a non-fiction book. You actually spend far more time on the research than you do on the writing.”

She described her special interests and gave examples from her published work to illustrate them.

“I like encounters between people who are different and who would never meet.”

In her book *Rocky Mountain Kids* she told the story of a meeting between a group of native children and a mining engineer’s daughter. The girl kept a diary of that day, which she called “The Summer of my Happiness”, a poignant tale from a woman whose life ended in a Nazi death camp for the mentally deficient. Goyette tells the story from both points of view.

She likes differing accounts of the same event, perhaps as seen by people on different sides of the issue. This was illustrated by the story of Jimmy Jock Bird, who some people see as Canada’s answer to Jesse James and some see as a kind of folk hero, a fine fellow.

“I also find it very interesting (to collect) conversations between the past and the present. You’re probably sick of that in Dawson where you live with this 1898 to 1900 period all around you.

‘I’m interested in the important silences outside the margins of the stories we think we know. Here’s the story we’ve been told. Who’s all around the outside of that story not getting a word in edgewise?’

“Finally, for the last couple of years, I’ve been really interested in what I feel are the most forgotten, overlooked, neglected and deliberately ignored stories, and that is the stories of named children in Canadian history.”

This combination of interests has led her to write *Edmonton in ‘Our Own Words’* (with Carolina Roemmich in 2004), *‘Kidmonton: True Stories of River City Kids’* (2004), *‘Rocky Mountain Kids’* (2008) and *‘The Story That Brought Me Here’* (2008).

In addition, thinking about stories that have not been told, she edited *‘Standing Together’* (2005) a collection of stories about spousal abuse and family violence in Alberta from the experiences of 103 women.

It's easy to see how her five interests collide in all her books, but perhaps the mix can be seen the best in 'The Story that Brought Me Here', a collection of interviews with 36 writers from 26 countries, all of whom had interesting stories about how they came to Alberta.

Linda is painstaking with her interviews when the subjects do not themselves write nor have a strong command of English. She interviews, records, transcribes, makes a narrative and then reads the draft to the subject, making corrections until the subject is happy with the result.

In the case of her experience as an editor, she tried hard to leave the stories in the words of the people who told them. While some told her this was not the way to get a product which had any literary merit, she found this was not the case. 'In Standing Together' 80% of the contributors had had violence happen to them, and they ran the gamut from women in poverty to the wife of the then-premier, who had had a bad first marriage. She also found that, while they had had bad experiences they had also been helped by a lot of good friends.

As for literary merit, Goyette said she had rarely encountered a better line than this, from an older woman: "compassion lived is the skin of God."



Linda Goyette at her Dawson City reading
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

RSS Celebrates History with a Fair

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

December 6, 2009

Following an afternoon of judging, parents and interested community members were invited to the Robert Service School for an evening with history as the 200 Historical Fair projects were put on display.

Judges looked at 39 individual projects and picked five winners to attend the territorial fair in the spring if funding can be found to send them. Winners were Leilani Sharp-Chan, Ben Lorenz, Madison Betts, Erin Hilliard and Breanna Lancaster.

Alternates Michael Betts, Aaron Woods and Nylan Zalitis were also chosen.

Judges this year were Museum Director Laura Mann, Parks Canada's Carrie Docken, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's Amanda Taylor, RSS Principal Joe Karmel, Berton House Writer-in-Residence Linda Goyette, and retired vice-principal Shirley Pennell.

Class involvement focussed on the following themes: Grade 1 - Family Trees; Grade 2 - Yukon Flag; Grade 4 - Explorers of Canada

Projects; Grade 5 - Canadian Projects; Grade 6 - Family Treasures; Grade 11 - International Polar Year, Climate Change Posters

Thank you to the Dawson City Museum, Parks Canada, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Cultural Centre, Dawson Community Library for their support and to retired teacher-librarian Betty Davidson, for organizing the judging.



Grade 4 Sings Stan Rogers' "Northwest Passage".

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



Madison Betts explains her Franklin Slide project, one of the winners.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



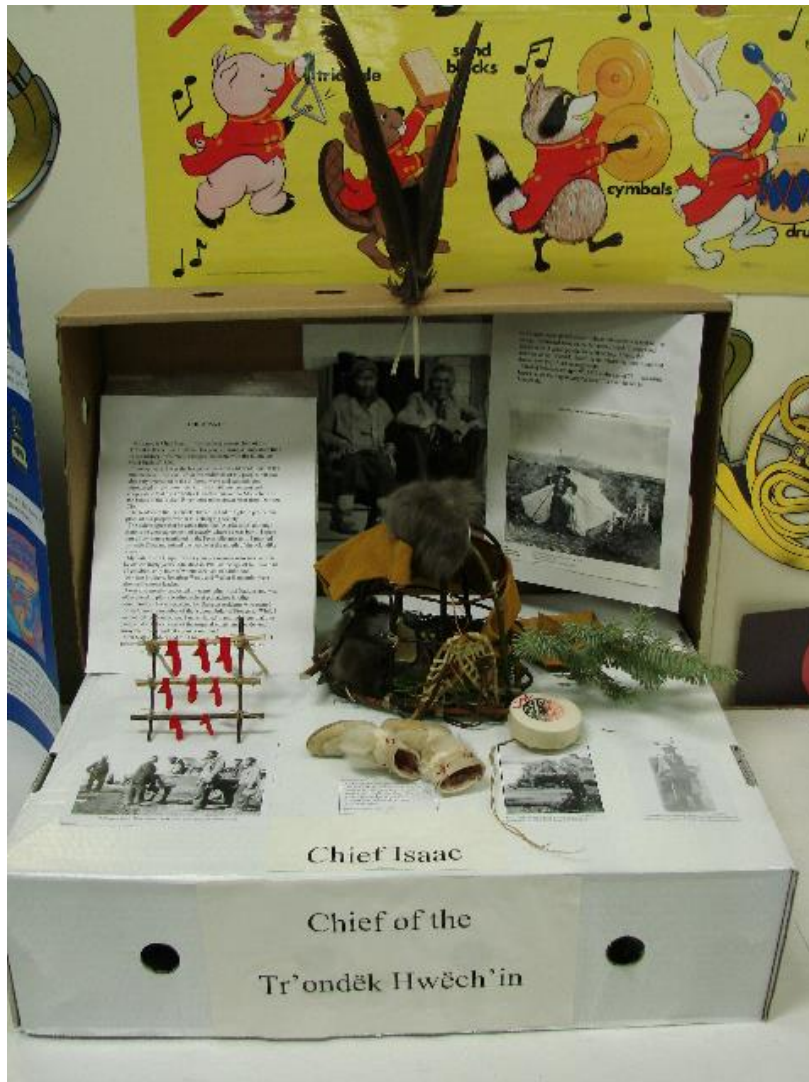
The Golden Stairs of the Gold Rush made for a graphic display.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Michael Betts is an alternate for the Yukon fair.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Grade 4 class produced many projects on explorers.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Chief Isaac was just one of the First Nation topics at the fair.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Students Donate to Shelter

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

December 12, 2009

Students at the Robert Service School have spent the past several weeks collecting food for their annual donation to the Dawson Women's Shelter. When all the boxes from all the classrooms were gathered together for the presentation on December 11 there was quite a pile of canned and dry goods for the shelter folk to cart away.



Robert Service School students with food for the Women's Shelter
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Dawson SST proceeds to YESAA Screening Stage

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

December 3 2009

With an application to the YESAA expected to be completed and approved by March of 2010, Catherine Harwood, project manager for the Dawson Secondary Sewage Treatment Plant, reported to Dawson's council on November 17 on the next steps to be taken with the project.

The next court date for the project is expected to be in April/May 2110. By that time visible work on the plant will have begun, Harwood said. She expects that this hearing may take place in Dawson.

Officials are with the Dept. of Community Services are continuing to meet with town officials regarding the final form of the Memorandum of Agreement between the municipality and the territory.

Of particular concern to the town are the clauses about sustainable O&M costs.

Contaminated soil from the construction site in the former highways yard has been

removed and relocated to a site at kilometre 11 on the Top of the World Highway. Harwood indicated that 1200 cubic metres of material were moved.

Harwood said that a test hole has been drilled down to 328 feet at the construction site in connection with the deep shaft needed for the sanitary sewage treatment plant and the results were satisfactory.

Meetings have begun with the Water Board to acquaint the board with the project. Mayor Jenkins expressed concerns over O&M (operation & maintenance) sustainability of the SST over the long term.

“Any number over the number you have provided us with is not sustainable,” he said. YTG numbers have indicated an annual O&M cost of around \$200,000. During the recent municipal elections Jenkins stated that he expected annual O&M for the plant to run well over \$2 million.

“I don’t know if the number we’ve provided is sustainable,” Deputy Minister Mike Johnson replied, noting that the previous mayor and council had continued to have reservations about that all along.

Pat Hogan, with the department’s Realty and Planning Services added that O&M costs are usually 2 to 4 percent of the replacement cost of the facility according to industry norms.

“Dawson has extraordinary conditions,” Johnson said, “which take out, to some extent the consideration of what are industry norms, because there aren’t many industry norms for what happens in Dawson.”

One of the issues related to Dawson sewage treatment has been the dumping of sewage educted from septic and holding tanks at properties not on the sewer and water grid.

These substances have been found to be a factor in creating odor and in the functioning of the existing screening system and a decision about where to put an eduction collection site has been part of the discussion on every project under review during the last several years. Harwood reported that she had a draft report from AECOM on this issue but that it wasn’t in final form yet.

In a follow-up letter at the end of November Harwood informed council that “an application is being submitted to the Dawson Designated Office for an assessment under the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act.”

Under the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement related to the Sanitary Sewage Treatment project, but the territory and the city are considered project proponents.

*AECOM – an engineering firm dealing with site location and design.

Getting in Step with the Season

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

December 15, 2009

In preparation for the holiday season and gift giving, a number of women have been attending a beading and moccasin making workshop at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre over the last couple of weeks. The course has been taught by Dolores Anderson (at left in the photo), who has been doing such work since she was a small girl.

Participants have been learning to do this work in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in style, which includes intricate beadwork with the open spaces all filled in, as in the pair of moccasins that Sue Parsons has made for her partner, Jim Regimbal.



Sue's beadwork

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



Moccasin Class

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

Jenkins Stresses Need for New Dawson Arena

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

December 10, 2009

“Given where we’re at I think we’re going to have to have a serious look at a new complex rather than proceed any further with gold-plating a pig’s ear.”

That was Mayor Peter Jenkins’ assessment of the future of the Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre at a meeting on December 2.

The building is currently in the midst of a \$4 million upgrading program which was announced just before the territorial government restored elected municipal government to the town in 2006. At that time YTG took over financial responsibility for “repair and upgrade” of the centre which had been one of the causes of the town’s bankruptcy in the spring of 2004.

Since 2006 negotiations have been under way to finalize a contribution agreement between the two levels of government, which was completed in February 2009. This

outlines the terms of the upgrading project and the manner in which the cash will flow to the city for work to be done there.

In 2008-2009, \$250,000 was spent of a variety of work and studies.

The end of the 2009-10 year will see an additional \$1 million, which will continue at that rate for another two years before dropping to \$750,000 during 2012-13, the final year of the agreement.

The agreement specifies the order in which the work must be done, as there were initially serious questions related to the structural stability of the building's foundation as well as that of the roof.

“Repairs and upgrades related to safety (including structural and foundation repairs and upgrades) must be addressed first and completed to the satisfaction of the Oversight Committee before repairs or upgrades related to the functionality (including curling rink repairs, completion of mezzanine, other items to enhance use of the Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre) will be considered.”

During an informal meeting with Project manager Claudia Carlson, council learned that the ground beneath the building, has not, as was originally hoped, frozen in place so that it would help maintain the integrity of the building. Carlson indicated that the building was not moving to the same extent as the ground, but that it was moving.

The worst area of movement was beneath the troubled curling rink, which has also experienced problems since construction due to the weight of the snow load on its roof causing undue strain on the support beams.

“Has anyone considered removing the curling club?” asked Mayor Jenkins.

“That was considered way back when,” Carlson responded, “because the curling club is the area of the most trouble basically. It was a programming issue because the City of Dawson, at that time, said ‘we need to offer curling.’”

“Yeah,” Jenkins replied, “but at what cost?”

The Mayor continued to speculate on a possible future which might see a new facility being built for some of the recreation centre functions and recalling some discussions that predate the current contribution agreement and its terms.

“There was an offer on the table from YTG for a new arena. Now, what would be wrong with operating for another year and at the same time proceeding with the construction of a new arena subject to YTG's agreement? I'm sure we can probably go the political route to get some agreement on that. At the same time maybe in a year or maybe two, remove the curling club from that building.”

Jenkins went on to discuss the roof problems over the curling rink. “It would probably be very prudent for the city to remove the snow from that area on a regular basis because the snow load is astronomical. You could probably park a couple of D9s up there and you’d have the same loading. It’s very, very significant. I believe there’s about eight feet of snow.”

Thinking back to the arena itself he questioned the likelihood of ever managing to have artificial ice in it.

When the building was constructed it was with the thought of eventually having artificial ice there. Supports and brine lines were installed and a concrete floor was to have been poured to facilitate this. It was at this point that it became clear that the building’s foundation was not firming up and shifts in the spectre buckled some of those supports. They were later removed and sold for scrap during the trusteeship years.

Carlson noted that the chances of artificial ice in an arena in the current location were “pretty slim” and it would be “outrageously expensive.”

“Given the order of magnitude of money that we’ve spent to date and given what we have,” Jenkins said, “I think it’s decision day as to how we proceed from here and that has got to be forthcoming from council and decided with the concurrence of the political masters in Whitehorse who flow the money.”

With reference to further upgrades on the building, he said, “We’re going to spend an inordinate amount of money accomplishing ... what?”

It was not clear what he intended should be the future of the present project, Should it cease, the territorial money committed to it would simply vanish under the terms of the agreement and be returned to the government.

As Carlson noted, there are reasons for continuing with the stabilization work if the building is to be used for anything at all in the future. At one point in the past there was a vague discussion about converting the building to some other purpose, and building a new recreation centre, but the eventual decision from YTG was to rehabilitate the Fry Centre as a functioning recreation centre, and this was the rationale behind the current financial agreement.

Both the curling rink and the ice arena have been open this week, with events planned in both spaces.



The Dawson Curling Club, at the south end of the Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre (on the left in this photo), is the part of the building where the most structural problems have been noted.

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

PHIL TEMPLE OF BURWASH

Glad to see the MocTel is growing. You are really doing a tremendous job of it!

Sherron, I don't know if you have a picture of Phil Temple of Burwash. (displayed below)

Phil was the first outfitter I worked for. That was in the fall of 1972.

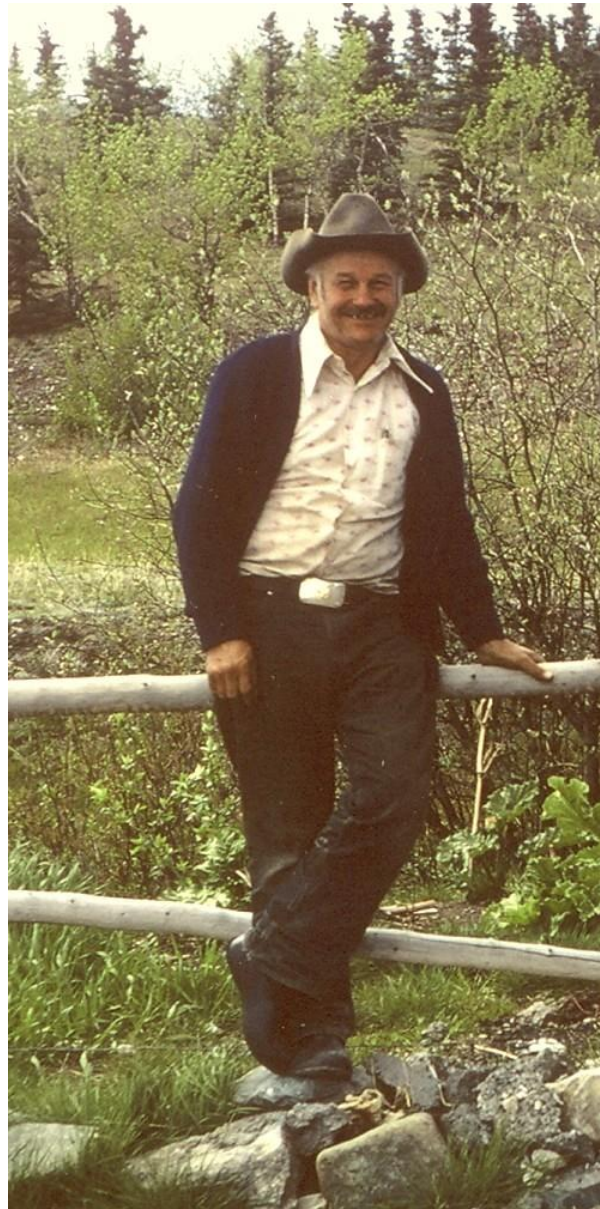
Phil had bought the hunting outfit at Kluane Lake area off of Gene Jacquot in the sixties I believe it was.

I believe he was from Canmore Alberta, but I'm not 100% sure on that. I do know he was quite the character and used to get along great with the older natives in Burwash like Moose Johnson, Sam Johnson, and George John.

I enjoyed working with him, and he got me started in an industry that served me well over the next 3 decades.

All the best to you!

Rick Mortimer trapperyt@gmail.com (Trapper and guide in Yukon 1972-2003) Sask



Phil Temple

Photo courtesy Rick Mortimer trapperyt@gmail.com (Sask)

**CAN ANYONE HELP ANSWER THIS QUESTION:
Mr. Pfeiffer and Old Red Pick Up**

Hi Sherron,

Although I did not know Werner Pfeiffer, please let his family know that I offer my condolences for their great loss.

It is ironic perhaps that in the photo published in the MocTel, Mr. Pfeiffer is leaning against a very old red truck that reminds me of one that my father, Les Millen, owned until about 1960. For some time, I have wondered what became of this pick up that may have sold through Frank Osborn, who owned a garage in Dawson City. Anyway, it would be wonderful news if this particular vehicle were the one my father owned such a long time ago.

I asked, my godfather, Willy Braga, and he believes it's the same truck. Would you be able to find out if it truly is and where it is now?

Thank you very much,

Madeleine Wakefield mwakefield@shaw.ca (In Calgary)

Hello Rosemarie

First of all I would like to express my condolences to you and the family.

My name is Sherron Jones and I produce the Moccasin Telegraph, a newsletter for Yukoners and former Yukoners. For the last edition I received a copy of Werner's obituary and ran it. A couple a days ago a lady wrote to ask if anyone knew the whereabouts of a red pickup her father had owned in Dawson City when she was a child and had seen the one that Werner was leaning on in the obituary photo and wondered if we could learn more about it. Below is her message which will appear in the next edition.

I had seen a photo of a vehicle looking much like it and as I recall it was located in the area of Lake LeBarge. Are you able to lend any insight into the truck in the photo with Werner?

Hope this query does not offend you.

If your attempt to reply to this message is unsuccessful. Please try this address sherronjones@shaw.ca

*Sherron Jones
Moccasin Telegraph*

Hi Sherron,

I am Marieanne, Rosemarie's sister and Werner's daughter. You are correct. The picture was taken at 40 mile, at the end of Lake LeBarge where it flows into the Yukon River. The picture was taken many years ago but my husband and I went back in the summer of

2005 and the truck was still there. If you would like I can try and track those pictures down.

P.S. – How can I get a copy of the Moccasin Telegraph?

I hope this helps.

Marieanne Coderre marieanne*northwestel.net

Hello Madeleine

I was able to work backwards and find a relative of Werner. She has confirmed the truck is at 40 mile at the end of Lake LeBarge.

I have searched back and found where I had seen the truck before and that was in MocTel 298 in the article about the river trip. If you still have MocTel 298 you can read that article again. Meanwhile I have attached a copy of that photo.

Will follow up with this material in the next MocTel and see if anything further comes of it.

*Sherron Jones sherronjones*shaw.ca (In Yuma AZ)*



The truck at Lower Laberge hauled wood during the 1950s for the last of the river steamships

*Photo courtesy Maureen (Schink) Buchholz moebuchholz*shaw.ca (In White Rock)*

Hi Sherron,

You are wonderful! If this is the truck my father, Les Millen, owned, then I'd love to see it restored.

George Fulton was the original owner, at least prior to Les. George and his wife lived a block north of our first home in Dawson, and they were next door to the Brasseurs. Tina Parsons is one of the Brasseur's daughters.

According to my godfather, Willy Braga, George Fulton had the contract to deliver the mail around The Loop, and Les drove this route for him in a red pick up similar to this one. There is a write up about The Loop mail delivery and Les along with some photos of him and a pick up in Phillip Allen's book, *One Came Late*, Chapter 35, pages 263-269.

When the Fultons left Dawson to return to the Maritimes, George gave or sold the red truck as well as their camp at Rock Creek to Les. I don't know how long Les delivered the mail, but he drove the truck before his marriage to my mother, Jackie, and he owned it until sometime around 1960 when he sold it or traded it in on a green and white Willies Jeep.

The red pick up had a very high black box for the rear bed, but it was only used during winter as a windbreak for those riding in the back. Sometimes, Les drove trappers along with their sleds and dogs to drop off points for quicker access to their trap lines. On many weekends, he took us to Rock Creek to ski.

Later, when he was in Customs, he used the truck to drive to Little Gold during the summer season. Without the black cover, his load of food and goods, neatly stacked and covered with a canvas tarp, was higher than the roof of the cab. Then when school was out in June, he returned to pick up another load of goods and us. We (my two sisters, brother, and I) had just a bit of space at the end of the box to sit for the drive to the border, and although it was just 65 miles from Dawson, it took all day to get there. The roads were narrow, and if it had rained, they were muddy and rutted.

We spent the hours making cloud pictures, playing I Spy with My Little Eye, or watching the beautiful scenery go by. We did not often see animals; however, there was evidence of their being nearby.

At the border, Les put barrels in the back of the truck to haul water from Walker's Fork, which was 5 miles away on the American side and deep in the valley. He drove slowly to protect this load, but sometimes water sloshed out and soaked us.

Seeing that truck has reminded me of many events long past. Anyway, if it is the same one, it would be great to restore it as a very large keepsake.

Big hugs,

Madeleine Wakefield mwakefield@shaw.ca (In Calgary)

Hi Sherron,

Maureen wrote in her wonderful photo journal that the red truck was used to haul wood in the 50's for the paddle wheelers, and its wide open rear deck supports this mention; therefore, the red pick up that Werner Pfeiffer is standing in front of is not the red pick up owned by George Fulton and later by Les Millen.

Willy Braga mentioned that many old vehicles in Dawson were put into the slough by the Anglican Church. Later, he says they were covered over with gravel, and then, according to his brother, Joe, houses were built on this newly leveled ground, so it's possible that Les's truck is among the many vehicles at the bottom of this slough.

Have a beautiful day,
Madeleine Wakefield

* * * * *

Sherron, attached are some photos. Sorry, they are not good but there were so many people it was difficult to get a decent photo. The performers gathered in the foyer at the Yukon Arts Centre after the performance and started drumming. I couldn't get close but I believe they presented a beautiful hide vest to someone. I saw some of the dancers put the vest on the fellow and heard some of the thank you speech. Hopefully there will be some info on this in the newspapers.

George Edzerza and band were not part of the original performance but were playing in the foyer. They are very good and from the looks of the toe-tapping I'd say very much appreciated.

The Yukon News is no longer publishing on Monday's, only Wednesday and Friday. Perhaps there will be something in the paper on Wednesday and will let you know. There was a bit in the Whitehorse Star today and will look online.

All the best,
Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

What the Land Remembers

Sherron, last night we attended a presentation by Council of Yukon First Nations titled, 'What the Land Remembers'.

Photos or video were not permitted but there was an impromptu event after the performance and managed to get some photos and video. There were so many people that getting any decent photos was impossible. I'm sending you what I have but pretty

sure the local newspapers will have coverage that I will send to you once the papers come out later today.

The show featured 70 Yukon First Nation performers. It will then head to Vancouver during the Olympics at the Four Host First Nation aboriginal pavilion on Feb. 21.

The performances were top-notch and I didn't see one spare seat in the Arts Centre. There were many standing ovations not only in respect to those on stage but in true admiration for the work done in presenting such a fine program. I would highly recommend that anyone able to take in this show in Vancouver do so. A documentary is currently being prepared that will include the show, a true 'keeper' for all Yukoners and those interested in First Nations culture.

Program:

**What the Land Remembers
Tales of Raven & Wolf
January 10, 2010, Yukon Arts Centre**

Master of Ceremonies, Melaina Sheldon,
Chief Brenda Sam from the Ta'an Kwach'an Council
Acting Chief Jessie Dawson from Kwanlin Dun First Nation
Grand Chief Andy Carvill, Council of Yukon First Nations
Four Host First Nations Executive Director & CEO, Tewanee Joseph
Co-Executive Producers Charlene Alexander & Katie Johnson
"Honouring Our Elders", Bob Charlie and Victoria Fred
Premier of Yukon Government, the Honourable Dennis Fentie
Vice-President Operations, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, Michel Robillard
Show Sponsor Air North – Yukon's Airline, President Joe Sparling

Intermission

Performing Artists:

Boyd Benjamin, fiddler, Old Crow

Dakwākāda Dancers

Diyet, singer who writes memorable songs in the pop/world genres influenced by her roots and ancestry

Jerry Alfred & Shun Dun, music of the Northern Tutchone

Rising Sun, all female acapella trio

Sharon Shorty, an award winning actor, producer, storyteller and playwright.

First People's Performances / Dakhá Khwáan Dancers

Daniel Tien, linguist and performer

Duane Gastant' Aucoin, film maker, comedian, actor, drummer, dancer, singer and writer

Raven Spirit Dance, creates, develops and produces contemporary dance rooted in traditional and contemporary aboriginal worldview

The Ross River Dena Drummers, engaging performers who consider it an honour to share drum songs handed down to them by a spiritual elder

The Ta'an Kwäch'än Dancers, a multi-generational dance ensemble inspired to perform for the love of their culture, to honour their elders teachings, and dance traditions

Eugene Alfred, widely respected carver and teacher of Northern Tutchone-Tlingit heritage working primarily in the Tlingit style

Ken Anderson, widely respected artist of Tlingit and Scandinavian ancestry, who works across several mediums and disciplines in the Tlingit style

Vernan Asp, respected Tahitan First Nation carver working in the Gitksan/Tsimshian Northwest Coastal style.

Shirlee Frost, works in three-dimensional beadwork style upon the traditional techniques and patterns of her Vuntut Gwichin

Nancy Hager, of the Na-Cho-Nyak Dun First Nation using traditional craft of moose-hair tufting to depict Yukon flowers.

Bev Morris, recreates the same Tlingit designs and colours used by her ancestors onto regalia, bags and moccasins.

Dennis Shorty, thoughtful carvings of animals and humans rendered in traditional materials.

Keith Wolf Smarch, highly respected carver in the traditional Tlingit style and a key contributor to the revival of carving in the Yukon.

Ann Smith, of Tutchone and Tlingit ancestry. She is a contemporary weaver of international stature, working in the Raven's Tail and Chilkat styles.

Jean Taylor, award winning paintings depict her fascination with human interaction and presents the culture and people of her Tlingit heritage.

Awards were presented to the YFN 2010 Elders and Youth Ambassadors

Alex VanBibber, Champagne/Aishihik First Nation – Alex was born on the banks of the Pelly River in 1916. As a lifetime ambassador of the Yukon and champion of culture and traditional lifestyle, Alex has experienced all that northern adventures have to offer. From working in the gold fields in Dawson City to guiding an expedition for Robert Kennedy up Mt. Kennedy, Alex has been a steward of hunting and fishing, trapping and dog mushing. Today, you find Alex teaching students of all ages at the cultural camps, summer camps and inspiring youth in many outdoor activities.

Doris McLean, Carcross/Tagish First Nation – Doris is a member of Carcross/Tagish First Nation and is a renowned leader in cultural and political arenas. Doris has been pivotal in ensuring that the indigenous people of the Yukon understand their rights and preserve their culture while providing guidance and advice to all that seek her help, bringing traditional values into the contemporary world.

Lena Johnson, Kluane First Nation – A life-long resident of the Burwash area, Lena is a fluent speaker and teacher of Southern Tutchone. She inspires language instructors, passing along her knowledge and skills to next generations of Aboriginal students, providing leadership and advice in both cultural and self-governing matters.

Francis Woolsey, Ta'an Kwach'an Council – Francis was born in Yukon and raised in Whitehorse. From the 1960's, Francis has been a leader, manager, administrator and champion of organizations and efforts representing children, the land, education, social services, heritage, language and more. Her most recent contributions include contributions to health and social services.

Youth Ambassadors

Amanda Brown, Liard First Nation
Bruce Warnsby, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First National
Erin Pauls, Champagne & Aishihik First Nations
Isaiah Gilson, Kluane First Nation
Karrie Brown, Champagne & Aishihik First Nations
Kevin Mendelsohn, Trondek Hwechin First Nation
Stephanie Brown, Champagne & Aishihik First Nations
Chantal Rondeau, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation



Gerald Edzerza and Band

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



Gerald Edzerza

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



Some of the Dancers

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



Some of the Dancers

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

Hi Sherron

A friend in Whitehorse just sent me a copy of the Dec 27/09 Moccasin. I have some stories of Whitehorse and Mayo from my summers there in 1949-1954.

Do you try to have a regular publication schedule?

I had a lot of trouble opening the .doc format as I am a Mac user and try to stay away from Bill Gates type programs. Have you thought of using PDF format?

I have a short story on summer life at Elsa in 1950.

Perhaps it would be of interest to your readers.

Stan Barker

(my father was the controlling shareholder of Mayo Utilities - which became Yukon Telephone. So basically I was working for him when I was in the Yukon as a teenager)

Hi Sherron, I have rewritten the title and intro, so am including here the whole story. I have not resent the pictures - but have suggested places where you might want to include them.

At some point I would like to be included in the list of subscribers to the "Moccasin Telegraph" - please send me details.

Stan Barker

Beautiful girls at Elsa in 1950

By A. Stan Barker Jr. sandlbarker@dccnet.com (In Madeira Park BC)

(This is an excerpt from a forthcoming book titled "Executive Dad" Does father always know best? In this passage "Dad" is A. S. Barker, managing director of Mayo Utilities

since 1941. His office is in Vancouver. The writer "I" is A. Stan Barker Jr. who was sixteen in 1950)

At the end of the summer in 1950, Dad arranged for my helper Fred and I to drive from Whitehorse to Mayo on the recently opened road. Further he had arranged for the two of us to bunk at the United Keno Hill (UKH) Mine at Elsa.



Stan Jr. beside pickup on Whitehorse - Mayo road.
Photo courtesy A. Stan Barker Jr. sandlbarker@dccnet.com (In)

Elsa was the site of a concentrator mill, bunkhouses and the administration offices of UKH (United Keno Hill Mine); the mine was a mile or two away and had recently reopened because the price of zinc, silver and lead had risen. The local manager wanted the telephone line to Mayo restored and I and Fred were to carry out a one week preliminary survey of the state of the old one-wire line which had been abandoned since the mine had shut down when the economy collapsed in the great depression of the early 1930s. We were to effect repairs if possible. The line had been a one wire connection between Elsa and Mayo Landing, a distance of about 40 miles. Mayo was on the Stewart River and here there were two stores, a bank and RCMP detachment and various small enterprises and homes. Most of these were housed in log buildings. All ore concentrate was shipped along the rough one lane gravel road from Elsa to Mayo where the sacks of concentrate were then loaded onto one or two barges and taken by Keno, a small shallow draft sternwheeler, down the Stewart River to its confluence with the Yukon River. At the settlement of Stewart River the barges were secured to await a large sternwheeler going up the Yukon River to Whitehorse. Once the barges reached Whitehorse the ore was offloaded and put onto railcars for shipment to the coast and onto a steamer.

When I checked into the Elsa mine office we were told to find cots in one of the two very large bunkhouses, and also told the meal times and warned to be on time.

There were no girls at Elsa except for the wives of some engineers, but they kept to themselves and had cabins off the mill site, so we expected to see no women - as had been true at the other mining center we had visited briefly - Keno Hill.

We found bunks in one of the large rooms that had perhaps 20 iron framed cots and various boxes where the miners kept their personal possessions. After choosing bunks and getting sheets and pillow slips we made our beds and stowed our duffle bags.

There was still an hour to go before the dinner bell so I examined the wire line that led from the edge of the forest via insulators fastened to the peaks of buildings and to the tramway and thence into the superintendent's office. This wire was in good shape - probably having been repaired by the mine workers. The magneto phone in the office needed new dry cells, which I installed. There was no response when I turned the magneto crank to give 3 rings trying to raise one of the subscribers in Mayo. I didn't really expect any response as we had seen a break in the line some miles out of Elsa.

The dinner bell sounded and we were surprised at the number of men who streamed out of the bunk houses. Once seated at the rough plank tables there was little talking. Most of the miners were Finns who were flown to Canada on special visas just for this mining work. They kept to themselves, though some were able to speak English. As cooks passed around platters of steaks, eggs, and potatoes each man helped himself to heaping amounts and passed the platter on to the next man. All talking ceased as each person busied himself with chewing and cleaning his plate. After dinner it became apparent why there was a sauna room in the bunkhouse. Many men gathered there, and there was some talking as water was ladled onto hot rocks and clouds of steam filled the room.

Since there was still lots of daylight, Fred and I took the pickup and drove towards Mayo about one mile where the telephone wire abruptly left the road. Parking and following the wire on foot we quickly found the first break. The line was fastened to trees with porcelain insulators, but after only ten minutes walk we found the line lying on the mossy ground. Within 50 feet there was a break. The far side of the break took some locating, as the line zigzagged here in the woods. Finally we spotted an insulator and found the wire. Using some tools we were carrying, the ends of the break were drawn together and spliced. Then by hammering a new insulator into a nearby tree the line was lifted off the ground and repaired. Continuing our patrol we soon found other breaks and long sections of wire lying on the ground. Insulators had broken or their fasteners had been pulled out of the tree by heavy snow loads. There was also a long section of wire missing. We now walked in the direction of the road and on finding it placed a marker at the road edge so we could find this place again. It was a short walk back to the truck and we returned to Elsa and our bunkhouse by 9 pm while there was still lots of light in the sky.

The next morning the sun rose about 4:30am and even with small windows in our bunk room there was enough light to wake us up early. After a huge breakfast with platters of fried eggs, bacon, pancakes, steaks and potatoes again being passed and quickly consumed we returned to our bunkhouse to tidy our beds and to load up tools for a full day of line checking. The kitchen had prepared two bag lunches at our request so we

would be able to stay on the line all day. Returning to the section we had checked the previous evening we continued our patrol, finding breaks and more sections, sometimes as long as 100 yards, where wire was missing. I gave up on repairing the wire and merely made notes. We also walked out to the road in several places to see where the line was located with respect to the road. It became evident that the line had been built near earlier trails and primitive roads. These early roads had been moved to avoid muskeg. We found we could walk on the moss covered muskeg but if one stood in one place and jumped several times, the moss gave way and sticky mud worked up from below. But digging through the mud showed that there was permafrost often within 12 to 15 inches of the surface. It was now obvious why the telephone line was supported by trees and by tripods in places where there were no trees, as no amount of digging could penetrate this permafrost to allow the erection of telephone poles.

After stopping to eat our lunch, we went back to the truck and drove a few miles towards Mayo to a place where the line crossed the road. Starting on the Mayo side and walking southward, we began another patrol of the line. I found much the same conditions - line on the ground, sections of wire missing, and a very zigzagged path apparently necessitated by the original builders of the line wanting to use trees to support the wire. Often there were small trees in a more direct line, but to get the wire onto tall trees, the line would deviate from a straight-line path. Where there was no tree available, a tripod was used made from three poles about 18 feet long tied together near one end, and with an insulator fastened near the top. After a full afternoon of patrolling and making notes we hiked back to the truck and returned to Elsa.



Tripods and the telephone line near Keno Hill
Photo courtesy A. Stan Barker Jr. sandlbarker@dccnet.com (In)

Driving up to a spot near the bunkhouse, we were surprised to see a dusty car with an Alberta plate parked near the door.

On entering the bunk-room, we were further surprised to find lots of the men from our room and from other bunk-rooms gathered at one end of the long room.

Crowding closer we found that three girls - actually beautiful women in many of the men's eyes - sitting on two of the bunks. The girls were selling subscriptions to Time, Life, Popular Mechanics, National Geographic and other magazines- and they were cleaning up! Fistfuls of bills were passed to the girls and they rapidly wrote out receipts and passed them back. The girls also smiled a lot and bantered with the men, but finally announced that they had to leave to visit other mining camps. I did not buy any subscriptions - but did enjoy the change of routine. The girls left and we all answered the summons of the dinner bell shortly after.

The next day we had breakfast and checked out of the bunkhouse after thanking the manager. I was able to fend off awkward questions about when the line would be fixed, but Dad was going to have to deal with this later. Heading back to Mayo we put in two more days in the town fixing poles which had fallen over and cutting and removing old wires that were no longer in service. Essentially the eight or ten phones that were still connected included the RCMP detachment, two repair garages, the hotel, the Taylor and Drury store and several homes. They were all linked together on one line and had different distinguishing rings. One long and three short rings might be the RCMP and so on. Of course the rings were heard by all phones in town so other subscribers could listen in to any conversation. We also had to fend off the natural anger here in Mayo when we did the repair work and told people that they would shortly be getting phone bills again. Since there had been no bills and residents had been repairing the line themselves, they felt that they owned the phone system.

We finished our work in Mayo and after an early start drove the 250 miles back to Whitehorse. With waits at each of the three ferry crossings and also a few waits for the blinding dust plumes to settle after passing trucks going in the opposite direction, we made it by dusk. Over the weekend I completed my report to Dad. Essentially the entire line needed to be rebuilt, and further, to allow servicing in the winter from a pickup truck, the line needed to be alongside the road so that breaks could be found rapidly, without snowshoeing through the woods. I did not report on the girls at Elsa.

Next summer when I had a six-man crew and began building the new line, I visited Elsa again. I found that none of the subscriptions had arrived. So the girls had really cleaned up - but the men were probably happy with the entertainment they had received.

OLD CROW IN THE 60'S

I just finished reading MocTel 300 and enjoyed it very much. I really enjoyed reading the Operation Porcupine series by Kit Cain. My hat is off to him and the others on that project. The living conditions were very primitive to say the least. The last segment in MocTel 300 was my favourite one as I

spent time in Old Crow in the mid to late Sixties and found the same village that Kit describes, a very self sufficient people.

They always made the Yukon Electric staff welcome when we spent time doing work in Old Crow. One year we nearly didn't get out for Christmas as the weather closed in and the last plane before the holidays flew over and then a few minutes later the pilot found a hole in the clouds and was able to fly back up the river and pick us up. The villagers were saying, no problem, you are welcome to join us for the Christmas Feast. If we had missed this flight we would have been there until after New Years.

DAVE PERKS birdsivu*telusplanet.net (In Grande Prairie)

CANADA POST – CONVENIENCE COSTS !

From a forwarded e-mail – Sherron

Sherron, this is quite interesting (see below).

You pay for "convenience".....

How's this for privatization?

Canada Post

" I learned something over Christmas that I feel compelled to share with you. This won't change your life dramatically or help you survive the apocalypse but it will save you some \$\$\$.

I recently mailed two identical packages via Canada Post one week apart. One would think that the postage should be exactly the same...well, let me tell you...

Package # 1 was mailed from an actual Canada Post Office. Postage came to \$11.74. Since I knew a second identical package would be mailed in about a week's time, I bought sufficient postage for the second package while I was there.

When it came time to mail Package #2, I went to the post office in Shopper's Drug Mart. I handed the package to the clerk to be put in the outbound mail bag; I was informed that I did not have sufficient postage attached. The clerk proceeded to inform me that I needed to purchase an additional \$6 worth of stamps. After explaining how I knew exactly what the postage should be, the clerk offered some lame excuse that Canada Post is unionized and they can say and do anything with impunity and if I wished to mail that pkg from Shopper's then I needed to purchase more stamps.

I told the clerk to stuff it and took back my package and headed to the "real" Canada Post

Office, where I would raise hell...

Much to my surprise, the Canadian Postal Clerk took my package, weighed it and tossed it in the mail bag, and it was on it's way...When I asked if the amount of Postage I had put on the parcel was right she shook her head and said "yup, no problem"...

The Truth comes out:

Canada Post Offices charge postage for packages at the published Canada Post rates.

Franchise locations such as Shoppers Drug Mart can charge whatever they like.

So remember if you regularly mail packages at franchise locations (ie Shoppers Drug Mart,) you are probably paying too much. Franchise locations are found in shopping malls, drug stores and private businesses everywhere. From now on, all of my mailing will be done from a real Canada Post location.

Still perplexed by what I was told by the girl in Shoppers, I fired off an email to Canada Post for clarification.

This is the reply I got from them:

“Thank you for your message to Canada Post.

A postal outlet is not a federal government agency and is not owned or managed by Canada Post. For example if the postal outlet is within grocery store or pharmacy it would follow the stores working hours, therefore if the store must be closed, so will the postal outlet inside.

Only Canada Post Depots and Corporate Post Offices are obligated to follow the price of stamps and postal products that are legislated by Canada Post. Any commercial and private establishment may charge extra fees as a convenience to their customers. It is at their discretion to apply additional service fees to products that they sell. We suggest visiting a Corporate Post Office in order to avoid paying additional service charges that corner stores or other establishment may implement on their products.

Regards,

Veronika Strofski
Customer Service

OUTSTANDING PHOTO MISSED IN PREVIOUS EDITION



Santa & Mrs Claus

Photo courtesy Lyn and Lowell Bleiler lynbleiler@yahoo.com (In White Rock BC)

Gillian and Ed were at the "grand opening" of Cupcakes at Grandview Corners in Surrey/White Rock. A few of us local Yukoners joined with the steady stream of kids to place our requests with Santa and wish Gillian a happy birthday. They certainly do look the part.

Regards,

Lyn and Lowell Bleiler lynbleiler@yahoo.com (In White Rock BC)

BEAUTIFUL BC - A PICTURE TOUR

Thought the readers may enjoy this. A must see for anyone wanting to travel to "Beautiful British Columbia" this summer. Click on WWW.picturebc.ca
Sherron Jones

NEW ADDITIONS

Our town is Madeira Park (30 km north of Sechelt on the Sunshine Coast). Since Marriage we have lived in Vancouver, Berkeley (Calif - for schooling), New Jersey (for 17 years), Aldergrove (Fraser Valley), Abbotsford, Sechelt, and now Madeira Park.

I went to High school in North Vancouver and later to UBC. Every summer for 6 years, starting the summer before Grade 11, I went to the Yukon (and one short winter trip to Whitehorse). These were the summers 1949 to 1954 inclusive. I worked for Mayo Utilities (later to become Yukon Telephone) for my father who was managing director. I always visited my cousins in Whitehorse and their Parents (my uncle) Laurie and Jean Todd. Laurie was the principal of the Whitehorse High School in the late 1940s and early 1950s. I worked in Whitehorse and in Mayo and Keno Hill installing telephones, and also building the Mayo-Elsa long distance line.

In Mayo I became friends with John Ewing who was about my age and in the same grade but at the Mayo school. In Sept. 1951 John visited with me in Vancouver when he came outside to consider UBC.

Hope this material is helpful

Best wishes

Stan Barker sandlbarker@dccnet.com (In Madeira Park BC)

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

Hi Sherron

I forgot to let you know that I no longer wish to receive the Telegraph.

It's been great.

Thanks

Jennifer Nadon

NADON, Jennifer gypsyfireweed@hotmail.com (10 Yrs in Dawson, last 5 in Destruction Bay)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"You win some, you lose some, and some get rained out, but you gotta suit up for them all." - J. Askenberg

DATES TO REMEMBER

If you are planning to stay at the River Rock for the Vancouver Yukoners' Association Banquet April 17, 2010, and you want the "early bird" rate, book NOW. The rate after Jan. 31 is still a good one but the rate before is better.

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 of (\$20 - \$25. your call) for the Moccasin Telegraph.

– Sherron Jones sherronjones*shaw.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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