

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 303rd Edition – February 7th, 2010

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



King of the Castle

Photo courtesy Doug Bell pogo41@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

A MESSAGE TO YOU FROM THE YUKON GOVERNMENT





The Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games are almost upon us, and Yukon will be there!

As Yukon's Minister of Tourism and Culture, I invite all Yukoners past and present to come and share in the celebration. A diverse contingent of performers, visual artists, musicians, dancers and traditional athletes will be animating a wide variety of venues in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland during this time. A complete listing of Yukon culture at 2010 is available online: www.gov.yk.ca

We invite you to stop by Canada's Northern House during the Olympics and to take part in Canada's Northern Weekend being held February 19, 20 and 21. Located at 602 West Hastings Street in Vancouver, Canada's Northern House is the central venue for presenting northern businesses, cultural performers and artists, to people world wide. More information and a schedule of events are available at Canada's North website: <http://www.canadasnorth.com/>

February 20 marks Yukon Day at the Olympic Winter Games. To mark this occasion, Yukon will be hosting a significant multi-media performance that will be broadcast live to millions from BC Place stadium. *One Word: A Yukon Experience* will combine live music, dance and theater with video, and will seek to find the quintessential word that describes the Yukon. This half hour Victory Celebration pre-show opens for the headline act for the evening, Stereophonics.

Tickets are available online:

https://tickets.vancouver2010.com/buy/TicketSales?agency=OLMP_MYTIXX (search for "Vancouver Victory Ceremony", February 20).

For those not able to attend, there will be a preview performance of *One Word: a Yukon Experience* in Whitehorse at the Yukon Arts Centre on February 16.

Yukon First Nations have also created an extraordinary live show that wowed preview audiences in Whitehorse. *What the Land Remembers: Tales of Wolf and Raven* is a multi-media spectacle of storytelling, dance and music. It will be performed several times throughout the Olympic Winter Games, and will be the highlight of a red carpet media event at the Aboriginal Pavilion on February 21, Yukon First Nations day. More information about the Yukon First Nations cultural contingent and scheduled events can be found online: www.yfn2010.org

The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games has provided Yukon with an unprecedented opportunity to show the world the beauty of our land, the friendliness of our people, and the extraordinary diversity and vitality of Yukon culture. It is also an opportunity for us to share our stories with each other and to celebrate what makes us proud to call the Yukon our home!

We hope you can join us.

Sincerely,



Elaine Taylor
Minister of Tourism and Culture



Double the Fun at this year's Double Bob

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

January 18, 2010

This year the Dawson Community Library Board's annual Double Bob celebration was combined with the Coffee House group's monthly event to make an evening of food, poetry and music. Between the two events about 36 people turned out in total.

Held in honour of the two Bobs whose birthdays fall in January (Robert Burns - January 25, 1759; and Robert Service - January 16, 1874), the evening began with Ian MacDonald's reading of Burns' "Address to a Haggis", which he then sliced ready for serving.

It was perhaps the only actual traditional Scottish dish on the potluck menu. Following the meal there were three planned readings of poems by the two Roberts and impromptu recitations by several other lovers of verse.

At the conclusion of the Double Bob feast of food and verse, the hall was rearranged slightly to usher in the January edition of the monthly coffee house, featuring an evening of music (about half of it with a Celtic theme) and verse by local talent Jesse Cook, Florian Boulais, Simon Crelli, Christopher Tom Tom, Dan Davidson, Peter Menzies, Ian Nyland and Betty Davidson.

Admission and the concession for this part of the evening went to support the high school band's planned trip to California.



Ian MacDonald cuts the Haggis.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Scottish look. Ian and Ellen MacDonald and Chris Cullin show off their Scottish heritage.

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



A set of Celtic fiddle tunes by Ian Nyland, Simon Crelli and Peter Menzies formed a musical bridge between the two events.

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



Recitation – Pierre Weber, Simon Crelli, Karen MacKay, Molly MacDonald
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Recitation 2 - Joann Vriend, Ellen MacDonald, Barb Hanulik and Dan Davidson
Photo courtesy Betty Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Jesse Cooke and Christopher Tom Tom show off how much Christopher has learned.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Fulda Follies in Dawson

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

Day 1: Fulda Contestants Brave Dawson's Chill

After the -40° C drive to Dawson City of Monday, January 11, the mere -30° of Tuesday must have seemed a relief for the participants in the 2010 Fulda Challenge.

The first event of the day was held out front of the Jack London Cabin 8th Avenue where a parked VW SUV waited to have its tire changed by 10 of the contestants.

While they were assisted by the fact that the tire had already been removed from the wheel, and the SUV had already been jacked up, there were other complications. The spare was on a sledge at the corner of Firth St. and 6th Avenue along with three other tires. The whole load had to be hauled by one person up the slight hill to the corner of Firth and 8th to where the SUV was parked.

The hill was either somewhat slippery footing, in areas that hadn't been sanded, or hard hauling, in areas that had been sanded.

The afternoon events included a skidoo race with the Media at Dredge #4, a visit to the Dawson City Museum and a reception at Klondike Nugget and Ivory, which is always a popular stop with our European visitors.

Day 2: Fulda Teams Pull Cars Instead of Running

Things didn't go quite as planned for the Fulda Challenge group on Wednesday, Jan. 13. Early in the morning they left Dawson for Eagle Plains, at kilometre 371 on the Dempster Highway, planning to have the teams run a half marathon after they arrived.

It didn't work out quite that way, as event organizer Holger Bergold explained from the bar at the lodge late that night.

"The weather was -40 and our race doctors didn't allow us to start the event that cold. They said the lungs would ice up and you would pull muscles and whatnot with that cold."

So instead they substituted a less strenuous event involving pulling an SUV a short distance.

"With this you don't need such an endurance."

They're hoping for higher temperatures on the drive back to Dawson Thursday so that they can find a place somewhere along the route to do some other kind of challenge.

Bergold isn't sure how that will work out. It was -49.5 when they passed Ogilvie Camp on Wednesday.

The day was not a disappointment however.

“As you can imagine the landscape and the views are just incredible up here. It was just gorgeous. Everybody enjoyed it.”

In terms of advertising, it's just what the tire manufacturer and the makers of the VW and Chev SUVs might have asked for.

“It's a real test for people and of course for materials for the cars and for the tires. To drive up in that temperature is real tough for the material.”

On Wednesday night the group's camping gear was also due for a workout. While they stayed in hotel rooms in Dawson, the contestants spent the night at Eagle Plains in what Bergold said were first rate winter tents and sleeping bags.

“We have good gear - and we're hoping for Northern Lights.”

Back in Dawson on Thursday, the group will have a meal in the Pit at the Westminster Hotel and then head out to the ice bridge, where some sort of skating event will take place around 8:30 that night. Bergold isn't sure just what that will be yet as it will depend on the weather.

This was the event that was actually supposed to have taken place on Tuesday, but they had forgotten the knee and elbow pad safety equipment in Whitehorse, and so they substituted the tire hauling and changing event, which was originally scheduled for Thursday.

Day 3: Fulda Logs Off in Dawson City

The Fulda Challenge teams travelled from Eagle Plains Lodge to Dawson on Thursday, Jan. 14, making some of the journey in blizzard conditions according to Environment Canada's forecast for the day.

Arriving in Dawson they found that it had been snowing lightly most of the day. Between that and the roughness of the surface on the ice bridge there was just no way to hold any sort of skating event in the evening, as had been planned.

After a dinner at the Westminster Hotel the teams faced the challenge of sawing sections from a hefty log just outside the Pink Palace, the scene lit by headlights with breath steaming in the air at -21°C.

There followed an evening of celebration at the Westminster and the various other bars in

town.

On Friday the convoy returned to Whitehorse.

Note: At the end of the competition, which took place in Whitehorse, the Canadian team of Sierra van der Meer and Land Pearson took second place



Fulda folk gather at Jack London Square
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Yukon Contestant Sierra van der Meer hauls a sledge load of tires up Firth St. to the Jack London Cabin to change a tire on a VW SUV.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Tough sledding. - Some found the hill harder than others.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Tire change. - Mounting and fastening the tire.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Log sawing. - Organizers for the Fulda Challenge always have to be ready with a “Plan B” in case the planned events can’t be held.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Fulda SUVs

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



Shopping at Klondike Nugget & Ivory - Shopping is a favourite extreme sport amongst the Fulda Challenge folks. Uta Reilly's Klondike Nugget and Ivory store is one of their venues of choice in which to drop a few euros.

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



Westminster celebration. There's probably no substitute for the allure of the Westminster Lounge as far as many visiting Europeans are concerned.

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

See more about the Fulda challenge at - <http://bergold-promotions.com/fulda2007/karte/map.html>

YUKON TELEPHONE & MAYO MEMORIES

(communication between Karren (North) Crowley and Stan Barker)

Hi Stan

I read your story in MocTel about your early years working with the telephone lines in Mayo area. Believe it or not, we have probably met back in the early fifties. You won't remember me, for I was only twelve at the time. **My dad Wilf North was hired by your dad back in '54 to work with the phone company in Whitehorse.** When we arrived in Whitehorse, we learned that the job really was in Mayo where the phone system was almost non-existent.

In '54 the telephone office in Mayo was in a small log cabin on Main Street. It was situated between Taylor and Drury's and the Northern Commercial Stores. When our family moved to Mayo in early October that year, your dad had bought a long low building at the end of Main Street that was to be our home and the Telephone Office. A two bay garage was attached to this house which was big enough to keep our car and the

line truck in.

I can vaguely remember two Barker boys coming up that next summer to help put in the new tripods and line for the mines. I am sure your younger brother came up that year, with you but I don't remember names. Also my brother Ted North worked that summer with you guys and my dad (this is going back 55 years, so I am a little fuzzy on details). I am hoping to get my brother Ted to fill in the gaps for us, and give us some great stories as well.

There was also another lineman that was hired on that year to help you run the lines. He lived in a house trailer that belonged to your dad as well. It was parked for a time along side our house. I can't remember where the rest of you lived, but I know you didn't stay with us. We had a family of seven kids, so space was an issue. In fact my dad and brother raised the roof on this house and put in two bedrooms in the loft. We had to go out into the garage and climb a ladder type stairs to get to our bedrooms. I always wonder how we survived that winter. The house was heated by a huge wood furnace that was in a dugout under the house. My brother tells stories of digging that hole for our furnace. I think the house was heated by the kitchen stove before this. The furnace did heat the house nicely, but many a morning we woke with frost on the walls. To us, it was just part of living in the Yukon, but that was a really cold winter. I think it went down to -67 that winter.

Once again Stan, your story in MocTel was most enjoyable. Thanks for stirring up memories of the "good old days". And you know, they really were. We hope to journey back to Mayo this coming year. I need to go back just one more time. I know it won't be the same, but maybe we can have the enjoyment of just being there.

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

Stan wrote: Hi Karren; thanks for making contact - glad you liked the story. Here is a picture of the Phone Office in Mayo after the 1936 flood. It was in this same condition in 1950 when I first arrived to carry out some repairs and to assess the lines in town and to Elsa.



Mayo Utilities office building following the flood in 1936. Hare Collection, Yukon Archives

In the above picture the board walk has been washed away as the flood water rose to half way up the windows - but the walk had been replaced by 1950. I and Fred cleaned up and lived in the building for a few days before moving to Elsa.

I have a few pictures of your 'long house'. It was bought by Mayo Util. from a site somewhere out of town. It was sawed in half and moved to the site you are familiar with, and I (in 1954 - I think) helped put it back together. We also nailed on insulating siding (very poor insulation), and used a chainsaw to cut a section of roof and then raised it to provide an extra bedroom. Your Dad joined us in the middle of this, I don't remember any of his family being there, but they could have been. I have a B&W picture of your Dad and Mr. Ward (Our family handyman) working on that roof.

In the middle of this roof project I had to go back to Whitehorse to supervise the exchange there. I had not wanted to work for my Father or Yukon Tel at all in the summer of 1954, and had made plans to work in a real science job as I had finished 3rd year Math and Physics at UBC and there were such jobs. But in March or April 1954 the Whitehorse Manager (whose name I forget) committed suicide so I flew to Whitehorse to take over and did some work in Mayo (as described above). By the end of the summer my Dad hired a new manager for Whitehorse.

In 1955 I got married to a nurse and made it clear that I could not work for Yukon Tel any more. But as you say, I believe one or two of my younger brothers worked in Mayo.

Their names were Julian B. and Hugh-John B. I don't remember the trailer next to your house - but maybe I had returned to Whitehorse before it arrived in 1954.

I am interested in your recollection of events - and to set my memory straight I have some specific questions.

- 1) Did you and your brothers and sisters arrive in Mayo in late summer 1954?*
- 2) Do you know the name of the Yukon Tel Whitehorse manager who committed suicide (I have tried to get some response from the Whse Star archives - but they aren't responding to my request). In the intervening years I have forgotten his name.*
- 3) How many winters did you spend in Mayo? Certainly the winter 54-55, but were there more?*
- 4) Did your Dad move on to other work in the Yukon after Y.Tel? My dad was a hard man to work for, so I wouldn't be surprised if your Dad moved on after a time.*

I have been back to Whitehorse and on to Dawson several times - especially for the centenary years of 1997 and 1998. Have been back to Mayo once to show my wife Lorraine where I worked. So much had changed that I probably would not go back again. On two trips we went on to Dawson as Lorraine's brother has mining interests there (a penny stock on the venture exchange called Klondike Gold) and another venture looking for new sources of galena (called Klondike Silver and also Zinc Corp). So when he organizes a trip for prospective investors we have gone along to do some gold panning. Hope you can check Ted's memory and help me with my recollections. From your Telus eMail address I assume you live in BC or AB. We live 60 km + a ferry ride NW of Vancouver on the sunshine coast, just north of Sechelt.

*Stan Barker sandlbarker*dccnet.com (In Hawaii)*

Hi Again Stan

What a nice treat to receive your email last night. I am hoping you join MocTel as you will find it very interesting. If you order the back copies of issues that Sherron Jones has put on a disc, you will find many interesting stories. I've only belonged to the MocTel family for a couple of years. I enjoy each issue and have connected with a few old school friends too.

I will answer your question here, but would also ask for your permission to forward your message on to Sherron Jones and my brother Ted. I have phoned my brother with hopes that he will add a few of his memories too. He had not had time to read the last edition with your story in it, but I am sure it will "twig" his enthusiasm to write.

Would it be possible for you to forward the photo you have of Dad working on the roof of the Telephone building? The photo you have with your story in MocTel of the original phone office is very interesting. When we moved to Mayo the telephone office was still in this building. It was in a lot better condition, and run by a lady named Ruth

McDonald. She was very happy to have our family take over the phone exchange. I am not sure when the switchboard was moved into the corner office of our house, but I believe it was within the month of us arriving. My two other sisters and I and our mom took turns handling the switchboard. (looking back I remember the battles we all had on movie night. Whose turn was it to stay behind and look after the phones? We only had a movie once a week, and our Dad ran the projector at the Warham Hall, so we all got in free. As entertainment was scarce in Mayo, this was our highlight of the week, it didn't matter what was playing).

I will try and answer your question, and hope this is what you are looking for.

1. The only name I recall from the Whitehorse office was Mr. Allan Hill. If I am not correct, I will ask Ted to verify this. I do not recall him committing suicide, so he might have been there to replace the man you are trying to remember. Mr. Hill had an English accent.
2. The trailer beside the house that one of the linemen and his (wife?) lived in was really a bus that had been converted into a trailer. The fellow that lived in this bus didn't stay long working with Dad as he was a heavy drinker. I only remember Dad fired him, and he and his wife moved on. I think that trailer went too, so maybe he owned it!
3. I can give you the exact date that we arrived in Mayo. It was Oct. 12, 1954. This stands out in my mind because it was one of my younger brothers' birthday, and a dismal way to have a birthday. It was a cold day, threatening snow and the town was so small, so we all thought. Getting to Mayo that day was a bit of an ordeal, as ice was forming on the Steward Crossing. The ferry had been pulled out for the winter so we had visions of being stuck at Stewart till freeze -up. Thank goodness the ferry was put back into service so we could cross.
4. I'm not sure how many years dad stayed working for your dad with Yukon Telephones. Originally dad worked for the Dept. of Transport as a radio technician. While living in Ontario in the early '50's dad quit this job to move our family out to BC as his parents were ailing. He then worked for CKNW in New Westminster as a technician and then somehow along the way applied for the job with your Dad in Whitehorse. I think he worked for your dad for about three years. He then applied to the Signal Corps in Mayo and was hired on as a radio technician once again. Then, was transferred back to D.O.T and we moved to Whitehorse. Mom and Dad were then transferred to Rocky Mt. House in AB to manage the VOR site and subsequently on to Calgary where dad stayed till his retirement sometime in the early '70's. Both our parents are gone now. They passed away in '95 within six weeks of each other.

My family & I live in Sidney BC, on Vancouver Island. My brother Ted and his family live in Nanaimo. My other brothers and sisters live in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Nevada. Unfortunately my brother Ted and I are the only members of our family who are interested in memories of our life in the Yukon. We both belong to Moccasin Telegraph and enjoy each edition with great anticipation. Our other siblings have all gone in

different directions and not at all wanting to relive any part of the Yukon. To me, it's most fascinating to find old friends and see what path they have taken in life.

I hope this helps answer your questions Stan. And I also hope you will give me permission to pass this on to Sherron Jones, as this is what helps us relive our early days living up North. You will find it very interesting I am sure.

My only recollection of your dad, is that to us he seemed to be a very impressive man. It was so long ago, that all I can remember is sitting outside in your back yard in W. Vancouver (or North Vancouver) when dad went for the interview regarding the job in Whitehorse. Your Mom was very kind to our "gang" and had us in for tea. That's all I seem to be able to pull up. So hope this helps you.

If I can be of any more help please don't hesitate to ask.

Regards,

Karren Crowley (In Sidney BC)

(message #2 with Stan's answers)

Subject: Yukon and questions/dates

Hi Karren; see answers below:

On Jan 26, 2010, at 10:07 AM, Karren Crowley wrote:

Hi Again Stan

Karren wrote: What a nice treat to receive your email last night. I am hoping you join MocTel as you will find it very interesting. If you order the back copies of issues that Sherron Jones has put on a disc, you will find many interesting stories.

Stan's reply: Good suggestion!

Karren wrote: I've only belonged to the MocTel family for a couple of years. I enjoy each issue and have connected with a few old school friends too.

Karren wrote: I will answer your question here, but would also ask for your permission to forward your message on to Sherron Jones and my brother Ted. I have phoned my brother with hopes that he will add a few of his memories too. He had not had time to read the last edition with your story in it, but I am sure it will "twig" his enthusiasm to write.

Stan's reply: Yes please feel free to forward:

Would it be possible for you to forward the photo you have of Dad working on the roof of the Telephone building?

Stan's reply: Yes - but it will have to wait until I get back to Madeira park BC. We are presently in Maui for 5 more weeks. Like Sherron, we try to escape the rain and grey weather of coastal BC. That picture is in an album - so I can scan it then send it then.'

Karren wrote: The photo you have with your story in MocTel of the original phone office is very interesting. When we moved to Mayo the telephone office was still in this building. It was in a lot better condition, and run by a lady named Ruth McDonald. She was very happy to have our family take over the phone exchange. I am not sure when the switchboard was moved into the corner office of our house, but I believe it was within the month of us arriving. My two other sisters and I and our mom took turns handling the switchboard. (looking back I remember the battles we all had on movie night. Whose turn was it to stay behind and look after the phones? We only had a movie once a week, and our Dad ran the projector at the Warham Hall, so we all got in free. As entertainment was scarce in Mayo, this was our highlight of the week, it didn't matter what was playing).

Stan's reply: I remember these movie nights - When our telephone construction camp was close to Mayo 1951, 1952, 1953, two or three of us would come into town to see a movie. The person who ran the 16mm projector came carrying the one or two reels of 16mm movie but often arrived late. To keep the audience amused on two occasions I played the piano that was at one side of the hall.

Stan's reply: I will try and answer your question, and hope this is what you are looking for.

Karren wrote:

1. The only name I recall from the Whitehorse office was Mr. Allan Hill. If I am not correct, I will ask Ted to verify this. I do not recall him committing suicide, so he might have been there to replace the man you are trying to remember. Mr. Hill had an English accent.

Stan's reply:

Yes Alan Hill was the replacement for the man who committed suicide whose name I am missing. I may have to go to Whitehorse to see the newspaper archives to get his name.

Karren wrote: 2. The trailer beside the house that one of the linemen and his (wife?) lived in was really a bus that had been converted into a trailer. The fellow that lived in this bus didn't stay long working with Dad as he was a heavy drinker. I only remembering Dad fired him, and he and his wife moved on. I think that trailer went too, so maybe he owned it!

Stan's reply: I never ran into this trailer-man, so this must have happened in 1955. But I did have to fire one cook we had for our 6 or 7 man crew on the Mayo to Elsa road - who

drank and was unreliable. A replacement Chinese man was sent by dad from Vancouver. He arrived at the Mayo airport clutching his knives and favourite pot having never flown before. He was reliable.

Karren wrote: 3. I can give you the exact date that we arrived in Mayo. It was Oct. 12, 1954.

Stan's reply:

You probably wouldn't have seen me - I left the Yukon and returned to UBC about Sept 5th most summers. So the last time I was at Mayo would have been Sept 5th 1954.

Your Dad must have come to Mayo early as I do have the picture of him on the roof. There is no conflict with my story and Ted's story about making the top floor bedrooms. I definitely worked on raising a section of roof - but left before it was finished and framed in. Maybe it was also raised further to make more room.

Karren wrote: This stands out in my mind because it was one of my younger brother's birthday, and a dismal way to have a birthday. It was a cold day, threatening snow and the town was so small, so we all thought. Getting to Mayo that day was a bit of an ordeal, as ice was forming on the Stewart Crossing. The ferry had been pulled out for the winter so we had visions of being stuck at Stewart till freeze -up. Thank goodness the ferry was put back into service so we could cross.

Stan's reply: I have similar memories of the Stewart crossing in late April one year (on my way to Mayo) - the ferry was reluctant to operate as there were too many floating chunks of ice still moving down river. I was always happy to leave Mayo in early Sept. while ferries were still operating.

Karren wrote: 4. I'm not sure how many years dad stayed working for your dad with Yukon Telephones. Originally dad worked for the Dept. of Transport as a radio technician. While living in Ontario in the early '50's dad quit this job to move our family out to BC as his parents were ailing. He then worked for CKNW in New Westminster as a technician and then somehow along the way applied for the job with your Dad in Whitehorse. I think he worked for your dad for about three years. He then applied to the Signal Corps in Mayo and was hired on as a radio technician once again. Then, was transferred back to D.O.T and we moved to Whitehorse. Mom and Dad were then transferred to Rocky Mt. House in AB to manage the VOR site and subsequently on to Calgary where dad stayed till his retirement sometime in the early '70's. Both our parents are gone now. They passed away in '95 within six weeks of each other.

My family & I live in Sidney BC, on Vancouver Island. My brother Ted and his family live in Nanaimo.

Stan's reply: I may have seen you and Ted in Nanaimo - we lived for 5 years on the beach front in Sechelt facing south, and looked at Nanaimo every morning. Of course at

that distance it was hard to make out faces. I have twice rented 30 foot sailboats out of Sidney.

Karren wrote: My other brothers and sisters live in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Nevada. Unfortunately my brother Ted and I are the only members of our family who are interested in memories of our life in the Yukon. We both belong to Moccasin Telegraph and enjoy each edition with great anticipation. Our other siblings have all gone in different directions and not at all wanting to relive any part of the Yukon. To me, it's most fascinating to find old friends and see what path they have taken in life.

Stan's reply: Yes very interesting to make these connections and find people who remember and are interested in the North.

Karen wrote: I hope this helps answer your questions Stan. And I also hope you will give me permission to pass this on to Sherron Jones, as this is what helps us relive our early days living up North. You will find it very interesting I am sure.

My only recollection of your dad, is that to us he seemed to be a very impressive man.

Stan's reply: This is the impression of most (non family) people he dealt with. The family remember him a bit differently.

Karren wrote: It was so long ago, that all I can remember is sitting outside in your back yard in W. Vancouver (or North Vancouver) North Vancouver, top of Lonsdale Ave. when dad went for the interview regarding the job in Whitehorse. Your Mom was very kind to our "gang" and had us in for tea.

Stan's reply: She was good at making people welcome.

Karren wrote: That's all I seem to be able to pull up. So hope this helps you.

Stan's reply: Thanks, it does

Karren wrote: If I can be of any more help please don't hesitate to ask.

Regards,

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

AN INTERESTING WEBSITE THAT CAN LINK YOU TO THE FRONT PAGE OF MANY NEWSPAPERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

<http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash/>

Thank you to Moge Mogenson for sending it along.

OLYMPIC TORCH CAME TO YUMA

Had hoped to show you a photo of Bill and I with the Olympic Torch here in Yuma. The photo was taken last Sunday with Mel Galloway, a new owner here in the resort park we live in. He had carried the Olympic Torch through Kamloops recently and left town immediately after 'show and tell' at his grandchildren's school; so was carrying the torch with him. When Mel came into the hall and came to the table we had reserved for other friends from Vernon, it only took me a moment to recognize the white jacket he was wearing. When I asked him if it was what I thought it was he beamed and said yes and I have the torch with me too if you wish to see it. He went to his home and brought it back and we had our friends who were entertaining at the event introduce Mel and have him tell of his part in the Olympic Torch relay.

It is a very small world. Mel's wife Joanne (Thorlakson) grew up in Vernon and knew other friends of ours who were also at adjacent tables.

Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca (In Yuma)

YUKONERS VISIT YUMA

We are planning to visit with George Bliss and John Ross in the next few days. Both are vacationing in Yuma. – Bill and Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca (In Yuma)

GILLIAN CAMPBELL - YUKON SOURDOUGH RENDEZVOUS

Video clip advertising Gillian Campbell at the 2010 Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7F2IPyMtp74> (40 views)

Video clip advertixing 2010 Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VKXQ3D6WcQ&NR=1> (519 views)

CAN ANYONE IDENTIFY THESE MEN ?

A friend of mine Darcy Braga brought this postcard over to show me and to see if I could name the two guys on the outside. They look familiar but of course I couldn't come up with the names. The other two are from left to right Roy McDiarmid and Jack

Butterworth.
Just a little mystery for the Moc-Tel.

Pat Webster pwebster@northwestel.net (In Dawson)




Treat from Ethyl Lake, near Dawson City, Yukon

EDITH JOSIE (received Feb 1 2010)

Came across this article in a magazine the other day, thought there maybe something in it for you.

A fascinating film, *Here Are The News*, looks at the life of Edith Josie who started writing for the Whitehorse Star in 1953, charming readers the world over with reports from Old Crow, her tiny village of 300 people, 80 miles north of the Arctic Circle. She definitely has her own style. You can find samples of it here: oldcrow.ca/news.htm



This article was in the magazine is the financial magazine called "West", their Web Site is at- [Http://www.westmagazine.ca/](http://www.westmagazine.ca/)

Grant Workman (a friend here in Yuma – Sherron)

Check out the samples at www.oldcrow.ca/news.htm

Edith Josie dies (received Feb 2 2010)

This bit of news may be of some interest to some of your readers. Edith Josie was known around the globe, and did receive the Order of Canada. I always remember reading her column in the Whitehorse Star, 'He Are The News'. Her column was simple but down to earth, in my opinion we need more of that today.

Alistair MacGregor mmac1952@telus.net (In Vernon BC)

Yukon writer Edith Josie dies
Monday, February 1, 2010

Gwich'in elder Edith Josie, who wrote a column about life in the small Yukon community of Old Crow, died of natural causes at her home Sunday morning. She was 88.

Josie's column appeared for 40 years in the Whitehorse Star and it was also syndicated to newspapers in Toronto and Edmonton.

Her daughter, Jane Montgomery, said the column was important to her mom. "She wanted to let the outside world know what the community was all about, what people were doing in the community, about our way of life," Montgomery told CBC News. "It was important to her to let the outside world know because we are a fly-in community, so she put Old Crow on the map."

"Well I like to write more about people what are doing, like used to be." Josie said in a CBC interview in the 1980s.

Whitehorse Star publisher Jackie Pierce said Josie's column was already world famous when she took over the newspaper in the early 70's.

"When her column would come in we would give it to the newest typist and she would try and correct it," Pierce said.

"And we would give it back to her and say you have to type it just the way it is. That's what made it the column it is, just the way she spoke."

Pierce said it's been a few years since Josie submitted her last report.

"She didn't say it was her last though because they had been getting a little more infrequent. We just got em' when we got em' and were happy to get them."

Montgomery said her mother would get calls from people from all over the world about her columns, which were translated into German, Italian, Spanish and Finnish. They were also collected into the book, *Here Are The News*, named for the column.

Josie was born in Eagle, Alaska and lived there until her family moved to Old Crow when she was 16.

She received many awards, including the Canadian Centennial Award in 1967 and the Order of Canada in 1995.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday at St. Luke's Church in Old Crow.

Elder remembered for strong values, humility

By Stephanie Waddell on February 1, 2010
Whitehorse Star

Edith Josie will be remembered by many across the globe for bringing her home of Old Crow to them, but to those who knew her personally, she will be remembered for much, much more.

Josie died shortly after 10 a.m. Sunday (January 31) at the age of 88.

“She’s going to be very sorely missed, but her legacy lives on,” Vuntut Gwitchin MLA Darius Elias said in an interview this morning.

He remembered a strong Gwitchin woman who provided a gentle guidance to all in her community.

Josie was born to Paul and Elizabeth Nukon Josie on Dec. 8, 1921 in Eagle, Alaska. It wasn’t until the 1940s that Josie and her family moved to Old Crow after her uncle died in the community.

In her 88 years, Josie accumulated a long list of formal accomplishments, from aboriginal achievement awards to being appointed as a member to the Order of Canada in 1995.

And much of the recognition that came her way was for bringing her community of Old Crow to the rest of the world.

Through decades of writing her Here Are The News column in the Star as well as getting air time in years past on the CBC’s Gwitchin radio show, Elias noted the elder held a love of her culture and the land. At the same time, she embraced the inevitable changes that came to Old Crow, from the building of the airport to trading to the Internet.

“She valued our culture and she couldn’t wait to share it with the rest of the world,” Elias said.

A profile of Josie on the oldcrow.ca website is one format that in recent years has allowed elders like Josie to pass on their knowledge to the rest of the world.

“Everyone should go school and learn more things. You’re not too old to learn... lol,” reads a section titled Knowledgeable Words in her elder profile on the website.

Before the Internet though, in 1962 Star publisher Harry Boyle asked Sarah Simon, the wife of Rev. James Simon, who had arrived to serve in Old Crow, to find someone from the territory’s northern-most community who could work as an Old Crow correspondent for the paper.

Simon ended up asking Josie.

“Since 1962, Edith’s observations on day-to-day life in Old Crow have appeared in the Whitehorse Star exactly as written,” it’s noted in the publication The Best of Edith Josie,

Here Are The News, Old Crow 1963-1964. “Over the years, these columns have been translated into many languages – German, Italian, Spanish, and Finnish, to name a few – with the result that Miss Josie and Old Crow became very familiar to a great many people world wide.”

The columns recorded the happenings of the community, from caribou hunts to airplane arrivals.

“It is a very small village here at Old Crow, but the news is getting better every week,” she wrote in her April 23, 1963 column. “I’m sure glad everyone gets my news and know everything what people are doing.

“A few will go up river for cutting wood. Just one or two families will move up river for drying meat and same time cut wood for sale.

“Even now the spring has come cause it is daylight around 11 o’clock p.m. Pretty soon we won’t use light for night time. Everyone glad to see plane every day. Even the same plane come in one day, they all have to go down to see what is going on and what come in on plane.

“Some of the people were sick with cold and now they have been sick with flu and bad headache.”

By the time the book of columns was published in 1993, Josie had been profiled in Life magazine and received the Canada Centennial Medal for her “contribution to the nation”.

Her final column ran in 2005.

Her observational skills proved not only good for her column, but also for a young Elias winning at bingo.

As the Liberal MLA remembers, he was playing radio bingo with his grandmother and Josie when all of the sudden Josie looked over at his bingo cards and said: “Watch what you’re doing,” after noticing he had a bingo that he hadn’t seen yet.

Beyond the formal recognition that came her way over the years, there was much work Josie did in the community as a lay reader for the Anglican Church in Old Crow and teaching Gwitchin at the Yukon College campus in Old Crow, not to mention upgrading her own skills at the school and offering that “gentle guidance” to those in the community like Elias.

That guidance extended to all in the community. As Elias recalled during land claim negotiations, it was Josie who encouraged negotiators for the Vuntut Gwitchin to keep moving forward on the land claims.

There was an honesty to Josie that was appreciated by many, Elias added.

“I always respected her honesty,” he said as he remembered Josie continually telling him to make sure he went out on the land with his family.

It was listening to the CBC Gwitchin show when he was with his family on the land that he continued to hear Josie sending well-wishes to all the Gwitchin folk out there.

And while Josie took her cultural roots very seriously, both Elias and Josie’s granddaughter Tammy remember the woman’s constant smile and laughter.

“She was a very upbeat woman,” Tammy said this morning, recalling her grandmother’s sense of humour to her last days.

As late as Saturday, Josie, who wasn’t able to see but could hear visitors, would ask who was coming in to see her and then joke that “they were just messing with her” when they identified themselves.

Tammy spent many of her childhood years growing up next door to her grandmother in the community 1,000 kilometres north of Whitehorse.

In the evenings, Josie would come over to the house and share stories with Tammy and Paul (Tammy’s brother).

It’s those same traditional tales that Tammy now shares with others, learning both the stories and the performance skills from her grandmother.

Tammy was just 14 when she joined her grandmother on stage to share stories.

Josie was performing at the annual storytelling festival in Whitehorse that year and announced her granddaughter would be joining her on stage.

With that, she pushed Tammy into it.

“Thank God for bright lights shining on you because I couldn’t see anyone,” Tammy said with a laugh, adding if it hadn’t been for her grandmother, she wouldn’t have made it on stage to share the traditional stories.

Josie was unique in many ways, but like many grandmothers, she couldn’t keep away from spoiling her grand kids in some way.

While the evenings were reserved for stories, many mornings Tammy and her brother would wake up, much to their mother’s dismay, to find that Josie had snuck over and placed a can of pop, candy bar and bag of chips next to their beds.

“My mom would go crazy,” Tammy recalled.

As the years passed, her grandmother taught her many life lessons guiding her to be patient, have respect for others and gratitude for what you have. It was also important to welcome all guests.

“You be a good host,” Tammy said, adding for her grandmother, and now for herself, that meant offering your guests food and drink – whatever you have available even if that’s all you have – and then talking to them.

Josie is survived by her three grandchildren and two of her three children, William and Jane and their spouses. Another son, Kevin, died a number of years ago.

“She’s with him now,” Tammy said. “I think that’s why she’s smiling.”

A funeral for Josie is set for at 2 p.m. Wednesday at St. Luke’s Anglican Church in Old Crow.

Sam Little running for Governor in Alaska



Singin’ Sam Little at the Clayson’s

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

Our dear friend, Singin’ Sam Little is running for Governor in Alaska. Go for it Sam! I just enjoy his music.

Have a listen: <http://www.samlittleforgovernor.com/>

Donna Clayson

BRITISH COLUMBIA

This is my Canada, British Columbia & the gulf islands

Weldon Pinchin just-a-mereplace*gi-wireless.ca (Mayne Island)

You must take a few minutes and watch this.

After you have opened the link below:

In the lower **right corner of the screen... click on the four directional arrows and blow up the screen to full size.** If there's a pause.. just click again a couple of times .. on the screen.

I don't think I've ever seen High Definition quality better than this - on a computer screen.

I'm sending this one all over the place.... how about you?

Click on this link and enjoy:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwSCHRQCIBY&feature=player_embedded

OBIT

Hi Sherron, Just returned from saying a final farewell to another old Yukon buddy who will be familiar to many of our more senior readers.

R.H. "Brick" Bradford, was born in Watrose, Sask, 1921, Died, Duncan, B.C., Jan. 31, 2010.

Brick was a member of the RCMP for twenty some years, including a stint in the Yukon from 1948 to 1954, serving in both Whitehorse and Dawson City. He will be remembered by many of the old time Yukoners as a dedicated policeman who combined police duties with a lot of common sense. He will also be remembered as a pretty fair hockey player with the Whitehorse Merchants hockey team. After retirement he and Wife Pat lived at Ladysmith, B.C. Pat pre-deceased him in 2005.

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

PS Blanche and I plus Roy and Bev Reber drove down today to attend the Memorial get-together.

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

Hi Sherron, I have appreciated your material, but I think at this point I would ask that I be taken off your list----good luck.

The reason I am backing off is mainly that I cannot contribute (my father would have loved it) accurately as I left in 1945, and I am cutting back on internet traffic----you work is very professional and I have enjoyed it over the last two years--thanks

Harold Davenport
304 Riverside Garden NW
High River AB T1V-1Y9
H: 403-652-4707
C: 403-803-6358

DAVENPORT, Harold hport2*shaw.ca (In Whitehorse 1940-45, father was mid 1930's – 1945)
High River AB

I would like to unsubscribe to the Moccasin Telegraph. I have found the material very interesting but can't find the time to read it all. Thanks

Melanie Pierce
PIERCE, Melanie jimanmel@hotmail.com (In Whitehorse)

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

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Hamburger and Squash

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

1 lb of hamburger
½ cup chopped onion
1 cup of mushrooms (optional)
1 tin of lentils (optional)

1 spaghetti squash
(cut in half and steam in shallow water in microwave or cut in pieces and boil)

½ bottle of salsa

1 cup grated cheese

Saute onion & mushrooms

Fry hamburger meat

Combine onion, mushrooms, lentils and meat.

Add Salsa and stir in squash or if squash left in two pieces, fill the cavities with this mixture.

Place in pyrex dish and sprinkle with cheese and bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes or until cheese is browning.

DATES TO REMEMBER



The Vancouver Yukoners' Association 82nd Annual Banquet

Date: April 17, 2010

**Place: River Rock Casino/Resort – Whistler Ballroom
Address: 8811 River Rd, Richmond BC
Parking details/map available on request**

Hotel reservations:

Telephone: 604-247-8900 or Toll Free 1-866-748-3718

Ask for Vancouver Yukoners' Rate – Next best before March 16, 2010 but our block of rooms is going fast.

Banquet Tickets:

**\$55.00 per person with cheque payable in advance to
*Vancouver Yukoners' Association***

Banquet Reception/Registration: Ballroom Foyer 5pm – 6pm

Dinner: 6:30 pm

Hospitality Suite: Open Friday evening and Saturday

Note: registration/pick up tickets at Hospitality Suite

FOR TICKETS CONTACT VIVIAN STUART:

email: lornellis*shaw.ca

Address: #217 – 3255 Cook St

Victoria BC V8X 1A4

Phone: 250-383-1349

(Maiden names too please – Helps to find friends of years ago)

For further information contact:

hmunro*shaw.ca

Phone: 604-937-3740

www.vancouver-yukoners.com

PLEASE PASS THIS INVITATION ON TO YOUR YUKON FRIENDS

**YUKON RESIDENTS – AIR NORTH IS OFFERING A DISCOUNT
PLEASE CONTACT THEM FOR DETAILS – Convention Code F8EHNP17**

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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