

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 309th Edition – May 9th, 2010

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



The new Vancouver Yukoners' Association Executive 2010

Helen (Munro) Fitch - Past President, Sheila Firth - Director, Jim Perry – President, Carol Clarke - Director, Vivian (Lilievre) Stuart - Treasurer, Ken Jones - Director, Maribeth (Tubman) Mainer – Secretary, Corrine (Appleyard) Loeppky - Vice-President, Sue Morrison, Harriett (Osborne) Butterworth – Director

Photo courtesy Jim Perry 4perry@telus.net (In Abbotsford)

VANCOUVER YUKONERS BANQUET PHOTOS

Courtesy Bonnie (Romfo) Vars dvars@shaw.ca (In Calgary)

Sherron, was nice to meet you at Yukoners. It was truly an outstanding event, with huge appreciation to the entire committee, and special thanks to Helen for her untiring efforts in contacting people from far and wide. I am sending you many pictures; you can choose the ones you want to use. Since the pictures were taken from a personal point of view, Dan is in many of them. I don't expect you to use them all, for sure.

Bonnie Vars



Classmates of '58 – Maxine (Fromme) Horner, Dan Vars, Dawn (Bethune) Jamieson,
Mike Scott



Pat and Diane (Bidlake) King



Ken Hepp, Ann Newson, Gail (Kolkind) Hepp, Helen (Munro) Fitch



Bev (Campbell) Zielke, Heather (Hankins) Patchett, Helen (Munro) Fitch



Ken & Sharon Taylor



Linda (Roach) Hudson and Diane (Harbottle) Pilloud



Ray Pilloud (Diane Harbottle's husband) and Gordon Hudson



Pat & Patti (Romfo) Lucier



Dan Vars, Bob Campbell, Larry Bidlake



Dan Vars, Penny (Bissell), Diane (Bidlake) King, Don Murray



Patti (Romfo) Lucier and Joan (Ryder) McManus



Larry Bidlake, Dan Vars, Larry's wife, Pat Bidlake



Bev (Campbell) Zielke and Dan Vars



Helen (Munro) Fitch, Stan Wilcox, Judy (Rosen) Leahy



Corinne (Appleyard) Loeppky and Gerard Dugas



Dugas Family, Gerard, Anne, Kathy



Boys Just Wanna Have Fun!
John Carswell, Stan Wilcox, Jim Perry and Dan Vars



Ron Butler



Mike & Heather McGeachy



Bubs and Anne (Callison) Lounsbury



Gail (Kolkind) Marks-Hepp and Ken Hepp



Dan and Mary McDonald



Thelma Chapman, Helen (Munro) Fitch, Joan (Ryder) McManus

MOCTEL 308

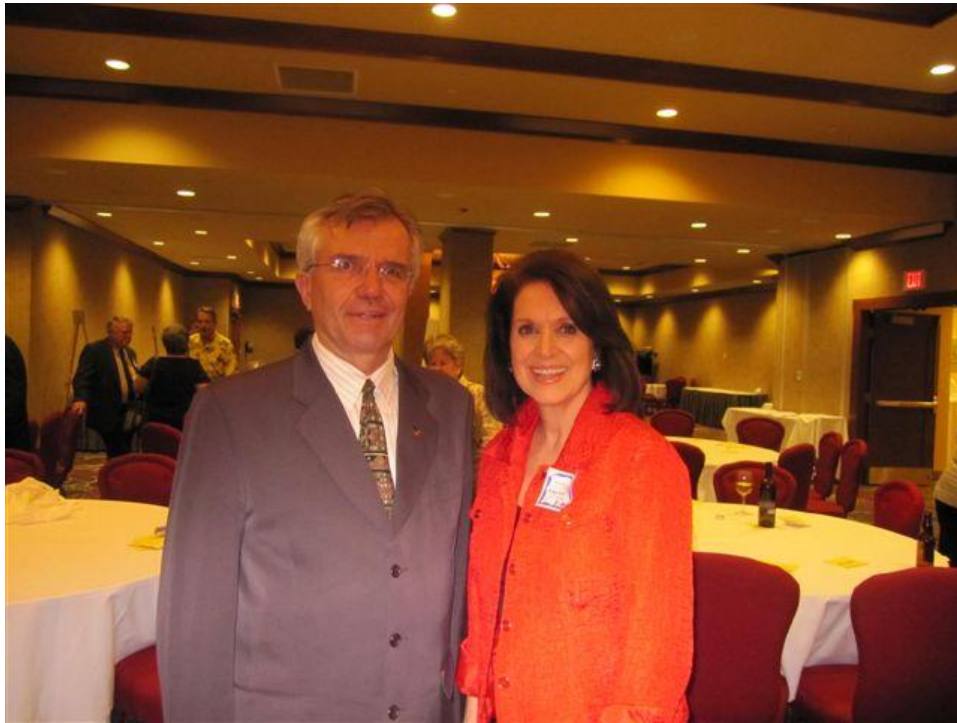
I enjoyed seeing all the photos (and content) of MocTel 308. They are super full of neat info as usual. Some day I hope to be able to attend one of the Yukoners get togethers. I noticed in the latest issue a photo of Keith & Pat Simpson. I could have picked Pat out in a crowd even after 35 years but I must say I didn't recognize Keith, just like they would never recognize me. If my memory serves me, was Keith not the carpentry instructor at the Vocational School in the 1970's? I was secretary from 1971 to 1975 when I resigned to have my baby. I recall going to a Christmas party at their place in Porter Creek I think it was (or Crestview). I do remember it was a fun party and enjoyed sitting in their huge wicker chair that hung from the ceiling. I'd like to say Hi, it's been a long time. Wondering where they live now?

Also noticed photos of Terry & Ray Cyr. We went to FH Collins together. They haven't changed at all and would also have picked them out of a crowd. I so enjoy the photos of those I have forgotten and/or haven't seen for so many years, and in some cases, decades. Thank goodness for the MocTel bringing old friends and acquaintances back together again.

Cheers,

Donna (nee Ross) & Bryan Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

PHOTOS COURTESY VERONIQUE & YANN HERRY



Yann Herry & Judy (Lelievre) Woodward



Tina (Brasseur) Parsons, Arlene (Lelievre) Hayes, Vivian (Lelievre) Stuart, Theresa (Dubois) Whelan



l-r is Tina's 2nd daughter Tina Marie (Parsons) Slowley, Artina 'Tina' (Brasseur) Parsons, and 3rd daughter Tammy (Parsons) Hatter



Lowell & Lyn Bleiler, Mary Jane Morrison & Yann Herry

Being aware that Yann Herry had planned to attend the Vancouver Yukoners Banquet to meet some of the former Yukoners with a French connection; I e-mailed Lowell and Lyn Bleiler to ask if there was one in this photo. The following is Lyn's reply.- Sherron

Mayo had many French Canadian pioneers and just a glance through the index of *Gold & Galena; a History of the Mayo District* will give you an idea of how many lived in the region over the years. Perhaps two of the most well known names in the Mayo district were "Gene" Binet who arrived in 1903 bought up the townsite and built a hotel - The Chateau Mayo - and Louis Bouvette who in 1919 was the first to stake a silver deposit on Sheep Mountain later renamed Keno Hill. Mary Jean Morrison is Louis Bouvette's niece and was on Yann's list of people to meet at the banquet.

Perhaps this might be a better photo to include. It was taken by Yann's daughter.

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



Mary Jean Morrison & Yann Herry

PADDLEWHEELERS ON THE YUKON RIVER

Last regular sailing August 1955.

Check it out,

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

A Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin with footage courtesy Murray Lundberg.

Les McLaughlin leslom@rogers.com (In Ottawa ON)

Note the fellow slide down to the boat with the load of fuel/logs. Henry Breaden told us of those almost accidents when the ramp was steep and they made an uncontrolled slide usually managing to dump their load just in time. – Sherron

Hi Sherron, Here is my story about 609 Strickland. Hope your readers enjoy it. I would welcome comments or additions to the information should any of your readers wish to share.

Nellie Dale nelliedale@hotmail.com (In Whitehorse)

609 STRICKLAND STREET, WHITEHORSE

By Nellie Dale nelliedale@hotmail.com (In Whitehorse)

Sitting in the dining room of 609 Strickland, I visualize the house as it was when Bob Jacob lived here as a child. This room was the living room with windows along the west wall. The original building was constructed of wood. Old bridge timbers were used for main floor construction. Re-using and recycling of construction materials was common practice in early homes! The house has changed a bit since then, inside and out.

The aroma of fresh baking floats on the air. Mary El Kerr operates a catering business here. Mary El and Douglas Rody have lived in the house since December 1980. She has a picture showing the Sold sign – asking price \$59,800. Mary El shows me the construction album entitled “Reconstruction 1980 to Eventually”. Mary El and Douglas are responsible for most renovations in the house.

The Mazur family purchased the house from the Jacobs family in 1976. The Mazur’s extended the basement and built a sundeck. In the early 1980’s Mary El and Doug removed this sundeck and built a living room. A pantry parallel to the new living room was also built. A second floor consisting of two bedrooms was added as part of Doug’s continuing renovations.

I also enjoyed reminiscing with Bob Jacobs about his memories of the house. Bob’s dad, Ed, came up in 1943. The road was a military highway then and Ed, the first civilian to drive the highway, was transporting an airplane engine. Ina, his wife, followed later with the one month old Bob. The family moved to 609 Strickland between 1948 and 1950. It was a brand new house then. Bob sketched a diagram for me. The house, 24 x 40 feet, consisted of a living room, two bedrooms, kitchen and bath. Very soon after moving in, plans were made to add a basement. Bob recalls a drag line of sorts attached to the family pickup. Dirt was shoveled away and dragged up the slope. One basement wall was built at a time. Eventually a bedroom was added. In the mid 1950’s a porch was built on the back of the home. Allan Jacobs lived in the house with his wife,

Margaret and mother Ina. In 1972, Ina moved south and Allan “officially” bought the house. Bob recalls the purchase price of \$10,000.

Bob shared a couple of memories with me. One day Mum was at work. She had an eerie feeling and left to go home immediately. She arrived to find a chimney fire spreading along the ceiling. The fire department was called and the fire extinguished. Bob grew up in his dad’s shop. Between the late 1940’s and 1970’s it was located at 3rd and Hawkins. When he wasn’t helping Dad, Bob and friends played games on the street, winter and summer. Bob remembers family Christmases and skating in the back yard. Family entertainment included musical evenings with Mum and Dad playing piano and guitar and the kids singing.

609 Strickland – full of love, life and laughter then and now.







609 Strickland – now.

WILLIAM OGILVIE LETTER

This letter, a copy of the original, was given to Debbie Kelly many years ago. She does not recall who gave it to her. It is retyped here from a photocopy. Spelling is as originally typed by Wm. Ogilvie. - Sherron

Dawson, March 11th, 1901

To- The Editor, Dawson Daily News.

Dear Editor,-

I have noticed in your columns lately many references to the Skagway townsite question, and Capt. William Moore's connection with it, and in those references many rather romantic statements are made.

Under the circumstance, as I had some connection with this matter referred to I thought It not amiss that I should state a few facts.

Early in 1887, I was commissioned by the Canadian Government to determine where the 141st Meridian West of Greenwich, or the International Boundary line, crossed the Yukon

River, and to do any other work in the region that I might deem necessary in the public interest. This was made necessary by an extensive correspondence between parties on the West coast of Canada and the United States and the Canadian Government regarding gold mining in what is now know as the Yukon Territory.

This correspondence had continued for several years, and became so serious that it induced governmental action, as I have stated; and, at the same time, brought about the commissioning of Dr. G.M. Dawson (then Assistant Director, now Director of the Canadian Geological Survey) with Mr. McConnel and Mr. McEvoy as Assistants, to make a geological examination of the District.

I left Ottawa April 19th, 1887, and, after several stops on the way, reached Victoria about the First of May; and, the morning after my arrival, I was called upon by the veteran Captain [William Moore], who wished to visit the Yukon on quest of his sons William and Benjamin, who were supposed by him to be accumulating vast quantities of dust in the then comparatively unknown region. Now, the Captain's age at the time, (62), was somewhat against the idea of employing him as a labourer on the party, (the only place open to him), bust, as the Captain seemed pretty hefty and skookum, and brisk for his age, and did not want to go farther than where his sons might be when he would quit me for good and remain or return at this own expense – I agreed to take him along, as I did not want too large a party to winter here and take over to the MacKenzie and up it, as I had decided to do.

Now, I had Lieut. Schwath[k]a's (U.S.Army) report of his journey in 1883 over the Dyea Pass and down the Yukon, and was pretty familiar with the route, so did not require the Captain's services as guide, as his son Benjamin is credited with stating, even if the Captain was qualified to guide me- which I think his modesty would forbid him claiming; as he had never been on the route nor farther North, I believe, at that time than the mouth of the Stikine. While in Victoria, I heard rumors of a pass from the coast near the Dyea pass, which was said to be lower that it; Arrived at Dyea about the first of June, I made the acquaintance of George Dickenson who was trading at Haines Mission and Dyea, and of Capt. And Mrs. JJ Healey who were living and trading at Dyea. I could not learn much of note about this pass from them, but they referred me to George W. Carmack (since famous for the discovery of gold on Bonanza) who had been living at Dyea since 1885, and had hunted with his brother-in-law, "Skookum Jim" (associated with him in the Bonanza find) pretty well all over the surrounding region, Carmack and Jim gave me such information about the pass that I decided to have it examined.

My stuff, amounting to something over six tons, had to go via the Dyea Pass, as arranged for with sub-chief Klenat of the Chilkoots, who was inclined to be troublesome, and I believe would have been so but for the presence of the U.S. Gunboat "Pinta" in Dyea Harbour.

Klenat was opposed to any more being done in his country in the way of examination that was necessary and was opposed, to any knowledge being acquired about the White Pass at all, and no amount of questioning could elicit from him or his people any knowledge of it.

As the transport on my stuff and the prosecution of the Survey I had brought up from Pyramid Island, ChilKat Harbor required my own immediate attention and also that of all the members of my party who had any experience in survey work, I could spare no man to go through the White Pass and report on it but Capt. Moore consequently I decided to send him, if could get any one to accompany him who knew the route. After much hesitation, "Skookum Jim" agreed to go with him if the trip could be kept secret from the Chilkoot Indians, as he feared interference from them. This was arranged, and the evening of the day the Chilkoots started with my stuff to the summit, (120 out of 138 souls were engaged, the Captain [William Moore] and Jim [Skookum Jim] went off quietly in a canoe to where Skagway now stands, to begin the examination of the Pass, **which I had decided to name "The White Pass", in honour of the then Minister of the Interior, The Honourable Thomas White.** Before his departure, I had instructed The Captain how and where to take compass bearings along his track, how to estimate distances, and enter both properly in his note book, also to keep an exact record of the time, direction, and probable rate of travel, and other things necessary in the work.

About ten days after, the Captain and Jim joined me at the head of Lake Lindeman, as named by Schwath[k]a.

I found that he had not completed the survey such as it was expected to be, and described the creek which we now know drains the chain of lakes adjacent to the White Pass and Yukon Route into Tushe Lake, as emptying into the Windy arm of Tagish Lake.

Putting together the information furnished by him, Carmack, and Him, I concluded that the summit of the White Pass was a few miles farther from the sea, and not less than 600 feet (possibly 1000 feet) lower than the summit of Dyea Pass.

Survey since shown it about three miles farther from the sea and about 800 feet lower.

The Captain and "Jim" followed very nearly the route covered by the White Pass & Yukon Railway to Bennett, thence made their way back to the head of Lindeman.

The Captain was strongly of the opinion that the route was feasible for a wagon road, and, possibly, for a railway, and, from all the information I could get, I concurred with him and so reported.

Now, Captain Moore is possessed of a magnificently persistent persistency and a sublime obliviousness to obstacles or difficulties in the way of anything he thinks out to be, or which he wants. He decided there and then that Skagway would be the entry port to the golden fields of the Yukon, and the White Pass would reverberate with the rumble of railway trains carrying, supplies, and its peaks and valleys echo their signal whistles.

Every night during the two months more he remained with me, he would picture the tons of yellow dust yet to be found in the Yukon valley, a goodly portion of which, of course, would be secured by his boys; he built a busy town at Skagway, constructed a railway to Bennett or the head of Steamboat navigation on the Yukon wherever it might be, and had a line of good steamers (his own personal property; plying on the river, carrying supplies to de miners, and taking out their golden stores to the treasure marts of the world.

This was all, no doubt, very interesting to the Captain, but iteration and reiteration of it almost drove myself and party frantic at times; but we might as well have expostulated with the river for flowing downwards; he was full of the theme and must overflow. His enthusiasm, I sometimes thought, would have a fatal termination, but nature had endowed

him with a tremendously rugged persistent vitality and he survived. Literally, he used to wake his bedfellow in the small hours of the night to rebuild the golden castles he had erected so often before. The poor fellow used to wish the Captain's tongue palsied, or himself deaf, but water on the proverbial duck's back was less effective than his best (or worst) efforts at remedying the nuisance. This was so continuous and unremitting that, to the party, the Captain seemed the very centre of boredom.

I used to chaff him for a change and his remarks were often highly amusing. Once, while he was relating his steamboat experiences (that were to be) on the river, I remarked that (mentioning an old time steamboat competitor of his on the Fraser and Stikine) would probably put a good line of boats on the route. "Him!, Vy --- ---- him, if steamboats was sellin' fur two bits a piece he couldn't buy a gang plank", and then we had a change of subject for half an hour or so.

His anticipations of the golden treasures his two boys were gathering somewhere on the river were so great that he was anxiety itself to rush on and join them; but I was tied down by the survey to a rate per day that seemed to him snail like and required an eternity to get anywhere; consequently he was pestering me every day to get on as he was probably suffering great loss by remaining with me. My reply always was (sometimes with punctuation marks, that I could not and would not go any faster; but he seemed to remember this only a few hours and would return to the subject again;

This reached the crest of persistency and fell into the abyss beyond, when one Sunday he approached me, as I was taking a series of observation some distance from camp, and remarked; "Mr. Ogilve, I've been tinkin' dat maybe I better build a leedle raft an' put mu few pounds of stuff on it an' go on ahead down de river myself; I see dat you can't go any faster dan you're doin' an' de Lord knows vere dem boys of mine is, or what day are doin', so I tink de best ting fur me to do is to go on, and if you would just ask de boys to gimme a han' wit' de raft, vy, I vont bodder you any more". "All right, Captain."

"Then raising my voice to camp, Charlie; Frank; Morrison; Parker, the Capt. Wants you to help him build a little raft to put his few pounds of stuff and go on on his own hook." "Here, gimme that axe!" "Where the ---- is the other axes?" "Here! That's my axe!" "You go to ----!", and so on until all had axes and were on the double to where we were. "Where do you want the raft, Capt.?" "Vy! --- ---- it, you fellows seem to be in a --- of a hurry."

"Well! where will we build the raft?"

"Oh! Go to ----!"

We heard no more of going ahead.

About the 8th of August, we began to meet miners polling their way up stream, and on the 11th, about 25 miles above Selkirk, we met a boat with four men in it polling up, of whom one was "Hank Summers" and another the Captains son Benjamin, working his way out without the yellow stuff. Ben's story turned the old man back and at noon of that day he left us for the outside.

I cannot recall, if I would, how many times he discussed with me the best way to secure a portion of the land at Skagway, feeling confident that it would yet be valuable. What

time he located there I do not know as I was not back there again until 1895, but I think it was in 1880 and that it was done by his son, Ben.

In 1895, he had a house and small store there and some piles for the construction of a wharf driven in, and in his conversation with me then, there was no indication of any abatement of his confidence in the future of Skagway; and in this confidence I shared.

When I met him again at Skagway, in 1897, and the place was a town, he shook hands with me most effusively, remarking “Vy ! what did ve tell dem, eh ! --- ---- it, we know a ting or two, don’t ve!” and so on.

In 1891, I think the Captain procured from the British Columbia Government a grant of money with which to build a house of shelter for miners on the Dyea Pass, and many now in the country will, doubtless, remember this house on the Indian trail to Lake Lindeman about a mile south of it.

In ‘92, if my memory serves me right, the British Columbia Government sent a surveyor and party to examine several routes from the coast to the interior and because the report in a manner condemned the White Pass, the old man called its reliability into question, and had the matter brought up in the Provincial Legislature. On that occasion, considerable correspondence passed between him and myself on the question. His persistency in the matter succeeded in discrediting the report; and, as he was a member of the survey party, he was in a better position to combat it than another.

Now, Mr. Editor, I have stated only facts, and I think you will agree with me that such unwavering faith associate with the acts manifesting it, are deserving of some reward. There are few of us who, in the same case, would not think ourselves hardly dealt with if we were left out of consideration.

Yours very truly,

(signed) William Ogilvie

HANK KARR’S NEW DVD

Just received my copy of Hank Karr’s new DVD “Long Gone Yukon” and watched it from beginning to end. It is well worth buying. – Sherron

You can get your copy by sending a cheque for \$25. to:

Hank Karr
33 Pelly Rd
Whitehorse Yukon Y1A 4L9
hkar*northwestel.net

Many Doors Opened in Dawson on the Weekend

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

March 30, 2010

The second iteration of Doors Open Dawson revealed a wealth of material for those who wandered the streets of the town between 1 and 5 on March 27.

One of the last major tasks undertaken by Community Development Officer Jay Armitage before he leaves that post at the end of March, the afternoon began with an open-ended gathering at the town council chambers, where Parks Canada's Trina Buhler had organized a before and after slide show of old buildings that had been restored over the years.

Then it was off to follow the map to the seven locations open for visitors that afternoon. The first two were of similar vintage, dating back to 1897 and 1898.

The Bachelor Cabin is a bit of a slog through the brush and soft snow off Judge Street and is one of the few remaining examples of an actual miner's cabin from the goldrush period. Visitors were shown the place by an enthusiastic Councillor Wayne Potoroka, who lives nearby and who hopes to achieve a municipal heritage designation for the building if the town takes that legislative route.

Just around the block on Front Street is the Whitehouse Cabins complex, and one of its units, bearing the name Dawson on the front, is an 1898 cabin that Doug Cotter and Ashley Dorion have restored to usefulness. At one point it was in worse shape than its nearby relative, but it is now nicely fitted out and serves as a housekeeping suite.

The Dawson Firefighters' Museum is currently beside the fire dept. in the town's administration building, but will be moving to its new location on the same site this summer. It houses a number of older pieces of equipment, dating back as far as an 1897 Clapp & Jones Steam Fire Engine which would have seen service in one of Dawson's many fires in those early years. The walls of the big room are decorated with an impressive set of paintings by Halin DeRepentigny.

It was cold in the Dawson Daily News building and Park's Carrie Docken was thankful for the coffee provided by Museum director Laura Mann when we arrived there. The News operated from 1899 until 1954, the year after the territory's capital was relocated to Whitehorse. Most of the actual operating equipment is stored at the back of the building.

The Northern Commercial Company Warehouse at the corner of Fifth Avenue and King Street is still a warehouse but these days it stores items for Parks Canada, everything from actual historic artifacts to superannuated computers and white boards. Still visible down its middle aisle is the internal trolley line that was used to move goods from one end of the long building to the other.

The Dawson Museum Train Shelter is at the other end of town, next to the Old Territorial Building which houses the Museum. At one time the old Klondike Mines rolling stock now housed there was exposed to the elements, but it is now protected from everything but the summer's dust and the winter's cold.

The last stop of the day was on 3rd Avenue, at the home of Ron and Dianne McCready. They live in a small 1902 building which was, at one time, the property of the Northwest Mounted Police and later on the RCMP before becoming a private residence. While it was originally chopped up into a bunch of very small rooms, subsequent owners have removed those partitions to make a more open living space. The McCreadys are about to move out for the summer to make way for an extensive internal renovation project and the construction of an additional room. The house will, however, retain its exterior heritage appearance.

Numbers for the 2010 Doors Open Tour were down from last year, perhaps due to the fact that this year's event lacked the kind of public send-off given the 2009 edition by the well attended Pecha Kucha evening the night before. There were presentations on World Heritage status and heritage preservation on Thursday and Friday evenings, but these lacked the broader public appeal of the Pecha Kucha and did not create the same buzz.



The 1897 Bachelor's Cabin is hidden in the bush in the North End of Dawson.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Bachelors' cabin interior.

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



The Dawson Daily News ran from 1899 to 1954.

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



DDN Press. This old press is one of many pieces of equipment stored on site.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



This 1897 Clapp & Jones Steam Fire Engine is one of several old engines in the
Firefighters' Museum.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Northern Commercial Company Warehouse now stores things for Parks Canada.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



This internal trolley track was used to move goods inside the building.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Dawson Museum Train Shelter.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



This restored 1898 cabin is part of Whitehouse Cabins.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Once the property of the RNWMP and RCMP, McCready House is now a private home.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Signs of a Klondike Spring

by Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)
April 19, 2010

Springtime comes to Dawson City with certain signs along the Yukon River. As early as April 5 it was certain that the ice bridge would close a bit early, as it was slushy even then and the drag racers were moving their cars off the convoluted track they had enjoyed during the winter.

The closure sign went up about a week later.

Spring seemed to be coming so fast that the members of the IODE were concerned they might not have their Ice Pool tickets printed and ready for sale before the river flushed, but their printer came through during those first few days of April and the Yukon Order of Pioneers put the tripod out on the ice not long after.

Three years ago Stephen Johnson, then a retired engineer and now a town councillor, did a detailed statistical analysis of breakup dates since they were first recorded and concluded that the trend is toward earlier breakups.

In his posting on the Dawson City Form this year he noted the following.
"Using all the data (including 2009), the mathematics predicts the breakup to occur (drum roll...) on May 6, 2010 at precisely 1:31:05 a.m.

"However, as Mark Twain said, 'there are lies, damned lies and statistics!' That being said, chances of winning on that day and time are about 1 in 31,680 (22 days x 24 hrs/day x 60 min/hr). For that calculation I chose dates between April 28 (earliest date so far) and May 19 (latest date if we discount May 28, 1964 as being anomalous)."



The ice bridge is closed to all but lighter vehicles and those on foot.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



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



The IODE tripod awaits the Yukon's River's big flush. The cable leading to the clock is attached to a clock on the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre.

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

Buckway retains AYC presidency

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

April 18, 2010

Whitehorse Mayor Bev Buckway will serve another term as president of the Association of Yukon Communities. Buckway was unopposed in her bid for another term and, as the only full time municipal politician in the territory, is perhaps the only person with enough time to devote some to that job.

She is joined on the executive by Mayor Elaine Wyatt of Carmacks, as 1st vice-president; Councillor Wayne Potoroka of Dawson as 2nd vice-president; and Councillor Howard Fick of Watson Lake as vice-president at large, a post that exists in the event that there is no past president.

On many occasions the most gruelling part of any annual general meeting is the search for people to let their names stand for the executive and board positions. That did not seem to be the case at this year's AGM for the AYC, even though there were just enough nominations to fill the openings.

As nominations chair Diana Rogerson as quick to note before reading out the names, these nominations were not the result of arm twisting but had come forward from AYC members.

“It is not a question of the three of us sitting down and going ‘Oh, I think this person and that person would be good for the job.’”

All the nominations were unopposed.

“I’d like to say thank you to everybody for your vote of confidence,” Buckway said. “I will assume it’s a vote of confidence as opposed to a lack of interest.”



New AYC Exec: Wayne Potoroka, Bev Buckway, Elaine Wyatt, Howard Fick.

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

Steins Takes Major AYC Honour

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

April 19, 2010

He may have lost his mayor’s seat to Peter Jenkins in a tight decision last October, but John Steins won honours at the hands of his political peers during the annual general meeting of the Association of Yukon Communities when the group presented him with its prestigious Hanseatic Award.

The honour is given annually to “A person who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Yukon Municipal Government and furthered the goals of the Association of Yukon Communities.”

Nominations comes from the membership at large and the executive makes the final decision.

The citation for the award praises Steins as the man who provided “leadership to re-establish civic control and recreate municipal government in the second biggest municipality in Yukon.”

It notes that Dawson, in 2006, was still under the rule of a YTG appointed trustee, and that it faced major challenges: court order to build a secondary sewage treatment facility, a barely functional recreation centre, bankruptcy and low civic morale.

“John, as chair of the Dawson Citizen's Action Group, had been advocating for the reestablishment of municipal government for a number of months during the trusteeship. When the municipal election was finally called, he was the only person willing to step forward to help lead Dawson out of the extremely difficult situation it found itself in and to set the grounds for re-establishing successful municipal governance in the community.”

Under Steins, the council established a clear set of procedural policies, worked with YTG to find a solution for wastewater treatment, and developed a program to make the Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre more functional.



John Steins was flattered and gratified to receive the Hanseatic Award from his former AYC colleagues. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

“Thanks to John and his leadership, the stage was set for a new Mayor and Council to continue the effective and strong municipal government that has now been re-established in the community.”

Steins became 1st vice-president of the AYC and earned much appreciation for his efforts on that body's behalf, feeling that he owed it to AYC for the support it had given Dawson in getting its government back.

“An example of a grass roots elected municipal representative who worked diligently for his municipality and for AYC, John is most deserving of the 2010 Hanseatic Award.”

Yukon River Breaks Early

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

Photos by Betty Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

May 1, 2010

Two Dawsonites will share about \$3600 in prize money in this year's IODE Break-up Ice Pool. The Yukon River broke in Dawson at 3:12 a.m. on Friday morning, April 30, three days earlier than last year.

While the general trend of Yukon River Breakups has been graphed by local engineer Stephen Johnson to show that it is happening earlier and earlier, breakups in April are still the exception rather than the rule.

Added to that is the fact that most places in the Yukon received between 50% and 70% of the precipitation they usually get over the winter. Less melt water should mean less of a force to flush the ice.

When the annual flood prediction for this year was circulated it could almost be boiled down to two words: don't worry.

After last year's tumultuous breakup, with massive bergs that scoured the river banks from Minto Landing through the brush along Dawson's waterfront and down to Alaska, where it wiped out Eagle Village and did tremendous damage to homes and businesses in the town of Eagle itself, this year looked to be pretty mild, and some of the dikeside discussions by river watchers in Dawson included the thought that the increasingly fragile looking ice might simply rot away this year.

It didn't, it flushed quietly during the evening of April 29, cutting away the ice around the tripod and flowing on past as if it would just leave it there.

River watchers walked the dike, a film crew caught the sights and sounds and solitary beaver, washed down with the ice, crawled out and began its way back to where ever it had come from.

Joyce Caley, official time keeper for the IODE Ice Pool, says the ice backed up after that and it looked like nothing was going to happen, so she went home.

The blockage finally broke in the wee hours of the night, washing the IODE marker away and stopping the clock attached to the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre at 3:12 a.m. when there weren't many people around to see it. Nevertheless, someone did and contacted a member of fire department, who dutifully sounded the siren at the fire hall.

Caley learned of it when CBC phoned her in the morning. Her son, Bruce, packed up her ladder and drove her down to the waterfront to check the time, holding the ladder steady while she climbed up to take a look.

Caley reports that sales of the tickets were good this year: 3864 of the 4000 printed were sold, bringing in \$7,728.00.

No one got the exact time, but two locals, Maria Fras and Aaron Burnie, were within two minutes, so they will split a prize that amounts to about \$1800.00 apiece.

For the IODE, this is their major fund raiser for the year and they use the proceeds to support a number of charitable works and school prizes in the town.

The river has broken up five times before on this particular date, Caley notes, in 1940, 1941, 1990, 1991 and 1995.



West Dawsonites can be seen waiting for the ice to move.
Photo courtesy Betty Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Pre-breakup. On Thursday evening it still looked like this.
Photo courtesy Betty Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



A film crew caught the sights and sounds.
Photo courtesy Betty Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Dog on icefloes.

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



Ice on sandbar. This year's bergs are quite small compared to past years.

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



There is a beaver in these two pictures.



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



The River was open on Friday.
Photo courtesy Betty Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

VANCOUVER YUKONER BANQUET PHOTOS

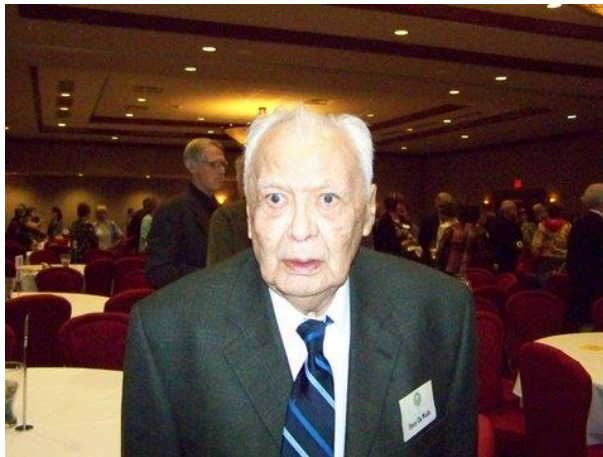
Courtesy Sandy Campbell northernlyght@shaw.ca (In Langley)



Back Row -Left to Right - Karen MacLeod (nee Gould) (Wife of Malcolm MacLeod), Malcolm MacLeod, Carol Avon (nee Macleod), Jim Avon (Carols husband)
Front row- Ann Keeler (nee MacLeod), Frances MacLeod
(Neil passed away recently)



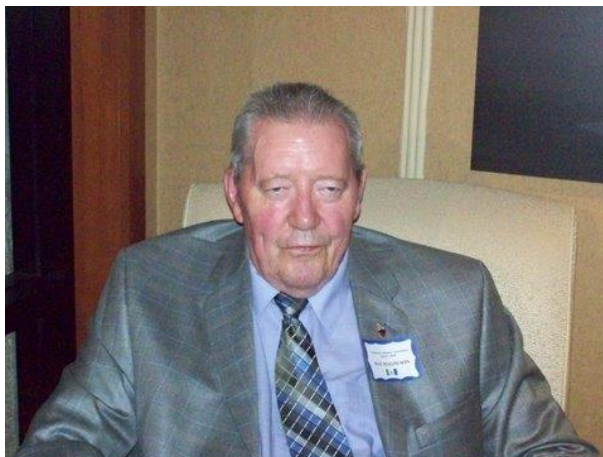
Dr. Bill & Niki Buchan – formerly Whitehorse



Percy DeWolfe – formerly Dawson
(Delivered mail on the Yukon River using a dog team.)



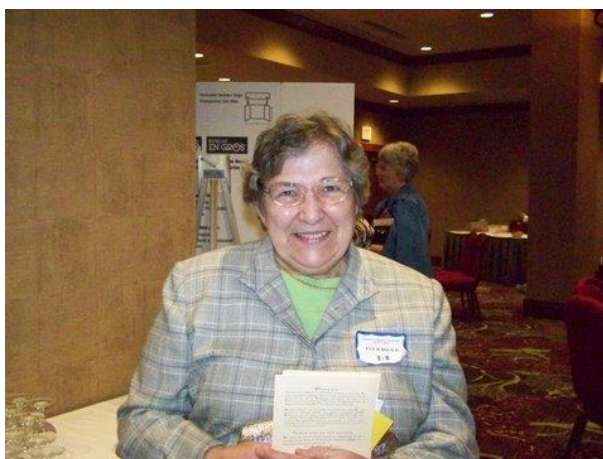
“Goody” (Erickson) Sparling – Whitehorse
(Spent a lot of time as a child in the Regina Hotel which her parents operated.)



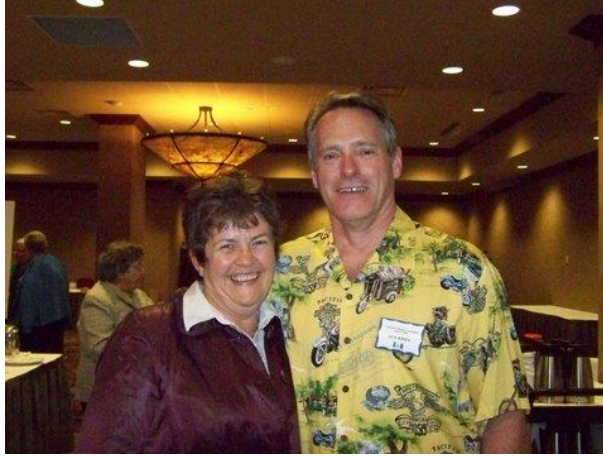
Ray Magnuson – Whitehorse
(Spent many years working & improving the Highways in Yukon)



Karen Shaw – formerly Mayo



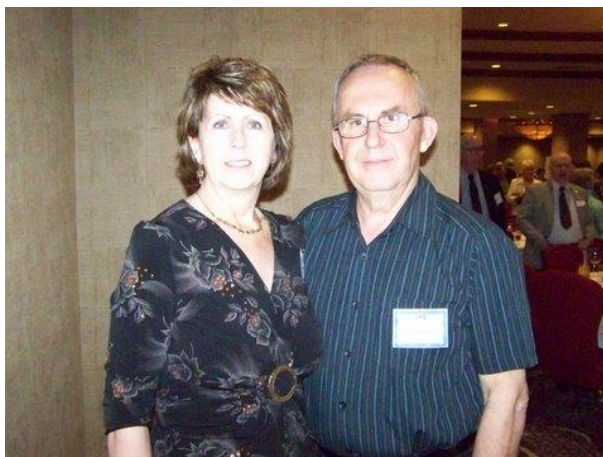
Eve Jurovich – formerly Mayo



Maureen (Smith) & Ken Jones – formerly Carcross & Whitehorse
(Ken guarded the Olympic Torch across much of Canada and has lots of wonder photos)



Alice & Jim Boyes – formerly Mayo



Donalda (Cusick) & Lyn Lambert – formerly Dawson & Whitehorse

BANQUET PHOTOS COURTESY BILL & JERI WEIGAND



Gail & Mike Craigen and Ed Demchuk (was partner owner of the drug store with Art Pearson), Jeri Weigand, Gus Barrett.
(Ed brought Harry and Hazel Nixon who were also at our table.)



Bill Weigand, Angie Dorian, Mike Scott

MOCTEL DVD – Moccasin Telegraph Archive

A DVD is now available which contains 404 Moccasin Telegraphs including the Special Editions and covers the 7 year period 2003 through 2009.

If you wish one mailed to you, please send a cheque in the amount of \$22.50 payable to Sherron Jones at the address on the last page of this edition. Please include your mailing address and a note that the cheque is for the DVD.

These discs are much easier to send to you while we are back in Canada – than to make out customs declarations and stand in long line ups at the Post Office in the US.

Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca (In Vernon BC)

YUKON WILDFLOWERS



Crocus (May 24, 1986)

Photo courtesy Jim & June Austin jraustin929@yahoo.ca (In Vernon)

NEW ADDITIONS

My name was Linda Baker while I was living in Whitehorse YT.
I lived in Whitehorse from 1980 to 1995. I was in Mayo in '89 for one of those years.

I worked for the government. I also worked in the Sluice Box Saloon with Kay Malchow. I worked in the Sternwheeler lounge with a bunch of great women, one including Penny Lovely, which I am trying to track down.

I went to the Yukon College while there, doing long distance education. After leaving Whitehorse, I went back to Ontario and finished my courses to become a social worker. I now live in Nelson BC with my husband and his two sons. I have been married for 4 years and support people in our home with disabilities. My name is now Linda Daloise.



Linda (Baker) Daloise lldaloise@shaw.ca (In Whitehorse 1980 – 95, 1 yr in Mayo)

Believe it or not this old couple finally got with the programme and while it is rather exciting it is frustrating at the same time. Joan gave me the mailing address for you but it got lost in the shuffle so please advise and will send you some money and you can put us on your MocTel. Great to keep in touch with old Whitehorse. Our daughter still there and the rest of the family.

All well so far, but take each day as a bonus... our e-mail address is rbreber@shaw.ca Thanks Bev Reber

Roy & Bev Reber rbreber@shaw.ca (In Qualicum BC)

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

Rhubarb Recipe

I love rhubarb! It is such a hardy and abundant plant here in Yukon. I enjoy visiting Atlin, BC also – one can walk down the street and view patches of “abandoned” rhubarb still producing long after the cabin which no doubt lived beside the plant has been moved or destroyed.

Check out **Rhubarb More Than Just Pies** by Sandi Vitt and Michael Hickman, University of Alberta Press, 2000. Lots of interesting history, tips on planting and marvelous recipes. The following is one of my favourites.

Matrimonial Bars

4 cups rhubarb
1 ½ cups sugar
2 tbsp cornstarch
1 tsp vanilla
1 tsp lemon or orange zest

Crust:

1 ½ cups rolled oats
1 ½ cups flour
½ tsp baking soda
1 tsp baking powder
¼ tsp salt
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup butter

Preheat oven 350 F. Combine rhubarb, sugar, cornstarch, vanilla and lemon/orange zest in saucepan; cook until thick. Cool completely. Meanwhile, combine rolled oats, flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, brown sugar, and butter. Pat 2/3 of this mixture into a greased 9 x 9 inch pan. Add filling and sprinkle with remaining crumbs. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes. Chill before cutting.

Shared by Nellie Dale nelliedale@hotmail.com (In Whitehorse)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Okanagan Yukoners' Picnic

Okanagan Yukoners' Picnic - June 27, 2010 at Summerland Ornamental Gardens, Pacific Agri-Food Centre. 4200 Highway 97, from 11:00am till 3:00pm.

Pot - Luck Lunch at Noon.

Bring a friend, Come and enjoy!!

Larry Chalmers [aksala49*telus.net](mailto:aksala49@telus.net) (In Oliver BC)

Island Yukoners Picnic
Aug 14th, 2010
(Saturday closest to Discovery Day Aug 17th)

11am-3pm
Bring your own lunch, coffee and tea provided.
St Mary's Church
2600 Powder Pt. Rd., Nanoose, B.C.

Hwy. 19 to Northwest Bay Road at the Petro Can station, turn east. Continue to Powder Point Road and turn right. Continue on Powder Point Rd until you see a church on the right. Just over the railway tracks turn right.

Contacts: Sharon Redmond 250-729-9773 or Harriett 250-714-2774

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](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca).

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

Summer -

Sherron Jones
9205 Orchard Ridge Drive
Vernon, B C
V1B 1V8
Phone: 250-549-2736