

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 311th Edition – June 6th, 2010

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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Spring in Carcross – Mouth of the Watson River

Photo courtesy Eleanor Millard emillard@northwestel.net (In Carcross)

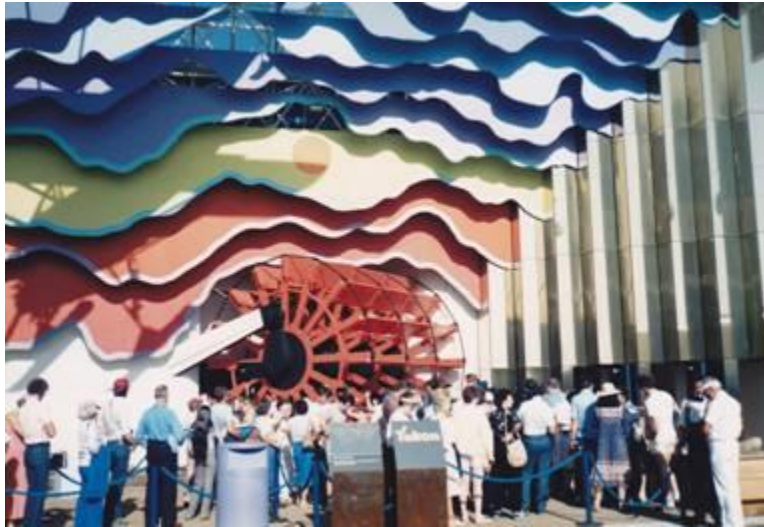


Duchess Engine at Carcross - 1950s

(I wondered at first if it was this engine at Expo 86- see next story. - Sherron)

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

EXPO 1986 YUKON PAVILLION



Yukon Pavillion at Expo 1986 in Vancouver BC
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby BC)



Edward Thompson in front of Yukon Pavillion with G-CAHR “Queen of the Yukon” and
Paddle Wheeler complete the Ted Harrison inspired facade.
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby BC)

(text below from <http://bobbea.com/expo-86/yukon.html>)

The front of the dramatic Yukon Pavilion formed an open-air theatre with a brilliant three-dimensional northern sky backdrop. [Ted Harrison inspired façade.]] Mirrored panels helped capture the magical qualities of the Yukon's Northern Lights. Surrounded by artifacts from the Klondike Gold Rush, the entranceway also served as a stage for barkers and street entertainers.



Replica of G-CAHR "Queen of the Yukon" in front of Yukon Pavillion at Expo 1986 – Vancouver BC

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby BC)

Suspended overhead was a replica of a sister plane to Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis. The bush plane "Queen of the Yukon" was symbolic of the role played by aircraft in opening up the wilderness. Below was the tiny 0-4-OT locomotive that was used for hauling coal to power the Klondike in the early part of the twentieth century.

Inside, the Yukon's most famous transportation story unfolded. The Klondike Gold Rush of 1898 came alive with the tales of the men and women who laboured for their dream of finding the mother lode.

Exhibits also told other famous stories including the building of the Alaska Highway; the only public highway in North America to reach the Arctic Coast. The Pavilion's main attraction was an 18 projector audio-visual show. From the ice-covered peaks of Kluane National Park to the wilderness of Dempster Highway, Yukon's history and natural splendours were revealed in this production.

Yukon's multi-cultural nature was highlighted through an exhibit of Native arts, a moosehide canoe, and ancient material from Old Crow (the oldest known area of habitation in North America). Also on display were traditional and modern dog sleds, including a high-tech, long-distance racing sled.



Tiny 0-4-OT locomotive that was used for hauling coal to power the Klondike in the early part of the twentieth century.

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby BC)



Visitors too could pan for gold nuggets.

Photo from online article.

Memories of Expo 86

Jeri Weigand jerrineweigand@shaw.ca (In Steveston, BC)

Through Pat Dixon, who was appointed Expo Coordinator to organize the Yukon Pavilion for Expo 86, our Yukon jewelry company, Designers North, was fortunate to take part in this exciting project in Vancouver. Working with Tony Gonda, manager of Yukon Native Products, and Carol Arntzen, manager of the gift shop, our company would occupy space in the outstanding and dramatic exhibition area with the amazing façade of a Harrison painting, an old steam engine from the creeks of the Klondike and a replica of the bush plane, Queen of the Yukon.

One of my favorite memories is the grand opening. The pavilion was divided into two large areas separated by automatic doors. An allowed number of people from the long lineups were firstly funneled into a theatre where an impressive short film on Yukon was presented. When the picture finished, the large doors would open for the people to walk into the commercial part where Yukon Native Products and Designers North Jewelry was situated.

We were all a little nervous that first day. It was like we were standing waiting in the *quiet before the storm*. The staff was beautiful in their native dress, with Helen Jakesta and Pearl Keenan garbed in white beaded fringed dresses. The polished glass show cases gleamed with gold nugget jewelry, gold-collector spoons, necklaces, watch bracelets and Harrison porcelain.

Across the room were the fur trimmed parkas, mukluks, beaded slippers, northern art and jewelry and art prints by Jim Robb and Diane Paton Peel.

Suddenly with a great whoosh, the wall opened up and a flood of noisy people literally stampeded out of the theater and into our serene space. The young girls stepped back a few paces in horror as the mobs began overwhelming us with all kinds of wild questions about Yukon and gold nuggets and what was the weather like way up there. Then the mad shopping began ... and continued through the whole wonderful Expo season.

I did not spend the whole summer there but I do remember there were many young people working in the Pavilion; to mention a few, David Pearson and Carson Schiffkorn. Dawn Mitchell was panning for gold.

An entry from our journal Oct. 13 1986 reads; we are in Whitehorse watching the closing of Expo on TV this afternoon. Twenty two million people went through the gates in five and a half months...Gordie Caley dropped in. He said "the crowds at Expo were crushing...335,000 persons, the day I was there."

Note: Pat Dixon was Expo Coordinator – Pearl Keenan was Expo Commissioner.



Carol Arntzen - Jeri Weigand - Bill Weigand - Yukon Pavillion 1986
 Photo courtesy Bill & Jeri Weigand bweigand@shaw.ca (In Steveston BC)
 Note the gold in the display case, also native crafts lower left, moccasins top left and Jim Robb paintings on the backdrop.



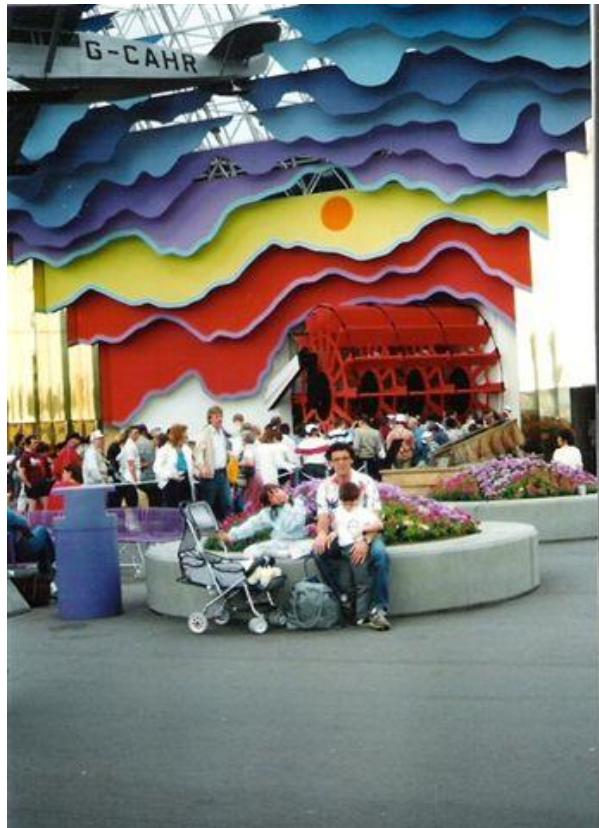
Yukon Pavillion at Expo 1986
 Photo courtesy Bill & Jeri Weigand bweigand@shaw.ca (In Steveston BC)



Yukon Expo - 86 - Pearl Keenan – Expo Commissioner
 Photo courtesy Bill & Jeri Weigand bweigand@shaw.ca (In Steveston BC)



Yukon Pavillion - 1986 - Gift shop
 Left to Right – Fran Fromme, Helen Jakesta, Kathy Birkel
 Photo courtesy Bill & Jeri Weigand bweigand@shaw.ca (In Steveston BC)



Expo 86 - Andrew Hume photo - Andrew - with Kate-Tristan and Jesse Hume.
 Courtesy Bill & Jeri Weigand bweigand@shaw.ca (In Steveston BC)

Yukon Archives Hidden History: Asian History of the Yukon Website

I have been advised by the Yukon Archives that their website providing information on the Hidden History: Asian history in the Yukon is now set up for public viewing. The Yukon Archives had asked for some information from me about my mother, Mary (Yoshida) Burian who has been included in the online exhibit. Other familiar people included are Jim Quong, Massa Sakata, Mah Bing, Jin Ah Poy and my Uncle George Nagano (married to my mother's sister Ruth).

The website can be accessed at <http://tc.gov.yk.ca/archives/hiddenhistoryasian/>

To view the content select the appropriate title at the bottom of the page (e.g. for English readers -"The Asian History of the Yukon")

To enlarge the smaller photo images for viewing click the left mouse button on the small magnifying glass icon on the bottom right corner of each photo.

Harvey Burian hburian@telus.net (In Parksville BC)



Nares Mountain and Carcross from Lake Bennett – Spring 2010
Photo courtesy Eleanor Millard emillard@northwestel.net (In Carcross)

SEASON OPENING OF 'ARTS IN THE PARK' at LePAGE PARK

By Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

On May 25 we attended the season opening of LePage Park here in Whitehorse. This wonderful little park hosts 'Arts in the Park', a summer event featuring performances by local musicians and displays of art. Performances are scheduled on weekdays during lunch hour and are free. It is located at the corner of Wood Street and 3rd Avenue. This is a great outdoor venue for local musicians to entertain local residents and tourists alike. Steve Slade organized this particular event and is a great ambassador for Yukon Music. You can see his website at <http://www.steveslade.com>.

Hank Karr & Company was invited to play at the opening on this sunny, warm day. Of course Hank & Company are Yukon favorites and to be able to attend their performance for free was a real plus. A hat belonging to Mark Prins of Inanda Images (local photographer) was placed on the deck inviting donations. The hat looked pretty full at the end of the concert. Just as the concert came to a close it started raining. I rushed to put the top up on the Rambler convertible and the band hurried to get their instruments put away. At least the rain held off until after the concert.

Mark Prins can be seen wherever an event is happening. I can attest that he takes beautiful photos of Yukon events and happenings that he sells at reasonable prices. I even have some in my possession. If you would like to contact Mark he can be reached at: Inanda Images, e-mail: mark@inandaimages.com. Telephone: 867-334-4189. I'm looking forward to seeing the photos he took at the concert.

Wherever Hank & Company are performing you will always see faithful followers. Hank has a new DVD out titled, '*Long Gone to the Yukon*'. I can't say it's the best of Hanks work because everything he does is the best. To order any of his CDs or DVD's contact Hank directly at:

Karmac Music
33 Pelly Road,
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 4L9
Telephone 867-667-7389
e-mail hkarr@northwestel.net

I took photos and, as usual, never enough it seems. It's always so much fun listening to the familiar tunes and also meeting up with old friends and meeting new ones.

Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Grant Simpson, President of Music Yukon sponsors of the Arts in the Park Series. Grant is also co-owner of the Frantic Follies - and a great jazz pianist.
Photo Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Mark Prins sans his familiar hat
Photo Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Mark Prins doing what he does best
Photo Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Hank Karr & Company
 L-R Merv Bales, Wayne Smith, Hank Karr, Tom Barnaby
 Photo courtesy Tim Kinvig kinvig*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Of course Hank and the boys start with the Yukon favorites, lyrics that we have all come to know and love as we sing along with the band and sung with Yukon pride. I'm sure we all have our own images of days-gone-by as Hank tells the Yukon's stories through his music. Of course, gentlemen that Hank is, before singing certain songs he credits singer/songwriter, Al Oster for writing the lyrics. Every time I hear Hank sing there is always mention of Al, Yukon Balladeer. How many tears almost reach the surface when everyone's favorite '*Yukon Book of Memories*' is sung? I was a bit surprised when Englander, Trish Bessell, knew the lyrics even better than I. What a beautiful voice she has.



Merv Bales - Photo Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Merv Bales has the distinction of playing a mean guitar. One of my favorites is *Ghost Riders in the Sky* with Hank and Tom singing harmony. Merv's unique style as he

caresses the strings gets the heart pumping. I swear I was out of breath by the end of this tune. A true artist.



Hank Karr

Photo courtesy Tim Kinvig kinvig*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Wayne Smith (drummer)

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



Tom Barnaby

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

Tom sang some old favorites, bringing back memories of my teen years. He's so much fun to listen to.



Tom McLaughlin & Rolf Hougen

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

Tom is Les McLaughlin's brother. Tom is part of 'Karmac Music', the company Les and Hank have to record and release Hank's music and some historical recordings Les has put out. Tom is sort of a "circulation" manager which basically means he takes a yearly trip up the Alaska Highway and around the Yukon stocking up all the lodges, etc. along the way with Hank and Les' recordings.



Enjoying the fine music
 Betty McLaughlin (pink sweater and Tom's wife) & Noreen McLaughlin (Tom's sister,
 Whitehorse) Photo Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Trish Bessell (from England) and Millie Jones
 Photo Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Even the Whitehorse Star photographer attended the event.



Vince Federoff (Whitehorse Star)
 Photo Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

UPDATE FROM DONNA NEEDHAM MCLEAN

Just came back from a wonderful trip in the Queen Charlottes. Wanted to see the majestic golden spruce but some idiot cut it down in a protest to logging in 97. Go figure. Mom saw it in the early 40s with a CPA fellow and a truck and said it was magnificent; did the hike anyway. People there are much like Yukoners so friendly and helpful. I rented a 4 wheel drive jeep and logged 40 miles on the north beach, when the tide was out of course...even I knew that. The museum in Queen Charlotte city is fascinating; took me two days to fully enjoy it all.

I'm off in June to Peterborough, Ont. for the World International Breast Cancer Dragon Boat Races. Going with the wonderful bunch from Kelowna; the 'Bust n Loose'. Hope you are both well. Regards to all I know....feel free to use this if you wish. Donna

Donna (Needham) McLean keebird*shaw.ca (In Victoria)

In one of the mid 1960's booklets sent in by Debbie Kelly there is an advertisement for Jack & Muriel Needham's- Kee Bird Store and Main Street Pharmacy, which claims – "Where the Slick Chicks Buy". – Sherron

According to an article in the Yukon News, the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous was not held from 1951 to 1961.

In looking online to see if I could find out who won the contest in 1961 I came across a Jim Robb column Feb. 24, 2010: <http://www.yukon-news.com/opinions/columns/16887/>

Which quotes in a letter from Sibell Hackney:

"In the years 1951 until 1961 there was no winter carnival, but in 1962 the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous officially began and has been held every year since."

And this quote took me searching through my files:

"From 1945 until 1950, the predecessor of the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous was known as Yukon Carnival Week. It ran approximately the same time of year as Rendezvous does now, and always had a queen contest.

Doris Lesanke was proclaimed the winner of the **Queen of the Carnival** in 1945. She was followed in 1946 by Frances Van Berkel. Mary Gunn won in 1947, Frances Straughan in 1948 and there was no carnival held in 1949 due to insurance costs. The carnival returned in 1950 (but the queen is unknown)."

I have photos of "May Queens" – 1946 Joanne Keobke, 1947 Phyllis LePage and 1948 Doreen Bird. So it looks like in those years there were two contests, one in February and one in May. – Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

1962 SOURDOUGH RENDEZVOUS QUEEN CANDIDATES

From the 1962 Rendezvous booklet shared with us by Debbie Kelly debbiekelly*on.aibn.com
(In Ottawa)



SHEILA FIRTH
Miss Ski Club



HELEN VAN BIBBER
Miss Yukon Outfitters



HAZEL PETTIT
Miss Watson Lake



JUDY LELIEVRE
Miss I. O. D. E.



LAVERNE LITTLE
Miss Canadian Legion



RONDA KNIGHT
Miss Camp Takhini



LIZ CAMPBELL
Miss Hillcrest



MOLLY BARDER
Miss Dawson



ALICE MARTIN
Miss Yukon

Molly Barber ?



Alice Balla nee Martin
1962 Rendezvous Queen

1963 SOURDOUGH RENDEZVOUS QUEEN CANDIDATES

From the 1963 Rendezvous booklet shared with us by Debbie Kelly debbiekelly*on.aibn.com
(In Ottawa)



Gwen Carswell
Miss I.O.D.E. *Gwen*



Alla Orskhoff
Miss Mayo



Pat Manko
Miss Teen Queen



Mary Grodecki
Miss Cassiar



Pat Fitzgerald
Miss Game & Guide Outfitters



Lesley Kane
Miss Hillcrest



Mary Smarch
Miss Teslin



Sharon Berg
Miss Dawson City



Sharon Springer
Miss Watson Lake



Gwen Carswell - Miss I.O.D.E. - Crowned Queen in 1963 – Bob Cousins right.

1964 SOURDOUGH RENDEZVOUS QUEEN CANDIDATES

From the 1964 Rendezvous booklet shared with us by Debbie Kelly debbiekelly*on.aibn.com
(In Ottawa)





Teresa Porter
Haines



Kristin Lee
Skagway



Bubbles Fraser
Teen Town



Sharon Gay
Camp Takhlini



OHmigawd!! haven't seen that pic for a long time. Diana McNeil, Miss Legion won that year [1964]

It was great to see you and Bill also [at the Vancouver Yukoners Banquet] - I had such a good time, reconnecting with old friends, meeting new ones..... am already thinking ahead to next year.

Bubs Fraser bubs.fraser@shaw.ca (Vancouver Island)



Bill & Helen Horbach and Gillian Campbell - 1986
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby BC)

CELEBRATED 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Thank you for forwarding the missing issues of the Moccasin Telegraph which I enjoy reading and of course seeing some old acquaintances from our very wonderful stay in the Yukon, 19 1/2 years to be exact.

I am forwarding a picture of Carolyn and I taken in September, 2009 as we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on September 26th, 2009. We moved to High River, Alberta in Oct, 1999, a year following my retirement from Goldcorp Inc at Toronto. I still follow the mining industry and sit on the Boards of 5 junior mining companies.

Keep up the good work.

Dutch VanTassell dutchvt@shaw.ca (In High River AB)



Carolyn & Dutch VanTassell

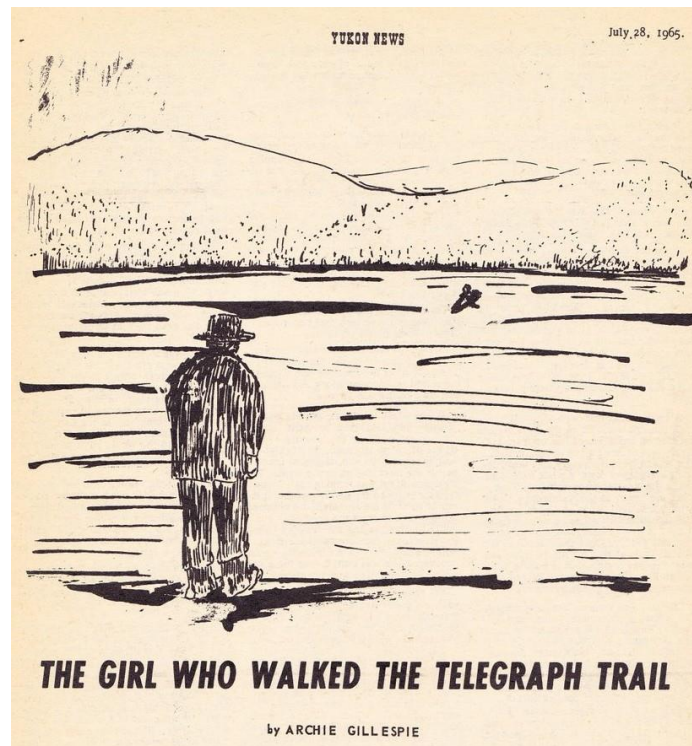
Photo courtesy Dutch VanTassell dutchvt@shaw.ca (In High River AB)

WATCH AN INFORMATIVE VIDEO

A nice overview of Self-Government Agreements in the Yukon--heartening.

<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ai/scr/yt/pubs/soc-eng.asp>

Eleanor Millard emillard@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



The girl who walked the Telegraph Trail

By Archie Gillespie

(from a Yukon News booklet – July and August 1965 - shared with us by Debbie Kelly debbiekelly*on.aibn.com (In Ottawa)

It was a raw, cold day in late October. A sharp wind was blowing off the Yukon river, sending eddies of snow swirling along the Front Street of Dawson City. Flurries of wind-swept snow were also swirling across the Klondike Valley ... a sure sign that another winter was fast closing in across the northland.

Navigation had long since come to a close of the Yukon river for another season. The last steamers had left for the south and few small crafts ventured out on the wind-swept river. Most of the local flotilla of small boats had been pulled up on shore and anchored for the winter. So it was all the more surprising when a small rowboat rounded the bend above Dawson City and drew into the shoreline. Out of the small boat, which was no bigger than a skiff, stepped a small, thin woman. Fatigue showed in every line of her haggard face, in her tired eyes and in the stoop of her slight shoulders.. She was dressed in tattered, soiled blue jeans; her denim jacket frayed sweater seemed to hang from her slender frame. She was shivering with cold and her hands so chilled she could hardly tie the rope that served as a painter, around the nearest log on the beach.

The year was 1927, I was a reporter on the Dawson News at the time and happened to be walking along Front Street when I first noticed the tiny craft drifting down the Yukon River. It was unusual for a boat to be seen heading into Dawson at this late season of the year. My curiosity led me to walk down to the beach to see who was landing. It was hard to believe that anyone would be making the cold river journey in an open boat, long after navigation had closed.

If my curiosity was piqued at the sight of the boat, my surprise was even more so when I noticed that the lone occupant of the row-boat was a woman. In fact, she seemed no more than a girl in her late teens.

It didn't take long to realize that she was from a foreign country for she spoke very broken English. At first, it was hard to make out what she was saying. However, I was soon able to make out a few words and to arrive at a few hasty deductions.

Her name was Lillian Alling and she had come from a small village in Russia. These facts I ascertained later.

From her garbled account, spoken in broken English accompanied by gestures, I was able to understand that now she had come from Whitehorse, some 400 miles to the south, and had made the long cold journey in the small, open boat. It was the first time she had ever been on the Yukon River which can be cold and miserable even during the summer months. You had to admire her courage in making that long, cold voyage all by herself, in weather that would have challenged any a veteran river man.

After her boat had been secured, I took the stranger over to the Arcade Café located on Front Street just up from the river, and ordered a hot meal for her. She was ravenously hungry and said little as she gulped down the hot food and drank the steaming hot coffee. Then, after she began to get warmed up, and after her hunger pangs had been assuaged, she gradually began to unfold her story. It was an intriguing one... one that was even stranger than fiction. It was difficult at first for me to make out what she was saying, but it wasn't long before I was able to get the drift of her unusual story ... piece by piece.

Lillian Alling was a Russian immigrant who had journeyed from her native land to New York where she had worked as a domestic. She was alone, in a strange land. She didn't know anyone in the big city, nor did she make any friends. The metropolitan city overwhelmed her and it wasn't long before she became homesick for her native land. However she stuck out her job, saved her wages and then, after a year in New York, decided to head back for home. She didn't have enough money to book passage on a steamer so she decided to undertake the long journey back to Russia via a roundabout route.

She hit out for the Pacific coast, finally arriving in Vancouver, British Columbia. By the time she reached the coast, her meagre savings were almost gone so she started out for Hazelton, from which point she planned on following the old government telegraph line trail to Atlin, thence to Whitehorse and on down the Yukon River to Nome. She had crossed North America from east to west and now she was ready to tackle the long journey from the Pacific Coast to the Bering Sea. It was less than 40 miles from Nome to Siberia and from there she would have no trouble reaching her home farther inland.

How little she knew of the perils and the pitfalls that lay ahead.

That was in the summer of 1926. She got together a small outfit and started out from Hazelton on foot. But, being a greenhorn to the country, she was ill equipped and after she had hiked some 80 miles, the authorities decided that she was too inexperienced and

had too few supplies to make the long journey to the end of the telegraph trail at Atlin. So she was brought back to the coast where she spent the winter, managing odd jobs. But she was dreaming ahead to the following year when she was determined she would start out again.

This time the authorities didn't stop her but they made sure that her route of travel was closely followed.

In those days there were two linemen at each station along the old telegraph line and, after she reached one station, she would be escorted along the wilderness trail to the one beyond.

It was while she was on this inland journey from Hazelton to Atlin that tragedy entered into the picture. One of the old time linemen, Scotty Ogilvie was heading from one station to meet her at the next station to the south. The Nikinsaw River was running high when Ogilvie reached it, so, as was the custom of most of the linemen, he chopped down a tree to cross the river on, but while he was making the crossing on the log he slipped into the swollen stream and was drowned. After his body was recovered, he was buried near the spot where he had fallen into the river.

But the slightly-built Russian girl, with her indomitable courage, kept on walking north. In addition to a packsack with her grub, she carried a small axe and had a small dog with her.

In those days there was little traffic along the route, outside of the linemen and a few trappers or hunters. It was a wild and desolate country, with many rivers to cross. She had to face the threat of swollen rivers, most of which she forded, wild animals and the vagaries of the weather. It is doubtful if any of the Sourdough prospectors heading into the Klondike during the gold rush stampeded ever started out over this route with more bravery or determination.

As long as the linemen guided and escorted her along the route, she had few worries. But, on one stretch of the trail, when she was by herself, tragedy struck. She was wading a river with was deeper than she had anticipated. During the crossing she lost her axe and the little dog, her only companion, was swept away by the force of the current and she never saw the animal again.

The RCMP knew of her long journey and were keeping tabs on her as she walked deeper and deeper in the wild, rugged northern terrain.

The days drew into weeks and the weeks into months but finally she reached Atlin and then Whitehorse, at the head of the Yukon River. It was in Whitehorse that she procured a small boat and, against all warnings, started on the long river voyage to Dawson and the Bering Sea. Anyone knowing the country would never think of starting out on this voyage at this time of the year. But Lillian Alling was undaunted and pulled out from Whitehorse for her next stop at Dawson City.

During those days when the steamers were plying the Yukon River between Whitehorse and Dawson, there were numerous small settlements along the way. She was always able

to stop at one of these settlements, get herself a hot meal, whatever supplies she could afford, and then push on to the next river stop.

But it was a long 400 miles for a slim, tired girl who did not know the river and could only trust to luck to get her to her destination. At nights she would tie up at some settlement, or even at some isolated point where she would make camp and spend the night. In the early morning hours a damp fog mist would cover the river and she would have to wait until the sun got strong enough to disintegrate the fog.

It was a long, slow, cold journey but the little girl with the big determination stuck to her guns and kept travelling deeper and deeper into the north. Even after reaching Dawson she would still have another 1500 miles to go before reaching the Bering Sea.

Subsequently, she rounded the bend in the river and there lay the old metropolis of Dawson City. It was a welcome sight.

It was at this point that I happened to see the small boat pulling in to shore and had my first glimpse of Lillian Alling. After she had eaten a good meal, I took her over to the Dawson News office and after several hours was able to get a fairly comprehensive picture of the trials and tribulations she had been through. But the test of her courage was not yet over. She still had many weary miles to go before she would reach her homeland.

Due to the lateness of the season and the close approach of the northern winter, it would have been suicide for her to try and go any further down the Yukon. It is doubtful if the police in Dawson would have allowed her to continue. As it happened she was able to get a job cooking at a dairy ranch some 15 miles up the Klondike River from Dawson. The old timer who ran the dairy, Archie Fournier, needed a cook for the winter and when he heard of the plucky girl's predicament, he kindly offered her the job for the winter.

A few days later heavy slush ice began running down the river and these soon formed into heavy ice floes that drifted lazily past the town and soon the river was frozen over.

Lillian Alling was very happy to get the cooking job. She had done this kind of work before so the job posed no problem for her. By accepting this job for the winter she was assured of a warm home, plenty to eat and, besides, she would be able to save most of her wages for the fresh start on her journey the following summer.

During that winter in Dawson she was able to pick up quite a bit of the English language and she made a number of friends who were astonished at her courage and determination. She spent a happy and profitable winter in the Land of Gold.

But just as soon as the ice broke up in the Yukon the following spring, she became restless and eager to be on her way again. After the river cleared and navigation got under way for another season, she was again on her way, still deeper into the north. Only, on this occasion she was much more warmly dressed and much better prepared.

Lillian Alling was a happy radiant woman when she left Dawson that following summer, knowing that the end of her journey was growing closer and closer all the time.

A few years ago there was an article in the Readers' Digest describing Lillian Alling's long journey into the north. In this article it stated that she was last seen at Nome, Alaska. The article was entitled "The Girl Who Walked Into Nowhere."

However, through that mysterious channel of communication known throughout the north as "The Moccasin Telegraph" I learned some time ago that the plucky immigrant woman had actually reached the village in Russia which she called home. It is to be hoped that this is true for her long journey from New York into the farthest tip of the North American continent, will go down in the annals of the north as one of the pluckiest deeds ever accomplished by a woman travelling alone through the wild and rugged northland.

WATSON LAKE HOTEL BURNED TO THE GROUND

See Yukon News April 19, 2010 story at:

<http://yukon-news.com/news/17721/>

The hotel burned in the early hours of April 17th. Arson is suspected. The hotel was boarded up and did not have electricity or heat. In part the article reads:

"In June 2007, the Liard First Nation bought Lang's Watson Lake Hotel, Belvedere and Gateway Motor Inn using a \$2.83 million federal affordable housing grant that passed from the Yukon cabinet to the First Nation's development corporation.

A section of the Watson Lake Hotel was to be used as a residence for elders.

But the hotel was boarded up shortly after it was purchased. And it is not clear how much money the First Nation has spent on affordable housing initiatives in the town."

WATSON LAKE HOTEL little known fact from the Vancouver Yukoners Newsletter.

Corinne [Appleyard] Loepky reported that the old Watson Lake Hotel had burned down about a week and a half before. Her father was the original owner and had built the first two sections of it. She had watched it go up and felt sad seeing pictures on line of it burning down.

LOEPPKY, Corinne (APPLEYARD) corinne.loepky@telus.net (In Telegraph Creek, Watson Lake, Whse 1945-66) Richmond

NEXT YEARS VANCOUVER YUKONERS BANQUET also from the latest Newsletter.

Reporting “pencilled in” dates for April 15 and 16, 2011 and April 13 and 14, 2012; contract for 2011 to be signed in the next few days.

MS-afflicted Yukoner seeks treatment in India

Courtesy Whitehorse Star

It was more than three years ago when Dr. Paolo Zamboni undertook a simple but previously unheard of procedure to stop multiple sclerosis (MS) from taking his wife away from him.

By [Justine Davidson](#) on May 26, 2010 at 2:43 pm



Photo by Whitehorse Star

CUTTING-EDGE TREATMENT – Friends and family of Haines Junction resident Tim Cant will hold a fund-raiser tomorrow in Whitehorse to raise the money needed for a trip to Bangalore, India, where he will receive treatment for multiple sclerosis. Cant, a

carver and businessman who has been active in the Haines Junction community for many years, was diagnosed with the disease five years ago.

It was more than three years ago when Dr. Paolo Zamboni undertook a simple but previously unheard of procedure to stop multiple sclerosis (MS) from taking his wife away from him.

The Italian doctor developed a theory that the degenerative disease is caused by a lack of blood flow to the brain, and by opening up the veins in his wife's neck, he hoped to halt the disease's progression.

And it worked; Zamboni's wife has not had an attack since.

But it was not until recently that Canadians and the world came to hear about, and in many cases seek out, the unproven treatment for the crippling disease.

MS attacks the nervous system and over the years strips away its victims' physical and cognitive abilities. In the end, it often leaves people absolutely disabled, often unable to even communicate.

Yukoner Tim Cant was diagnosed with Stage Four MS five years ago, his sister-in-law, Barb Hume, told the Star this week.

"We have no way of knowing how long he's had it," she said. "He could have had it his whole life."

At this point, Cant is having trouble walking and tires very easily, Hume said; another attack will weaken him further, no one knows by how much.

But news of Zamboni's success has given Cant and many other MS patients great hope for what has always been considered an incurable disease.

The procedure is not approved in Canada, it cannot be done on all MS patients and the treatment has not faced the scrutiny of a large-scale controlled study. Nevertheless, it has given great hope to many MS sufferers.

"We want Tim to be cured, but we also want to raise awareness about this procedure being done in Canada," Hume said.

"So we'll be lobbying Canada and also the territorial government to get this treatment approved in Canada."

But Cant will not have to wait for that to happen because he is leaving for Bangalore, India next week, where he will receive the experimental treatment.

"Tim has been searching and searching for this treatment and just all of a sudden got word that he was a candidate and it could be done in India," Hume told the Star. "It was a Godsend, a blessing."

“There’s nowhere in Canada to get the procedure, although they are doing the screenings here,” she explained. “Tim was very lucky to get approval to a hospital in India.

“All the research has been done about the surgeon and about the hospital and it all looks very positive.”

Although not as expensive as treatment in the United States, where the procedure costs about \$80,000, Cant’s sojourn to India will cost about \$25,000, Hume said. None of that will be covered by his health insurance.

That is why Cant’s family and friends are organizing a number of fund-raisers over the next week to help him and his wife, Mary Jane, pay for the trip and treatment.

The first is a potluck being held tonight at the Haines Junction Convention Centre, with entertainment courtesy of Gramma Sarah.

The big event, also a potluck, is happening tomorrow at the Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre.

As of Tuesday, a raft of entertainers had already signed up, including Bob Charlie, Kevin Barr, Dennis Allen, Malcolm Dawson, and Lacey Scarf, with more expected to come on board up to the time the doors open at 6 p.m., Hume said.

Organizers have gathered a load of door prizes and auction items, she said, the highlights being a number of carved paddles and masks.

“We’re very grateful to all our supporters; it’s just amazing how many people have come forward to help us,” Hume said.

The family is hoping to raise at least half the cost of the trip, she said.

Those unable to attend the event but who want to contribute can drop donations off at the Champagne and Aishihik offices on Jarvis Street in Whitehorse.



Vinny the Vulture visiting the Johnson's.
Photo courtesy Jim Johnson jim7388@gmail.com (On Texada Island)

The other thing different for this winter... we have been feeding a vulture since the 18th of December. He just dropped in one afternoon all bedraggled and starving. He was a regular customer for the winter. We were getting meat scraps from Safeway in Powell River to feed him.

As the weather warmed he spent more time getting his own food. He stopped by for a visit yesterday but I think that it was more a social call.

We see him in the company of the rest of the vulture culture but he still takes an extra turn over the house on his beach patrol.

I hope he heads south with his mates this fall.

Jim



And he is back showing off his plumage. Looks like he has some damage to the outer edge of the right wing.

Photo courtesy Jim Johnson jim7388@gmail.com (On Texada Island)

YUKON WILDFLOWERS



Jacobs Ladder – white and blue – Haines Road

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

NEW ADDITIONS

Judith (Cunningham) Michie signposter@hotmail.com formerly of Bear Creek would like to be on your mailing list.

Thank You

George Millen george_millen@hotmail.com (In Watson Lake)

Hi Sherron...Yes I would like to be on your mailing list. I was born in Mayo in 1953, moved to Keno 1954-55, then moved to Dawson the year of the big fire...travelled through it by cab....my Mom didn't drive. We lived in Dawson 1958-1962. We then moved to Mayo in 62, left in 66 to Watson Lake and lived there until Nov. 2007. Have so many great memories of those few short years. Fractured my skull the day before Prince Charles and Prince Phillip were to arrive in Dawson...the reason Charles never carried me away and married me I guess...or was it because I was 5 ? hmmm anyway was stuck in the hospital. Went to the catholic school. My Mom worked at the hospital as the receptionist and I got to see the old timers at the old folks home...I learned to count by playing blackjack with some of the old miners and I got to fly down or rather ride down the banisters...good old days. We got to go on the dredge and through the old buildings and play with the stuff and when it flooded we used to use the sidewalks as rafts...got into trouble. My brother was Nigel and my Mom was Peggy Cunningham. We then moved onto Mayo until 1966 thru onto Watson Lake where I have been until we moved to Nova Scotia in Nov /07....I miss it so much and am hoping to move back or closer to. You know how they say you can take the girl out o the Yukon but you can't take the Yukon out of the girl...so true. I was born in 1953. Left when I was 54 and it has been awful ever since.

We now live in Aylesford, Nova Scotia it is in the Annapolis valley.

So good to see George for a quick visit the other day while I was visiting my daughter in Chetwynd. Also the main reason. I am to far from MY children and grand children. Life is to short....

Thank you for putting me on your list ...How do I get your money to you? Take care

Judith (Cunningham) Michie signposter@hotmail.com (In Nova Scotia)

Hi again Sherron...I have a question and maybe you could help. My Mom and brother arrived in 1950 on a steam ship to mayo...I always wanted to know which one...she mentioned it was one of the last trips this one made...Is there someway of checking a passenger list or how to go about it/ My Mom passed away in 1975 and my brother in 1972. If you can help in any way, would appreciate it.

My Mom's name was Peggy Cunningham. Her full name was Phyllis Margaret Cunningham. She also worked at the mining recorders office in mayo for Gordon

McIntyre, then moved on to Watson Lake and worked under John McKenzie for the Mining recording office. Anymore info, just let me know.

Thank you

Judith (Cunningham) Michie signposter@hotmail.com (In Nova Scotia)

Sherron: Great to hear from you. Yes, I'd love to get on the mailing list of the Telegraph and, if possible, some back copies, as well. I used to get the Yukoner magazine until it stopped and am very interested in Yukon stories, history, etc.

My wife Judy and I have been in the Yukon for 38 years and in Whitehorse for 24 of those. We moved to Watson Lake in January, 1972 with CNT (which eventually became NorthwesTel). I worked up and down the Alaska Hwy from Summit Lake to Swift River and Dease Lake to Tungsten on the microwave system and telephone exchanges. Also, I had a radio/TV business in Watson Lake, and then we opened a fast food/restaurant/bakery business. I was on the fire department (14 years) (training officer) and the ambulance (6 years). We moved to Whitehorse (Porter Creek) in 1986. I worked mainly in the head office of NorthwesTel until I retired in 1999. I operate a scuba diving business, Sub Arctic Scuba, teach 1st aid/CPR and am a director of the Miles Canyon Historic Railway Society and look after the Copperbelt Mining Museum and Railway.

Of course, I've done lots of camping, fishing and hunting over the years, a number of river trips and travelled to many areas of the Yukon. I was fortunate to be involved with the turn-up (and on-going maintenance) of the original satellite TV systems (Anik) to cover the north, helped maintain some of the remote CBC radio & TV transmitter systems and was involved in designing and installing many of the data and computer systems when they started showing up in the north. A truly interesting time to live in the Yukon!!

Larry & Judy Bonnett bonnet@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

Hi Sherron – Thanks for all your work – I very much enjoyed the Moc-Tel but I have been gone too long from the Yukon and now know very few of the people mentioned so please remove me from your mailing list.

Thanks again – Bill Speer

SPEER, William bilson2@shaw.ca (In Yukon 1943-56 Swift River, Brooks Brook, Whitehorse, etc) Kelowna

I appreciate the work you put into Moccasin Telegraph. However this time, apart from the fact I know so few of the people you have. I also at this time can not find the time to enjoy it. So I would like to unsubscribe. Keep up the good work.

Regards Grant Luck

LUCK, Grant luckgrant@gmail.com (In Watson Lake 1960's & 70's) Fort St. James

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

There is no way to happiness – happiness is the way.
Vietnamese Buddhist teacher, Thich Nhat Hanh

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Hummus

Teri (Millen) McNaughton terimc@xplornet.com (In Watson Lake)

2 c cooked garbanzos
1/3 c fresh lemon juice
1/4 c tahini (sesame seed butter)
2 cloves garlic
1 t salt
1/2 t onion powder
1/4 c water or broth from garbanzos
cumin to taste (opt)
fresh parsley or mint to taste

Process all ingredients in blender until smooth and creamy.
Add a little more water if necessary.

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 (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

Bear Creek/YCGC Reunion Labour Day Weekend 2010

Parks Canada is planning a reunion of those who lived in Bear Creek or who worked for Yukon Consolidated Gold Company. They have been in touch with former residents to correct and clarify their maps and information. We realize that this is short notice for us but they probably have a short time line for use of the funds for the event. If you are interested in this reunion, contact: Trina at 867-993-7222, or e-mail trina.bhuler@pc.gc.ca, or write Box 390 Dawson City, Yukon, Y0B 1G0. Your editor would like to know who plans to attend, too.

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

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