

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 321st Edition – October 24th, 2010

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



Bumble Bee on Fireweed

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

**History of Hydro Power in Whitehorse and the Construction of the
Whitehorse Rapids Hydro Facility
Yukon Energy**

Prepared by Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net Whitehorse

Part 4 final

For some wonderful photos visit the Yukon Energy Website:

http://www.yukonenergy.ca/downloads/db/74_winds_of_change.pdf

I would like to thank Janet Patterson, Supervisor, Communications, Yukon Energy Corporation for supplying this information on the Whitehorse Rapids Hydro Facility. For more information Janet may be reached at: (867) 393-5333 or (867) 335-1519

I would also like to thank Ramona at Yukon Energy for her assistance.

Below are some stories that Henry Breaden sent to me [Donna Clayson] regarding the Hydro Dam. I believe you'll find them very interesting:

Sometimes you get the fish by the tail! The salmon run both ways in the fishway, in August upwards from the Bering Sea, and in the spring after the eggs hatch, many of them come down through the fishway on their way to the Bering Sea. Those smelts will be back as adults in four or five years time. There are many that come down through the turbines, and being Kaplan turbines the fatality rate was about 6 percent. It was not the turbines themselves, but the pressure change if they came to the surface too quickly from the pressure they were under as they came out to the tailrace.

Henry Breaden
May 2003

Drilling was done at Rose Creek up near Kusawa Lake and at Whitehorse Rapids for foundations in 1956. A decision was made to proceed with the Whitehorse project and during 1956-57 there was concrete work on the spillway and power house along with earthwork for the dam and the power canal to the plant. The foundations were poured for the intake and three penstocks put in place. Only two were used with two KML Kaplan turbines installed with two Westinghouse generators of 5 megawatts each. The third was made use of in 1968-69 when the No 3 Allis Chalmers turbine was installed. During 1957-58 the work was completed, and I had the pleasure of putting the first generator on line November 15th 1958 at 16:00 Hours. We picked up the load from the Yukon Electric diesel plant on First Avenue and the Army diesel plant in the old refinery area. Schwatka Lake was created in the summer of 1958, covering the old Squaw Rapids, the upper end of the Whitehorse Rapids and backed up into the Canyon. Being that we usually had maximum flow around August 21st, the rise was controlled to assure that the area was stable. I joined NCPC November 5th 1958 from the Army diesel plant.

Henry Breaden
July 2003

Up to 1968 we had run 2 turbines at Whitehorse and never had any problems with ice at all. Of course in the Marwell area they had flooding in the low areas, and although this had occurred near forever, somebody had to be blamed. So the hydro had to have done something in the water flow. But putting in the larger turbine in during 1969 it changed

the flow rate in the power canal. I had a call from the operator, Stan Wilcox Sr. that even though he had called for an increase, the frequency was dropping. I went down to the plant and they had already put a diesel on line. Going up to the intake structure, I found this strange ice, about an inch in diameter flakes and about a thirty-second of an inch thick, and it was gradually closing off our intake. I did not have a clue as to what it was and called Monty Alford in water survey. Monty came down and lovingly fondled the stuff, calling it Frazil Ice. Graham Tench and I didn't want to have anything to do with it, but how do you get rid of it?

We got the Jacobs brothers to dive, and they found a real mess of solid frazil ice with trees off the bottom and rocks all mixed together on our trash racks. So we got a crane with a basket to drop so that they could break the stuff away and hoist it out onto dump trucks. We had the hydro fully shut down, and as Head Office was still in Ottawa, were in phone contact with Joe Long who was Assistant on Hydro. He had not encountered the stuff, but his idea was to hold the hydro turbines off and try to get ice cover upstream. As it was getting colder, along with the hydro shutdown we got a small cover of ice. When the trash racks were clean we started the hydro very easy so as to not disturb the ice and gradually increased load.

Somehow we got by the next years till 1974 when Graham retired and I took over. My new Assistant, Garland Winsor did not come in till November, and was immediately initiated into the woes of Frazil Ice. He took over the supervision of cleaning of the trash racks, and beside my normal office work, I walked the power canal dyke at night trying to figure a way out of the mess. I thought of booms straight across, but dismissed this as the frazil ice would just slide under them. I knew I had to break any chance of small waves being made by wind and decided on booms at 45 degrees. Any frazil ice formed would follow the slope of the boom and into the pocket creating ice cover. But as we were running a tight budget, I had to convince Head Office to allow 10,000 dollars for the job, for it had cost us more than that in the prior episodes. In September of that year, Garland had supervised the building of the booms and was ready to launch them. On that day we had a heavy north wind, but as the booms were placed I could see the choppy water flatten. So we had a winner.

Henry Breaden (Dec 27, 1927 – October 2, 2006) Mayo, Whitehorse, Nanaimo

FRAZEL ICE A HAZARD IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

It is hard to imagine that Yosemite is only 60 miles from Fresno -- where it never ever snows and rarely gets below 32 degrees in the dead of winter.

This is an incredible video! It only happens in March and April. It's news to me. Turn on your sound.

[Click here: Frazil ice: Fascinating forest hazard - Boing Boing](#)

Re: MOCTEL 320

As I worked at the Whitehorse Hydro Plant from Nov, 1966 to July, 1993, and who trained under Henry Breaden and was Henry's Assistant Superintendent from 1977 - 1984, and I took over Henry's job as Plant Superintendent for Aishihik, Whitehorse and Faro Plants after Henry retired in 1984.

I was involved in the operation and maintenance of the Whse fish ladder from 1967 - 1993. This included opening the fish ladder each spring by dewatering, removal of winter gates, installing summer gates and adjusting water flow in the fish ladder. In the fall we removed the summer gates, installed upper winter gates. After the fish ladder was dewatered we walked the ladder with 5 gallon pails picking up any stranded fish and returning them to Schwatka Lake. After this we cleaned debris and mud out of the ladder before winterizing it. The original holding and fish count pen was at the upper end of the ladder by the road. There was also a viewing window in this area. The viewing window later moved to their present location.

I remember the night in the spring after the fish ladder had been watered up, some fool came along and shot holes in both windows with a 12 gauge shotgun. I also remember the night in the fall before we were to shut the ladder down for the winter, someone moved a 45 gallon garbage barrel over between the ladder and a small building by the viewing windows and set the garbage barrel on fire which then set the ladder and building on fire.

I do remember where the traffic lights were located because I put in the two poles and ran the power lines to these poles. I have two large aerial photos of the hydro area.

Sheila and I will be in Kelowna next summer and I will come over and give you more information about the fish ladder and bring my aerial photo to show you the location of the traffic lights.

Re: Ira Saunder photo of spillway - No 1 photo looks like the sluice way for the regulating gate. This was a small gate on the west side of the spillway and was remotely controlled by the system operator to regulate the water level on Schwatka Lake. The regulating gate is no longer there. This is now the intake to the penstock for No 4 hydro unit.

Vern Parkin syparkin@klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)

Dawson 1976



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



Crumbling down

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



Ammunition, Hardware, Tobacco, Furniture, Crocker Dawson 1976
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby BC)



Dawson 1976
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby BC)



Sears Catalogue Shopping and Bus Depot - Dawson – 1976

Bud Norman in a Davy Crocket fur hat.

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

A YUKON NUGGET

By Les McLaughlin leslorn@rogers.com (In Ottawa)

For CKRW and here courtesy Rolf & Marg Hougen marg@hougens.com (In Whitehorse)

Morel Mushrooms

Forest fires are nature's way of clearing old growth, which allows organic matter to decompose rapidly into minerals which - in turn - supply fuel for speedy plant growth.

Some trees cannot survive without forest fires. Lodgepole and jack pines, seeds germinate after they have been exposed to fire. Both have resin-sealed cones that stay on the trees for many years.

The heat of a fire melts the resin and the cones pop open. Thousands of seeds scatter onto the ground and some grow into sturdy stands of pine. Aspen vigorously sprouts from underground roots after a fire - good news for moose and elk that feed on the new growth.

In the blackened woods, the Yukon's beautiful official flower, the fireweed appears in a splurge of abundant colour.

Many plants and animals are adapted to fires and the conditions they create. After a fire, birds such as the woodpecker may actually increase their population many times over as they feast on bark beetles and other insects that colonize the newly burned trees.

Predators like the lynx benefit from fires that maintain the forest mosaic. They use mature conifers for cover and hunt in recently burned areas that support large populations of its favourite prey - the snowshoe hare.

Parks Canada says that forest fires seldom trap large mammals, although they do kill some small animals and birds. However, over the long term, most species benefit from the habitats created by fire.

The type of fire and how quickly the vegetation comes back determines how fast the animals come back.

Many areas regenerate quickly as grasses sprout within two or three weeks after a fire, to the delight of Yukon gophers.

Then, there is a rapid re-colonization by small mammals like snowshoe hares and birds such as the sharp-tailed grouse. These are quickly followed by predators like foxes, marten, and owls.

Yukon forest fires also trigger a type of fungus to burst into full bloom, thus producing a bumper crop of highly-prized mushrooms. Precious, expensive morel mushrooms make their mysterious debut.



Dried morels can sell for more than \$100 dollars per pound, and mushroom pickers can be seen at the road sides searching for these treasured fungi.

Mycologists, scientists who spend their careers studying mushrooms, are not sure why morels are produced in such abundance after forest fires. It could be that the rich nutrients released by forest fires somehow trigger the crops.

Still, at the peak of the season, high quality morel mushrooms are flown out of the Yukon. Thus forest fires help ensure that a tasty bit of the Yukon ends up on dinner plates in expensive restaurants around the world.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

CANUCKS BAND

Note on the "Canucks" band. In 1969 Ray Park was also the Music Teacher at Christ the King Elementary in Whitehorse. The Keyboard wizard was Jerry (I forget his last name) he played at Herb's and my Wedding Reception and kept a good party going!

Bea (COOK) Wytinck bwytinck@yahoo.ca (In Oliver BC)

DO YOU KNOW WHERE WILL AND SILVIA DEVANT ARE NOW ?

I received an email from a person named Jutta in Germany who found me through the internet.

He is trying to locate German friends Silvia and Will Devant who lived in Whitehorse several years ago.

He recalls that they seasonally worked for "Fraserway", Whitehorse (rental cars, RV).

Can you post this as a Search For in your next MocTel and if anyone knows their whereabouts ask them to email me.

George Bliss jrsports@sasktel.net (In Regina)

RENDEZVOUS QUEEN CANDIDATES – MocTel 318

I hope that you will be able to help us out...(Marie and I)

Marie Rose (Chouinard) was a Sourdough Rendezvous Queen in the 70's. I was talking to her a bit ago, and she had not heard about the request to gather together former Rendezvous Queens.

Could you be so kind as to forward her the information? I lost all my data when I switched to a new computer system, and so I no longer have the MocTel that had the information needed.

Thanks for helping out. I have enclosed Marie's email address below.

Marie Rose rranch*northwestel.net

Sandy Campbell northernlyght*shaw.ca (In Langley)
(MocTel 318 sent from Yuma Oct 16 2010 – Sherron)

A Story of Bravery and Sadness

In 1944 “Northern Airways” company in Whitehorse, Yukon owned three “Fairchild” planes, (which were built in the late 1920’s)

CF BXH

CF BXI

CF BXF

They also operated 3 Fokker Super Universals, including a CF-AAM (which is being restored and will be flown up to Whitehorse) and a CF - AJC ...which was photographed in 1938.

In 1947 the Company also used three war surplus “Anson” trainers. These are just a few of the planes owned by N.A. over the years they were in operation.

There are pictures in the Whitehorse Museum of the wreck of the US Army Corps B-17 Flying Fortress, where it had been pulled up on the beach in Carcross, in 1943. The Captain was Irwin McWilliams. Out of the 17 men on board, 11 perished in the cold waters and one died in someone’s car on the way to Whitehorse.

Note from Joyce:

The above paragraphs were found recently in a drawer where I keep my personal archives. I go through them occasionally

Actually I remember this sad event vividly; and have written the story in one of my books.

My late husband, Gordon Yardley, was very much involved in the saving of five of the men in his small boat. And brought three of them to our home in Carcross, where we put them in a warm bed until help arrived and they were sent to the Whitehorse hospital for assessment.

© Joyce Yardley joyce*dataspan.ca (In Nanaimo)

FRIENDS FROM LONG AGO



Sylvia, Gillian and David Hackney - 1976

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



Roy & Rita Perrin - 1976

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

DO YOU HAVE ANY FILM WHICH INCLUDES CLIPS OF THE YUKON RIVER ?

My name is Daniel Janke. I am a composer and filmmaker in Whitehorse, and currently working on a film about the Yukon River. We are looking at various sources on file at the Yukon Archives for film footage shot on the Yukon River over the years. The film is something of a collage documenting the changes that have taken place on the river over the years.

We would also be interested in learning about any private films that may not be part of the archives collection.

I understand from my talks with Cal Waddington that you operate an e-mail newsletter that reaches people who spent time in Yukon, or had relatives here over the years. If you would be so kind as to put the word out about our interest, along with my contact information below, it would be much appreciated.

Best regards,

Daniel Janke
Northern Town Films
Whitehorse Yukon
(867) 633-4806
danieljanke*northwestel.net

YUKON WILDFLOWERS



Dyea – Fly Speck Amanita (poisonous).

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

OBIT

JOHN W. WAKEFIELD - Feb. 3, 1934 – Oct. 12, 2010

On Tuesday afternoon, October 12, 2010, John W. Wakefield passed away peacefully in the Foothills Hospital in Calgary, Alberta. It was only 47 days from the onset of disease, but he did not die of it. He had fought and won over all the complications, but it was lack of oxygen, possibly from a blood clot, that took away his breath. It's as if there is a hole now on earth where he had been. He is survived by our two children, Greg Wakefield and Jessica (Wakefield) Mawdsley and by his younger sister, Maureen (Wakefield) Manson.

Madeleine Wakefield mwakefield@shaw.ca (In Calgary)

NEW ADDITIONS

Hi Sherron,

Leslie Buchan of the Yukon's archives told me about the moccasin telegraph connecting former Yukoners. I left in 1986 after living there on and off for 20 years. Recently I was reminded about the Str Kenos's last trip to Dawson in August 1960, and I understand some people have posted comments or memories about it. I'd really appreciate being included.

I live now in Delta (Tsawwassen) having retired from government last year.

Regards

Robert G. McCandless

778-434-2090 rgmccandless@eastlink.ca

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Get someone else to blow your horn and the sound will carry twice as far. - Will Rogers

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Saskatoon Pie (should work for Yukon blueberries)

Submitted by Maribeth Mainer mainerml@shaw.ca (In Burnaby BC)

Pastry for 9 inch double-crust pie

4 c.	saskatoons, washed
2 tbsp.	water
2 tbsp.	lemon juice
1 ½ tbsp	quick-cooking tapioca
1 tbsp	butter or margarine

Over low heat, simmer together berries, water and lemon juice, covered, for 3 or 4 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in sugar, tapioca and butter. Cool and pour into a pastry-lined pie pan. Dampen the edge and cover with the top crust. Trim and seal edges. Gash or prick top. Brush with milk and sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 450 F for 15 minutes; reduce heat to 350 F and bake 30 -35 minutes longer.
Variation: Use 3 cups blueberries and 1 cup black currants.

DATES TO REMEMBER



The Vancouver Yukoners' Association invites

Yukoners past and present to attend our 83rd Annual Banquet

Date: April 16, 2011

Place: River Rock Casino/Resort – Whistler Ballroom

Address: 8811 River Rd, Richmond BC – Free Parking

Hotel reservations:

Telephone: 604-247-8900 *or* toll free 1-866-748-3718

Ask for *Vancouver Yukoners'* rate

If booking *before* Feb.1, 2011, ask for our *Early Bird* rate.

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

Check www.vancouver-yukoners.com for updates

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:

Jim Perry 4perry@telus.net Phone: 604-853-7340

Yukon residents call 867-668-2228 or 1-800-661-0407 for AIR NORTH discount, quote

Convention Code 5HUP12W8

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.ca.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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