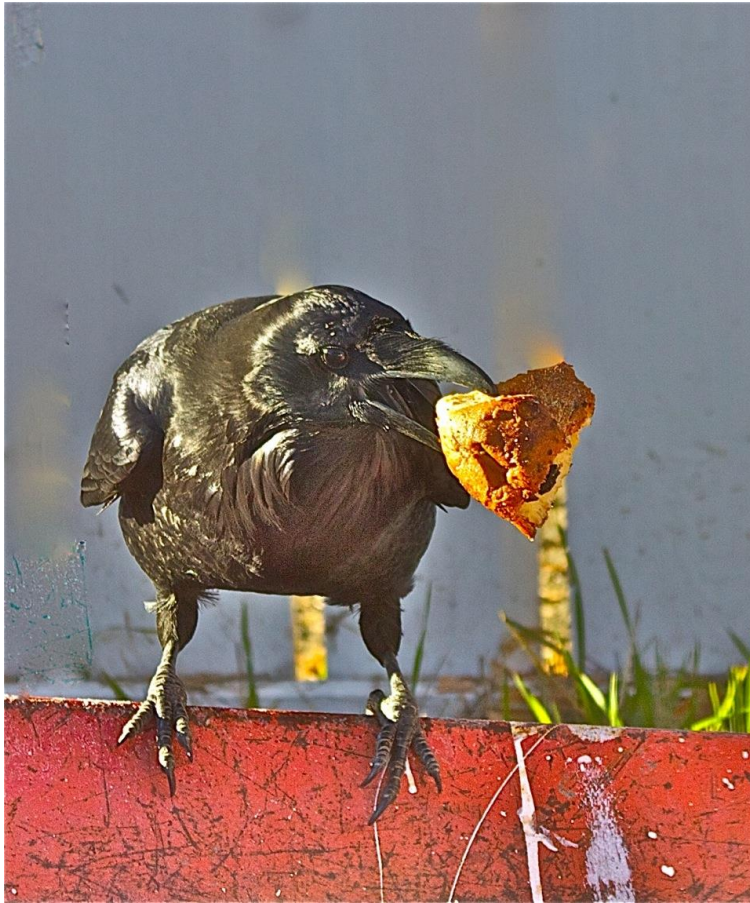


MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 322nd Edition – November 7th, 2010

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



Raven – Hunting and gathering from Doug’s wheelbarrow – Oct. 21, 2010
Photo courtesy Doug Bell chechako46@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

"Random Musings"

Twenty years ago there was a period during which I found myself involuntarily drifting back in time, again and again, until I'd shake my head and think, "Enough of this! Save the reminiscing for your old age." Then (slightly shocked at the idea,) I wondered, "Is this a sign that I'm getting old already?"

Characteristically, whenever a tough question like that arose, my inner self starts nagging, and the next thing I know we're having a debate.

I.S.- "Do you feel like an old person?"

Me - "No, but sixty-five isn't exactly a kid!"

I.S - "What does age have to do with anything? It's how you feel that counts."

Me - "But I should be planning for the future instead of daydreaming about the past."

I.S - "Well, write down those memories - then you can put all that behind you and go on with your life."

Bingo! Write my memoirs - a book! I had my answer. And when I've finished that, I can start another one; no need to STAGNATE.'

Once the idea had formed in my mind, the possibilities seemed endless; but where to start?

The answer to this question came a few days later, when a brochure from the local college arrived in the mail; listing the courses available in our area.

I noticed one that featured a one-day workshop on 'How to Get Your Book Published.'

The next day I phoned in and registered. I came home from the course laden with pamphlets and notes, convinced that this was the right decision for me.

Then I invested in a laptop computer and a printer. A year and a half later "Hancock House Publishers" published my first book, " Crazy Cooks and Gold Miners." It had been a most rewarding experience. Since then they published two more. "Yukon Riverboat Days" and "Yukon Tears and Laughter."

The following pages contain an assortment of random thoughts, ideas, dreams and questions about life. A groping, in a sense, to find some answers and try to discover a way to cope with some problems that we all contend with on a day to day basis.

Lest we become too serious, and forget that we have to make our own fun in this world, I threw in some lighthearted nonsense just for good measure.

Time

All my life I've heard people say that the older one becomes the faster time goes by. I used to dismiss this as an illusion, but not anymore.

It really is quite logical when you think of it. Imperceptibly at first, but relentlessly, our reflexes begin to slow, and all our activities take longer to accomplish than they used to. This creates an identical situation to the one we would experience if time itself was actually speeding up.

Sometimes it's as if great chunks of time get swallowed up all at once. Last time we went to visit some friends in Whitehorse their child was a preschooler. This year they dropped by to see us and low and behold - their child is now a teenager. It seems as though only a couple of years had passed in the meantime. Where did the rest of those years go?

There was a period in my life lately when it felt as though time had accelerated to the point where it was almost rushing by ... and I needed to *RUN* to catch up with it.
So much yet to be done and so little time left to accomplish it all!

This is when I realized it was time to "reevaluate" my life (so to speak) and try to put the past and present into context.

Some of the things I considered to be priorities have become quite unimportant to me now.

Here's one example of this:

I felt I had to leave the house spotless ... beds made and dishes washed before going for my morning walk on the beach. Often, though, before I completed all my chores the tide had come in, and I'd have to pick my way around the rocks instead of striding freely along the sandy shore; which would have still been exposed an hour earlier. Now the walk comes first!

I am more interested in filling the bird feeders and watching the hummingbirds dive bombing each other to get at the nectar first - or the finches pecking away at their seeds - than in worrying about the mess they make on the sundeck. I am also reading those books I've been collecting over the years and never found time for until now ... and sometimes I just lay back and listen to my favorite music.

Maybe it is just a matter of breaking an old habit, and acquiring a new one to take its place ... one that feels like pleasure or accomplishment instead of duty and boredom, or maybe it's just being mature enough to recognize what quality time is.

Why should we spend our days striving for things that don't really matter? We only become frustrated and weary.

Why not just let go and enjoy the nurturing things in life? Priorities differ greatly for every one of us, and my list is as important to me as yours is to you.

Right now I'm immersed in learning something about the magical world of technology ... surfing the Internet; learning new programs etc. and totally enjoying it.
(My parents, were they alive, would surely think I am crazy!)

One thing I've decided for certain; I'm not going to run so fast any more to try and keep up to "time."
© Joyce

Joyce Yardley joyce*dataspan.ca (In Nanaimo)

A YUKON NUGGET

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

Les McLaughlin Born in Valleyview, Alberta, Les McLaughlin was just three years old when he arrived in Whitehorse. His youth included playing midget, juvenile for the Hougens team, and senior hockey, along with volunteering at the military-run radio station CFWH in the late Fifties. It was just the beginning of a long broadcasting career.

Les has spent countless hours helping to preserve the history of the Yukon with his recordings of special people and events over many years for CBC Radio. More than two hundred hours of audio selections are housed in the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre in Yellowknife and the Yukon Archives in Whitehorse.



Les McLaughlin, Age 7, in the alley behind the McLaughlin home on Strickland Street.

The founding producer of the True North Concert series broadcast across Canada, Les also produced a unique and innovative series of broadcast recordings featuring Northern musical talent from across the north. The series includes over one thousand musical selections.

Another musical offering is "The Songs of Robert Service", a CD featuring ten poems by the famous poet, set to contemporary music.

Robert Service was the subject again in one of a series of hour-long recordings created for the Yukon tourist market, including "Colourful Characters of the Klondike", "North to Alaska on the Trail of '42," "The Northwest Mounted Police in the Klondike;" and "The Robert Service Story."

Les was also the author of "High Flyers", the story of the improbable quest for Olympic gold in 1948 by the RCAF Flyers hockey team, which ran in the national publication AirForce Magazine and in the Globe and Mail.

In 1996, he was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Yukon Historical and Museums Association, who wrote that it was "to recognize the contribution of Les McLaughlin to the preservation of the Yukon's heritage".

With his efforts to record and highlight the history of the North, Les McLaughlin himself has left his own mark in the more recent history of Whitehorse.

You may know him best as the author and host of CKRW's "Yukon Nuggets".



Les McLaughlin in more recent years.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Ron McFadyen

Les McLaughlin leslorn@rogers.com (In Ottawa)

For those who have not heard and sent along a get well wish, Les has been ill and needs your prayers.
- Sherron

CHILDREN OF THE KLONDIKE

Hi Sherron,

I'm happy to report that my book *Children of the Klondike* won the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize on Oct. 13. Besides my personal pleasure in winning, I love the fact that a book about the Klondike received recognition in Victoria, which was the jumping-off point for so many stampeders. Details and photo at <http://victoriabookprizes.ca/>.

All the best,
Frances Backhouse frances@backhouse.ca (In Victoria)

BENCH DEDICATION

Our family, Doug, Sherril and I were invited to Vancouver to participate in the dedication of a bench honoring my son, Bruce, who passed away on November 4, 2007. It was indeed a very moving, though beautiful ceremony.

Bruce was very active in the Vancouver Theatre Community, the Vancouver International Jazz festival and in particular the Waterfront Theatre on Granville Island, in the capacity as a volunteer and box office manager. In early 2007 he was also awarded the Mary Phillips Prize for his “behind the scenes achievements”.

The Waterfront Theatre had a memorial tribute for him and proceeds from that event went to PAL (Performing Arts Lodge). PAL is located in Vancouver on Cardero St, next to the Westin Bayshore. This lodge was built in 2006 with 99 suites and 12 2-bedroom suites. The 12 suites were sold to individuals in order to complete the financing. The other 99 are rented to retired artists of many capacities. Presently there are 217 on the waiting list. Their hope is to build a 2nd lodge in the future.

The bench has been placed on the Roof Top Garden of the PAL building.

Two of Bruce’s dear friends, Ellie O’Day and Tara Travis held a couple of functions and raised the balance of funds so the bench could be purchased. Our family cannot thank them enough.

Vivian Stuart lornellis*shaw.ca (In Victoria)



Sherril (Stuart) Gazarek and Doug Stuart
Photo courtesy Vivian (Lelievre) Stuart lornellis*shaw.ca (In Victoria)



“In Memory of Bruce Wayne Stuart
Ubervollie and a Pal to so many.

November 19, 1959 – November 4, 2007”

For anyone wanting to know - "ubervollie" translates from German meaning "Super Volunteer" and that he was. He used it as his email address.

Photo courtesy Vivian (Lelievre) Stuart lornellis@shaw.ca (In Victoria)

JACK LONDON BUST

Images courtesy Rolf Hougen marg@hougens.com (In Whitehorse)



Sculpted by Harreson Tanner

INVITATION

TO ATTEND THE
UNVEILING OF THE
JACK LONDON BUST

5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, NOV. 5TH, 2010
4TH AVE. & MAIN STREET
WHITEHORSE

DONATED BY MARGARET & ROLF HOUGEN
SCULPTED BY HARRESON TANNER

JACK LONDON
January 1876 – November 1916

Jack London, in the summer of 1897, at the age of 21, camped in the Whitehorse area after running Miles Canyon and the Whitehorse Rapids. He then went downriver to spend Fall through Spring at Dawson City, Stewart Island and Henderson Creek. In August 1898 he returned to his Oakland, California home. The influence of the north was evident in his five novels and 65 short stories. Two of his novels, "The Call of the Wild" and "White Fang" were best sellers and drew world- wide attention to the Yukon. His short story "To Build a Fire" is generally ascribed to contain the most poignant descriptions of the cold ever written.

Life in Whitehorse 1946-1969

SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE ROLF
AND MARGARET HOUGEN COLLECTION



November 5, 2010 – January 28, 2011
Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Opening Reception

Friday, November 5, 2010
5:30 p.m.

Hougén Heritage Gallery
Arts Underground
305 Main Street, Whitehorse

Introduction by Premier Dennis Fentie

Yukon
Tourism and Culture
Yukon Archives

F•O•Y•A•S
FRIENDS OF THE YUKON ARCHIVES SOCIETY

1945 SCHOOL PHOTOS

Sherron: In going through my photo files I came across these 1945 photos. I notice several of the students are still living in the Yukon.

Rolf Hougén marg*hougens.com (In Whitehorse)



LEFT TO RIGHT-TOP TO BOTTOM + APRIL 1945 + GRADES 7 & 8 + DOWELL CONSTRUCTION BLDG.
JIM BIRD -HOWARD RYDER -ERNEST TUCKER -HENRY HAMMER -COLIN YEULET -CHARLES BOURNE
JIM HARDY -BILL WILSON -WALT ? -SKIPPER SCHMIDT -JOHN ERICKSON -
BOTTOM - ELIZABETH COPLAND -MARILYN HENDERSON - PHYLLIS LEPAGE -DOLORES COONEY
VELMA LEE SELBY -BETTY PORSILD -JEAN MALLORY -ROSE NIELSON -ELLEN GERTZEN
PAT ARMSTRONG -JOANNE KEOBKE -PAT BRAME
TEACHER -MISS A. B. HOW



LEFT TO RIGHT-TOP TO BOTTOM + APRIL 1945 + GRADES 9 TO 12 + DOWELL CONSTRUCTION BLDG.
 PIERCE WILLIAMS -HENRY NIELSON -FRANK HOGGAN -HOWARD ? -ROLF HOUGEN -SONNY WILLIAMS
 TOM MCLAUGHLIN -BUCKY KEOBKE -JACK MCINTOSH -GEORGE KRAUTSNEIDER
 BOTTOM - BILL HUSKINS- VERN MUSHETT- PAT KIETH- PEGGY GOWAN -BUNNY RUSSEL -PAT MALLORY
 LYNN GOWAN -BETTY MCBRIDE -TERESA PORTER - MISSING - LARRY CHALMERS -JIM MCCANN
 TEACHER -MR. M. WARWICK

ORIGIN of YUKON SOURDOUGH RENDEZVOUS's name ??

It's always interesting to see information on the Sourdough over the years, but I've never seen any reference to the origin of the name of the event.

It's my understanding that, until the early 1950's, the event was known as the Whitehorse Winter Carnival, and there was a competition to find a new name that would encourage greater participation of non-Whitehorse Yukoners. I was told many years ago that the winning submission "Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous" was made by my late aunt, Jean Campbell (of Campbell's Ltd.), etc.

Dave & Phyl Gairns [dgairns*telus.net](mailto:dgairns@telus.net) (In Castlegar)

One of you must have a story about the fishwheel in Dawson ???

Do you remember seeing it ? Where was it located ? Was it operated by the band or an individual ?



Fishwheel – Dawson – 1976

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



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

WHITEHORSE INN SIGN RESURRECTED

OCTOBER 22, 2010

Historic inn's sign to rise again

By Whitehorse Star on November 10, 2006

A historic city sign will be re-erected in a parking lot across from city hall, members of city council have heard.

At their weekly meeting last Monday evening, council learned the sign from the historic Whitehorse Inn will soon be placed in stall No. 16 in the parking lot across from city hall.

According to city documents, the sign was originally attached to the hotel at the corner of Main Street and Second Avenue, where the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is currently located.

'When the Whitehorse Inn was demolished in the 1970s, the owner, Mr. Allen Lueck, saved the large neon sign that had hung on the building for years,' city documents state.

The 30-foot-high, four-foot-wide sign was the subject of a fundraising initiative by the Main Street Society.

The work to place it in its soon-to-be new location was done by the Yukon government, the Rendezvous Rotary Club and the city.

Restoration of heritage sign nears completion



Photo by Vince Fedoroff

Fifty-three years ago, the Whitehorse Inn put up what would be a centrepiece for the downtown core for decades.

By Chuck Tobin on January 14, 2009
Courtesy Whitehorse Star

HERITAGE COMING DOWN - Workers remove the Whitehorse Inn sign from the building before demolishing the building in **1979**. (left and bottom) Danny Collins, right, and his son Logan have been working on restoring the Whitehorse Inn sign. (top right)

Fifty-three years ago, the Whitehorse Inn put up what would be a centrepiece for the downtown core for decades.

The flowing mane of neon topped the sign on the corner of Main Street and Second Avenue, and remained there from 1955 to 1979, just before the inn was torn down to make room for the new bank. It was Jack Collins, an electrician working for Whitehorse Electric, who was among the crew which put the sign up originally.

A half-century later, Jack's 51-year-old son Danny and his 23-year-old grandson Logan flashed up the neon's white horse Tuesday for the first time in the 30 years since it left Main and Second.

"It's been eight years trying to get this thing together and now it is finally coming together," Danny, an electrician with his own business, said in an interview this morning.

Collins said while he's been pushing the proposal to get the sign back on its feet since he rescued it from the Marwell industrial area, several have worked behind the scenes to see the landmark refurbished.

With the MacBride Museum agreeing to provide a home for the sign next to its new addition, the project is back on track again, with Collins and his son making a test run yesterday.

The white horse, he said, is not your standard 120-volt or 240-volt system, but rather has a 15,000 volt configuration.

"You don't want to touch the wrong part, that's for sure."

Collins said when it's fully charged - with the neon lights framing the horse, and each letter of the sign - it will draw the equivalent of 200, 100-watt light bulbs, at a cost of about 30 cents an hour.

He expects the museum will outfit the historic sign with a photocell and timer to manage its hours of operation.

Yesterday's trial run by Collins and his son, an apprentice electrician, was just to check everything was working.

The lights will be taken off while the sign is being stood up, and then installed once it's in place, Collins said.

"We'd like to get it up in the next month."

Collins noted, however, that technically today's white horse wasn't the first to ride the corner of Main and Second.

After his dad and guys like the late but famous Andy Hooper installed the sign, T.C. Richards, the owner of the Whitehorse Inn, walked out onto the street to inspect the inn's new beacon.

At 1.5 metres tall (five feet), the first horse didn't measure up to Richards' standards.

"He said he'd have to change the name to the White Pony Inn."

The second horse, the horse which has survived the last 53 years, measures a hair over two metres (seven feet).

Together, the horse and lettering measure a total of 9.4 metres (31 feet), and will sit about three metres off the ground.

After Collins came across the sign in the Marwell area in a somewhat tattered state, he contacted Al Lueck, its owner, to ask permission to move it out of the elements and into his garage, where it sat for about five years.

The restoration effort began about three years ago when the downtown business community began raising money to move the project forward.

The Cutoff Classics Autobody Shop did some metal repair for the Yukon government's heritage branch, and some lettering was replaced while the sign was under the supervision of the parks branch, Collins recalled.

With a plan to erect it on the site on a piece of city property behind the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a stone's throw away from its original location, the sign was moved to a city storage facility for further work.

The Terra Firma Art Company assisted with the new paint job.

But when city plans changed for the site behind the bank, the project went dormant until the MacBride Museum picked up the interest about a year ago.

The museum's executive director, Patricia Cuning, said this morning she originally became interested in finding a home for the sign about 10 years ago.

But it was about a year ago she reinvigorated the proposal when she approached Lueck with the idea of putting the sign up at the museum, and he agreed.

To have the project coming together is a wonderful thing, and is much to the credit of the downtown business community and the Rotary Club who raised the money to advance the work, she said.

She said it will be a vivid reminder for those who remember the heydays of the Whitehorse Inn, and a stoic example of the city's heritage for visitors.

Having it in the downtown core - just a block away from its original site - is also significant, Cuning suggested.

Collins said the business community and the Rotary Club raised about \$20,000 for the project. Most of that went to cover the special order of neon lights from a specialty shop in Saskatchewan, he pointed out.

With the Whitehorse Inn sign project coming together, Collins said the old Nelson's Hardware neon sign - which is also in the possession of the museum - is tugging at his shirt tails.

And there's also the old "Land of the Midnight Sun" that lit up Jake's Corner for years, going back into the 1960s, if Collins remembers correctly.

Historic neon beacon shall live again

Acting as a neon beacon for curious tourists,

By Elizabeth Hames on May 14, 2010

Courtesy Whitehorse Star



Photo by Vince Fedoroff

TO SHINE AGAIN – The first part of the Whitehorse Inn sign went up at the MacBride Museum of History (right) on Monday evening. Now wiring has to be installed before the horse and bottom portion can be installed. Star file photo Left: the sign, with the white horse on top, is prepared for removal during the 1979 demolition of the hotel it named.

Acting as a neon beacon for curious tourists, the Whitehorse Inn sign will soon be on full display at the MacBride Museum of Yukon History.

The sign was installed in 1955 after the opening of the hotel, and it was removed in 1979, when the Whitehorse Inn was torn down to make room for the CIBC building on the corner of Main Street and Second Avenue.

More than 30 years later, part of the old sign is back up, just blocks away from its original location. A few more components, including the glowing white horse, still need to be installed before the neon lights can be turned on.

Dan Collins, a local electrician, has been the driving force behind the project. His father, Jack Collins, was the first person to turn on the sign in 1955.

Jack Collins, now 86 years old, was an electrician with Whitehorse Electric at the time.

“You could almost call me the guardian of the sign,” Dan Collins, who is doing some of the restorative electrical work, told the Star Wednesday.

“I’m not the main player, but when it all falls apart, I’m the guy it all seem to fall back to, to pick up the pieces.”

He discovered the old guidepost lying in a ditch more than eight years ago.

“It was completely dented, it was filling up with leaves and dirt. Every tube was broken on it,” he recalled.

After a call to the sign’s owner, local lawyer Al Lueck, Dan Collins had permission to keep it in his garage, where it remained for the next four or five years.

During that time, he looked around for a home for the vintage placard.

First, he tried to find a spot at Main Street and First Avenue. He thought it would fit in well with the other neon signs in the area, such as the Edgewater Hotel marker and the White Pass and Yukon Route sign. But that plan never came to fruition.

Then he asked the Yukon Transportation Museum if it might like to display it so it was visible from the Alaska Highway. He was told it didn’t fit in with the museum’s theme of transportation.

A short time later, the MacBride Museum offered to put it up. That was four or five years ago.

Although it’s been a long time coming, a grand opening of the restored sign is scheduled for this summer, and Dan Collins wants his father to be the first person to flip the switch.

A museum representative told the Star this week it is not yet prepared to discuss its plans for the sign

ELEVATED REUNION – The horse on the Whitehorse Inn sign was put in its familiar place on Monday afternoon at the MacBride Museum. The inn, which stood on the site of today’s CIBC at Second Avenue and Main Street, was demolished in 1979.

Courtesy Whitehorse Star



Photo by Vince Fedoroff

Sign to be lit Friday

Yukoners are invited to watch Friday afternoon's lighting of the historic Whitehorse Inn sign at the MacBride Museum of Yukon History.

Yukoners are invited to watch Friday afternoon's lighting of the historic Whitehorse Inn sign at the MacBride Museum of Yukon History.

The 8-metre-tall neon sign was first erected at the Whitehorse Inn in the early 1950s. Over the following decades it became a beacon for locals and visitors in the community.

Allan and Nola Lueck, the inn's final owners before it was demolished in 1979, donated the sign to the museum.

“This sign was a landmark in downtown Whitehorse,” Allan said. “It is part of our shared history, and it is important that it will be preserved for the enjoyment of generations to come.”

“We are delighted to have this artifact on display at the MacBride Museum of Yukon History,” said Hank Moorlag, the museum’s board chair.

Friday’s lighting ceremony will take place at 5 p.m.

Inn sign resurrected from three decades’ darkness

“Now we’re ready to turn on the lights.”

Courtesy Whitehorse Star

By Stephanie Waddell on October 22, 2010



Allen Lueck

Photo by Justin Kennedy

REMEMBERING LOCAL HISTORY – Allen Lueck shared several colourful anecdotes from his Whitehorse Inn days during a news briefing held Thursday morning.

“Now we’re ready to turn on the lights.”

Allen Lueck, who with his wife, Nola, was the last owner of the Whitehorse Inn, spoke those words Thursday morning at MacBride Museum as he and museum chair Hank Moorlag got set for a ceremony this afternoon that will see the Whitehorse Inn sign officially lit for the first time in more than 30 years. The 26-foot neon sign featuring a white, rearing horse at the top was once a downtown landmark at Main Street and Second Avenue, signaling not only a hotel, but as Moorlag described, “The community gathering place”.

It’s fitting the historic sign has found a new home at the MacBride Museum, another community gathering place, Moorlag said.

The sign was a landmark and the Inn a major gathering place long before the Luecks arrived in the city in the early 1970s.

Whitehorse residents first took in the glow of the neon lights in 1955 thanks to owner T.C. Richards, who had bought the inn with his winnings from a poker game in 1937.

It had at least a couple of designs before it was finally made with Richards' comment on the first sketch: "I don't want a pony – I want a white horse."

The final sign was built complete with a white horse and installed at the hotel.

By the time the Luecks bought the hotel in 1978, the sign had established itself as part of the downtown.

At the time, Allen was out of work and the couple had four kids approaching university, he said.

Three hotels in town were for sale.

With Allen having been in town just eight years, the inn didn't have the same nostalgic feel at that time that it did for many others, he acknowledged.

After getting details on all three, he gave it some thought and, as a believer in spirit guides, he looked to that voice as well. It was his spirit guide who advised him to purchase the Whitehorse Inn, he said as he suggested the advice went against all common sense.

It seemed crazy, he said, because the Whitehorse Inn had been in and out of bankruptcy and a number of financial issues.

Local bankers simply laughed when the Luecks came looking to borrow money for the down payment on the inn, he recalled with a smile.

So the couple ended up getting a loan from relatives in Alberta and began running the inn.

In next to no time, the couple learned they could soon be selling their new purchase.

Allen was in Vancouver buying some new supplies for the hotel when he got a call from the manager of the Whitehorse branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The manager advised him not to buy too much because the bank wanted it for the land and could soon be making him an offer.

Allen wasn't too sure if the banker was serious, but, sure enough, when he returned to Whitehorse, the news was confirmed.

They agreed to the sale, keeping the hotel open for the remainder of the year.

Knowing they'd be selling and having a buyer in place made for a fun, though a not so profitable final year at the Whitehorse Inn, Allen said.

"We lost \$50,000 (that year)," he said, memories of that year seeming fresh in his mind. "We had some interesting times."

The miners who stayed in the hotel through the winter were "quite a crew," he recalled.

The miners would come into town with their cash from the season, paying the hotel for a place to stay.

With no bank accounts, the miners would get hotel staff to keep their pay in the safe, with key instructions scrawled on the envelopes holding each of their cash detailing when the staff could and couldn't dole it out.

As Allen explained, that kept the miners from burning through the cash before the winter was done.

And while all the staff played banker for the miners, it was Nola who took on the role of "Mom" at times, Allen said.

Nola was working on the front desk one day when one man not wearing a shirt came running down the stairs, chased by another coming after him with a knife.

"She gave them hell," Allen said.

She got the knife and sent both men to their rooms, the scuffle ending fairly quickly.

But it wasn't just the human guests who created problems for staff.

Thanks to a boa constrictor, one clerk working nights spent much of one shift seated on the front desk.

The snake belonged to a dancer who was performing at the hotel's lounge and, when not on stage, it was to be kept in a cage in the dancer's room.

Not wanting the snake to become too lethargic in the shows, the dancer hadn't fed it much. Certainly not tired, the reptile managed to escape its cage and slip under the door, heading to the lobby where the clerk quickly rushed up to the top of the desk while the snake curled up in a ball and remained there for the night.

The Luecks arrived at work the next day to the news from the excited clerk. It took no time for Nola to again take on her role as hotel "Mom" and tell the dancer to get the snake back to its cage and give it something to eat, Allen said.

The dancer did just that, talking to the snake as most would any pet.

In another instance, the couple confirmed they had done the right thing by selling the hotel.

It was about 11:30 one night when the Luecks received a phone call from their staff. Over the phone line, they could hear running water in the background as the clerk told them of water coming down through the ceiling.

The couple headed down to the hotel where they learned a guest on the second floor had left the window open, despite the -40 C temperature outside.

The result on the pipes meant water pouring through the floor to the next level of the hotel, eventually making its way to the bowling alley in the basement.

"It was a horrendous night," he said. "That's when Nola and I decided we no longer wanted to be hoteliers."

While it was up to the bank to demolish the building after it closed, before that happened, the Luecks were able to do what they wanted with the building and what was in it.

That meant selling off a lot of both the structure and the items in it.

"I don't know how many cabins have been built with the Whitehorse Inn," Allen commented as he remembered walls and flooring being ripped down by many cabin dwellers anxious to add the walls to their homes.

The Eagle Plains Hotel on the Dempster Highway was one of the biggest benefactors to inherit much of the Whitehorse Inn.

Wall decorations, chairs, tables, rugs and many other items taken out of the Rainbow Room at the inn remain in use by travellers making their way up the Dempster and a sign at the hotel commemorates that history, Allen said.

The Luecks hung onto the sign at the urging of longtime Yukoner Con Lattin.

Not having the same nostalgia for the hotel sign that many seemed to, the Luecks agreed to keep it, but were clear that someone else would have to deal with putting it up in the future.

As with all artifacts, it seemed that it would almost have to die first before it would be put up again. In fact, Allen said, he thought he'd be dead before it would ever be put on display again.

The years passed – and with it attempts by various individuals to give the sign new life – came and went, plans not going ahead for one reason or another.

"It was too young," Allen said.

Then, in 2002, the territory signed an agreement committing to the project. Again, that went on for a number of years with a number of contract extensions before it too fell through.

It was Community Services Minister Archie Lang who commented to Allen that he should maybe approach the museum, and it was there the project finally found the momentum it needed to succeed.

"It's taken many, many people with fits and starts to make this happen," Allen said.

He and Moorlag noted a long list of people and organizations who made the new sign display a reality. They range from staff at the MacBride to the electricians who worked on the lights to the Rotary Club and local businesses that raised \$20,000 for the work, among many others involved.

It commemorates a time when Whitehorse was a much smaller, closer-knit community and honours the central point for the community, Allan said.

“Everything that happened, happened there,” he said.

For many, this afternoon’s 5:00 ceremony at the museum could easily take them back to the days of the Whitehorse Inn with Hank Karr as well as the Canucks – once staples of the Whitehorse Inn bar scene – set to perform.

The Westmark Whitehorse Hotel is also sponsoring this afternoon’s event with snacks and refreshments.

October 22, 2010

Speech by Allen Lueck arlueck*northwestel.net

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for coming to experience the thrill of seeing the Whitehorse Inn sign light up at the night sky after 32 years, one month and 17 days of absence. But who is counting.

On several occasions I was certain I would not see it lit again. I am very privileged this evening to officially dedicate this artifact to the people of the Yukon.

Tonight is the time to celebrate; to bask in the joy of a successful endeavor.

There are several guests who I want to recognize: Babe Richards, James Smith, Sue Edelman, Eve Watt Potsep and Ed Keenan.

Those people who made this evening possible whether it be volunteering to work, donating money or providing a step in the process – even though it failed at that particular time – must be congratulated. Your efforts have contributed to the final success we are celebrating tonight. You have a right to be proud.

Thomas (T.C.) Richards must have been an interesting man. His business capability and his contribution to the social fabric of the community are well known. It appears he was a true entrepreneur. I regret I did not get to know him.

In 1937, George Simmons, Ken Hoshida and T.C. sat down to a high stakes poker game. T.C. won \$20,000, which he used as a down payment to buy the Whitehorse Inn. He borrowed the rest of the money from White Pass and Yukon Route Company.

He cut the Pueblo Mine bunkhouse into 8-foot sections and reassembled them to accommodate the beer parlor and small rooms above. The parts did not fit together very well so the upstairs rooms were a bit warped, but no one cared. It was a place to sleep.

Then he added more rooms and a central ballroom with a magnificent image of a horse’s head inlaid into the hardwood floor. This became the social, political and business gathering place for the community. As well T.C. added an elegant bar, which he called the Rainbow Room.

By the way, that bar is now installed in the Eagle Plains hotel on the Dempster Highway with 20 of the rooms. The bathroom sets with porcelain taps and the tubs with the eagle claw legs are distributed throughout the Yukon as they were salvaged from the hotel before demolition.

Our Whitehorse Inn sign was installed in the early 1950's. As most of you know, T.C. was disappointed the horse was so small. He apparently said, "I don't want a pony – I want a white horse." He sent it back and ordered a 7-foot horse.

Many Yukoners have remarked how the white horse was like a beacon in the night when the ice fog covered the streets and only the horse could be seen galloping across the clouds.

I understand the MacBride Museum has been asking for personal stories from anyone who has an anecdote about the Inn. They will become a part of the display. Do call the Museum if you have a Whitehorse Inn story.

You may wonder how Nola and I became the owners of the sign.

I came to the Yukon in June of 1969 looking for a job as a lawyer. After 3 days I had fallen love with this wonderful land. We all arrived in July – 4 children, a dog and a cat – to take over the law firm of Wylie and Collins. After 8 years of great experiences and adventures, I found myself out of a job. But that is another story.

The children were on their way to University. We needed money. There were three hotels for sale – The Yukon Inn, The BenElle and the Whitehorse Inn. The Whitehorse Inn had lost \$100,000 each year for the 6 years straight. Not a great inducement to buy it. However, my spirit guide, who I believe in, directed that the Inn was the one to buy.

We had to borrow the down payment from a relative as the banks laughed us out the door. The vendors carried the rest as a mortgage. We opened the doors for business in late 1977. Within a few weeks the Bank of Commerce indicated it wanted to buy the Main Street lots for a new bank. We operated the hotel until the day after Labour Day, 1978, as the Bank advised it would not be demolishing the building until 1979. What an experience!

Nola and I will tell the Museum all about the knife fight in the lobby between two miners with Nola acting as intervener; and the storing of money in the safe for the miners who were winter tenants with instructions from each one as to how much and when we were allowed to give them some of their money. As well as the exotic dancers, boa constrictor and the night clerk.

Did you know the huge steam boilers taken from a ship used for heating also heated buildings to 3rd Avenue and across Main Street? At first they were heated by wood and the 5 back lots were a wood yard.

Later they were converted to oil. It was a manual system requiring valves to be opened or closed as the needs changed. It required an agile desk clerk to climb down a ladder in a closet to access the valves. There was a 6-lane bowling alley in the basement that operated until we closed.

The night we were awakened by a phone call from the desk clerk was traumatic. We could hear a waterfall. Rushing to the disaster, we found a guest had left a window open. At -40F degrees the steam radiator froze and burst. Water was pouring through the ceiling of the lobby at every corner of the foot square tiles, and continuing down to flood the bowling alleys below. That night we agreed we did not want to make a career as hoteliers.

We had salvage rights to the hotel and sold everything that could be moved. Eagle Plains Hotel furnished their bar and 20 guest rooms. Hardwood floors were taken up; fir joists were removed; walls were chainsawed down to build cabins in the bush. It took the entire winter. Con Lattin salvaged the transom from room #8 over the beer parlor. He can tell you the reason.

During this time many people asked what we were going to do with the sign. Con Lattin said it had to be saved and installed somewhere else as it was too important for Yukoners to destroy. I agreed to save it and see if there was a real demand for it.

I was, at that time, a relative newcomer and decided if the people wanted the sign I would keep it for them, but I was not going to spearhead a movement to have it installed as an artifact. Someone else had to do that.

There were many starts and stops to erect it over the past 32 years. Mr. Moorlag will recognize those who contributed to make this day possible. There are many.

There were some who offered to help but were not called upon – I want to recognize them. Whitehorse Cement plant offered to provide and deliver the needed concrete free when the sign was designated for Second Ave. Manitoulin Transport offered free delivery from Edmonton, for the steel needed to support the sign. And both Archie Lang and Jim Kenyon stepped in on a personal basis when there were road blocks. Thanks to both of you.

However, I do want to give a very special and much deserved thank you to Patricia Cunning, the executive director of the MacBride Museum. Her aggressive organizational skills completed a project that had stalled. Please, let's acknowledge her!

Now we are going to flip the switch that will light up the sky. Nola will do the honours. It is only fitting, as she was the one who turned the sign lights off in September 1978.

Summary

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

October 22, 2010 Bryan & I, along with 200 or so gathered to witness the lighting of the historic Whitehorse Inn sign at the MacBride Museum. What a thrilling occasion. Who would have thought that after an absence of 32 years the infamous white horse would again light a path? For those of us that took the Whitehorse Inn sign for granted all those years ago it was almost a tearful reunion of sorts.

The MacBride Museum did up the evening in style; food was supplied by Westmark Whitehorse Hotel along with celebratory music by Hank Karr and the Canucks. So many residents crammed the downstairs of the Museum that the speech by Allen Lueck, last owner of the Whitehorse Inn had to be taken outside to the courtyard under the sign overseeing the crowd.

As the countdown began, 10 – 9 – 8 – 7 – 6 – 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1, Nola (Allen’s wife) couldn’t make it up the stairs in time to flip the switch by the end of the count. As someone yelled out, “Right on Yukon Electric”, the count was started again at 5. On the count of 3 the sign came to life again after decades of darkness. Cheers (and perhaps some tears of happiness) greeted the scene. We were all there to witness history coming back to life. Thank you to the Luecks and everyone involved in bringing the sign back to life.

There are so many stories to tell of the Whitehorse Inn (I have a couple of my own) that I’m hoping that all those remembering those times will come forward and submit their own memories for all the readers as well as send them to the Museum for prosperity.



Hank Karr & the Canucks played to a large crowd
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



A large crowd gathered to witness history in the making
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Nola & Allen Lueck

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



Close up view of the infamous White Horse before it was lit up

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



The Whitehorse Inn Sign before it was lit up

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



And it's lit!

The sign in all its glory

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

YUKON WILDFLOWERS



Anica – Obliging! Grew in our back yard in Hillcrest.

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

OBIT

I was just reading your article about the Yukon Power Corp.

The obituary below was in the Kelowna paper recently, Julius Steiger worked for Northern Canada Power in Whitehorse when I was there.

I got to know him as he use to fix our televisions and electrical items at the store, his daughter Christine Hoy was also employed at the 'Bay'.
A very nice man.

Regards,
Alistair McGregor (In Vernon BC)



STEIGER, Julius
1920 – 2010

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Julius Peter Steiger on Saturday, August 14, 2010, at the age of 90 years.

He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Karoline, his children Erika (Egon) Stotz, Julius (Donna) Steiger, Christine (Wayne) Beerling, Horst (Sherry) Steiger, and Dennis (Lynda) Steiger as well as by his grandchildren Rolfe, Gloria, Rob, Don, Elizabeth, Peter, Deborah, Kathy, Mike, Rick, and Christine, their spouses and numerous great and great-great grandchildren.

Julius was born in Ödenburg, Austria on May 6, 1920. He met and fell in love with Karoline who was to become his lifelong partner. They raised 4 children in Germany before emigrating to Canada in 1957. Life was not always easy for Julius and his family in post-war Germany, or as new immigrants to Canada, but he worked hard to build a new life for them all, including their youngest son Dennis who was born in Canada. The family settled in Kelowna, but, later moved to **Whitehorse** and other communities for a time before finally making Kelowna their home again. Julius pursued several careers which included being a master baker, construction foreman, and electrician. At the time of his retirement he was the electrical supervisor for the **Northern Canada Power Commission** and was responsible for the electrical operation of numerous power generation stations throughout the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Julius had a love of adventure that he shared with his children. There were countless trips to local creeks and rivers to go fishing, camping and gold panning. In later years, he spent many hours metal detecting and woodworking. Things changed greatly during his time but Julius never lost his boyhood wonder of all the possibilities that the world could bring. Most of all, Julius loved to tell stories. Everyone was fascinated by his tales of life as a boy growing up in Europe, as well as the more harrowing tales of the war and survival afterwards. Julius will be greatly missed by his family.

A memorial service with be held for Julius at 11 AM at The Village at Mill Creek on Saturday August

28th.

In lieu of flowers, we suggest a donation to a favorite charity in Julius' memory.

NEW ADDITIONS

I would like to sign up to receive the Moccasin Telegraph. I lived in the Yukon full-time for 33 years and now split my time between homes in Penticton and Whitehorse. I'm writing full time now and actually one of my pieces was published in the Moccasin Telegraph featuring Stan Bridcut.

I look forward to receiving the newsletter,

Claire Festel

clairefestel@me.com

Phone: 250 492-2211

Cell: 250 460-2797

Fax: 250 492-2246

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

We have enjoyed the MocTel for many years and we thank you for doing such a good job as editor. Unfortunately we have to unsubscribe. Once again, thank-you,

Marshall and Anita Bereza

BEREZA, Marshall & Anita formerly DERY (MURRAY) anitabereza@yahoo.com (In Granville 1940 -, Whse 1953 -)386 4356 Victoria

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Don't let yesterday use up too much of today. - Will Rogers

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

NWT Wild Berry Pie

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

Pastry for a 9 inch double crust pie

- 4 c. mixed wild berries: blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries,
huckleberries, saskatoons, etc.
- ½ c. water
- 1 – 1 ½ c. sugar (depending on the berries)
- ¼ c. flour OR 2 tbsp. cornstarch OR 2 tbsp. quick-cooking tapioca
- 2 tbsp. margarine
- ½ - 1 tsp. mixed spices such as ginger, allspice, cinnamon, nutmeg

Combine berries and water in a covered saucepan. Simmer over low heat 2-3 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in sugar, flour and margarine. Cool and pour into a deep, pastry-lined pie dish. Dampen the edge and cover with top crust. Press edges together and trim. Gash top; brush with milk and sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 400 F for 20 minutes, then reduce heat to 350F and bake 40 minutes more or until filling is thickened. Cool before serving.

DATES TO REMEMBER

VANCOUVER ISLAND YUKONERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Vancouver Island Christmas Party

Thursday Dec.16th Noon social – Lunch 1PM 17.50 (includes tax)

ABC restaurant, 6671 Mary Ellen, Nanaimo

RSVP by Dec 9th Sharon: 250-729-9773 or dawson1*shaw.ca

Harriett: 250-751-1194 or harriett3*shaw.ca



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.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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