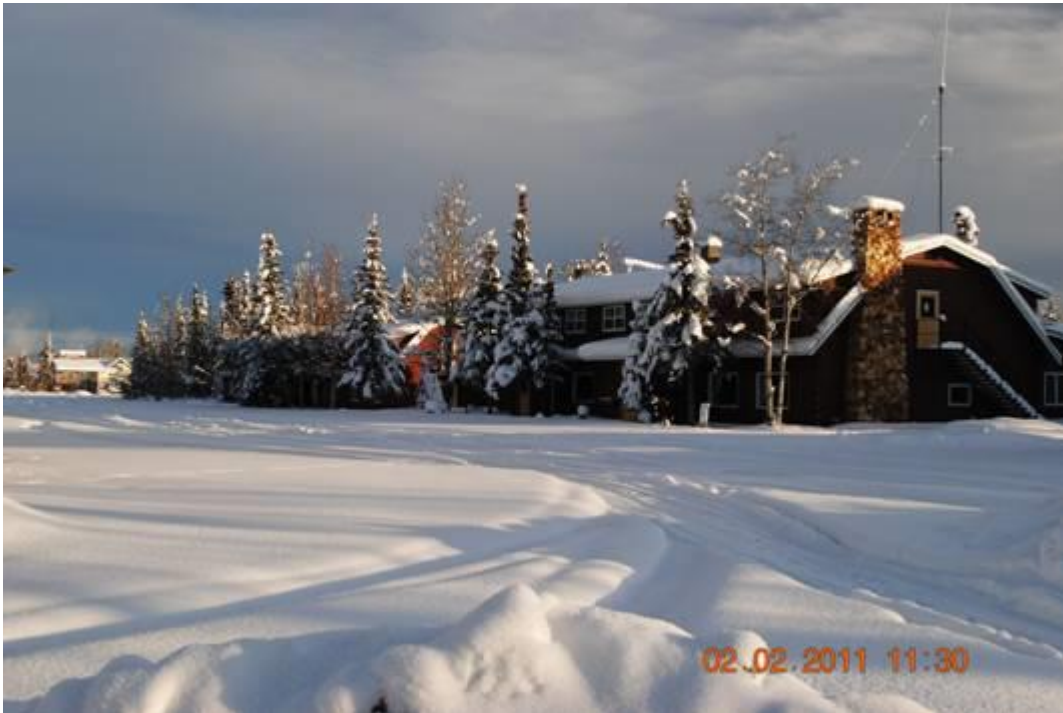


MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 329th Edition – February 13th, 2011

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



Westmark Hotel Beaver Creek

Photo courtesy Grant Lundy waterquality@klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)



1202 Beaver Creek

Photo courtesy Grant Lundy waterquality@klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)



The new Buckshot Betty's Beaver Creek.

Photo courtesy Grant Lundy waterquality*klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)



White River Lodge.

Photo courtesy Grant Lundy waterquality*klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)

YUKON NUGGET by Les McLaughlin

Shared courtesy Rolf & Marg Hougen marg*hougens.com (In Whitehorse)

Jim Robb

I [Les McLaughlin] met Jim Robb when he came to Whitehorse in the late fifties. Our first encounter was at the end of a shovel. We were both labourers with the Canadian army, moving dirt piles from point A to point B in Camp Takhini. Neither of us knew why. It was a summertime job for me while I was going to school, and an introduction for Jim to a Yukon make-work project. He was a quiet guy. At least I can't remember any lasting conversations. Our focus was on moving dirt. He showed no hint of his later brilliance for capturing Yukon scenes and characters. Our paths rarely crossed after that. To me, he became this strange guy who carried art supplies and a camera under his arm as he strolled the back alleys of Yukon communities. Who knew why! Years later, we all knew why. He had captured the Yukon as it had never been seen before. His work took time to catch on. Great art and artistic interpretations usually do. Picasso's strange faces and lopsided caricatures were not an instant hit around the world. Neither were Jim's scenes of Wigwam's table dance, or shacks at Moccasin Flats, that seemed to tilt far more than science would allow. Mining camps no one had seen for years became grist for the ceaseless pen and ink sketches of Jim Robb. Faces of characters long since gone took on new life and meaning. For whatever reason, and no one knows the reason for the acceptance of artistic endeavour, Jim's work came into vogue. Pretty soon everyone wanted a Jim Robb. Everyone ! Today, the entire Yukon looks like a Jim Robb sketch. Our conversations today are more focused than they were in the fifties. The last time I saw him, he greeted me with the observation that I must now be older than all the rocks on Grey Mountain. My comeback was that he had been in the Yukon longer than the Tintina Trench. He drew a sketch of me. I looked like Mr. Magoo. He said it was an accurate portrait. I drew a sketch of him. He looked like a hobo. An accurate portrait, I said.

He showed me his collection of Yukon artifacts - things that long since would have ended up in some dirt pile had he not picked them up. Jim's persistence in sketching and collecting and picture-taking finally paid off when Canada recognized his immense contributions by awarding him the nation's highest honour, the Order of Canada. I'll bet that when the Governor General fastened the pin on his suit, he must have recalled those days with a shovel on a Takhini dirt pile and recognized that the Yukon really does hold out the promise that with persistence and dedication, a person can be what they want to be.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin.



In 1978 Marg and Rolf Hougen commissioned Jim Robb to do a painting of the Anglican Old Log Church (above).

Photo courtesy Rolf & Marg Hougen marg*hougens.com (In Whitehorse)



Grade 1 - Whitehorse Elementary School – 1956-57
Photo courtesy Phil Blaker pblaker*shaw.ca (In Chilliwack BC)

My mother gave me the attached photo the last time I was in Whitehorse and she said it was from grade one at Whitehorse Elementary. So this would have been in the 1956 –57 school year. Others in my class included Bev Seely, Larry Twigg, Abe Van Oeveren, possibly one of the Labar brothers (Bobby) and Irene Maruk.

Maybe some of the others might be identified by your Moc Tel subscribers.

Phil Blaker pblaker@shaw.ca (In Chilliwack BC)

Hi Sherron, your e-mail with photo received and forwarded, neither of my brothers, Michael or Abe are on the photo as Abe didn't arrive in Canada until '58 and Michael and I went to the first few grades in Quebec where we lived from '51 to '54 when we went back to Holland for a year before returning to Canada and Lower Post before moving to Whitehorse. We were then past the Grade one stage. I've passed it on to my Whitehorse friends, regards,

Maroesja van Oeveren maroesjabigm@hotmail.com (In Amersfoort Holland)

Sorry I don't recognize anyone in the picture but I can verify that neither Bobby LaBar or Abe van Oeveren is there. Abe arrived sometime in the 57/58 school year and the LaBars at the beginning of the 58/59 school year.

Heather Johnson heatherjohnson@shaw.ca (In Vancouver)

Yukon Quest

All the Yukon Quest sled dogs (722) are thoroughly checked a few days before the race which left Whitehorse Feb 5, 2011. The dogs are checked for temperature, feet, weight, ears and overall condition. Each dog is scanned for a microchip and if the animal does not have one then one is injected in the neck. Any and all comments are recorded. If there are issues, such as long nails or cracks in the feet, it is noted for the vets at each checkpoint. Every dog is again checked thoroughly at the checkpoints. It is 1000 miles for 25 of the teams at 14 dogs each (Whitehorse to Fairbanks, AK). The rest run a qualifier of 300 miles (Whitehorse to Pelly) at 12 dogs each. There were several dogs dropped before Dawson City, the halfway point and some YQ300 mushers scratched.

I have not gone on the trail as yet and probably won't at this late date. I will be attending the Finisher's Banquet in Fairbanks on Feb 18 however. If you wish to follow the race go to: www.yukonquest.com

Or on Facebook. There is some wonderful video also on U-Tube. Worth checking out. -

Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Checking the teeth.
Photo courtesy Volunteer Melanie Fornoff.



I don't mind this.
Photo courtesy Volunteer Melanie Fornoff.



I don't want to stand up. Donna holding up a dog. Some are very, very heavy as they put all their weight on your arms.
Photo courtesy Volunteer Melanie Fornoff.



Kyla volunteers with musher Sebastian Schnuelle.
Photo courtesy Volunteer Melanie Fornoff.



Norwegian musher dog getting checked.
Photo courtesy Volunteer Melanie Fornoff.



Not enjoying the temperature check.
Photo courtesy Volunteer Melanie Fornoff.



Donna scanning for microchip.
Photo courtesy Volunteer Melanie Fornoff.



Scanning for a microchip.
Photo courtesy Volunteer Melanie Fornoff.



Scanning for microchip.
Photo courtesy Volunteer Melanie Fornoff.



These nails are too long.
Photo courtesy Volunteer Melanie Fornoff.



Waiting for the vet check.
Photo courtesy Volunteer Melanie Fornoff.



Waiting for the vet check.
Photo courtesy Volunteer Melanie Fornoff.

Saying goodbye to a CBC legend

By Dave Brown brady.brown@bell.net, Ottawa Citizen January 24, 2011

A spirit appeared during a celebration-of-life service in a funeral home chapel Jan. 15, with the express purpose of helping a grieving young woman singer whose voice had faltered.

The upbeat ceremony was to say goodbye to Leslie Lorne (Les) McLaughlin, a broadcast lifer with the CBC's Arctic radio service. He died of cancer Jan. 8. He didn't think age worth mentioning, but like most of his friends, he was 69.

The singer at Tubman's Garden Chapel on Richmond Road was Kelly Prescott, and she was well into Loch Lomond when she choked up.

That was when, with no hesitation, the spirit of the old National Press Club appeared. Many of the more than 100 attendees were, like Les McLaughlin, survivors of the club's glory days, multitalented, and not shy about turning loose the vocal cords or chords.

Suddenly the spirit in the room was upbeat and happy. It was the press club. It was spontaneous, and Les would have loved it.

McLaughlin was one of the most interesting members of a club filled with interesting people, and one of the hardest to get to know. For most of three decades, you'd find him occupying the same spot at the north end of the club's big bar.

If a stranger was looking for a media star, they'd give him a pass.

He looked so ordinary one could be forgiven for thinking a man had wandered into the wrong bar.

He was modest and self-effacing, rare qualities in a media star, particularly of the CBC variety. He seemed to have been born with premature male pattern baldness. He wore oversized glasses. There were unproved rumours he owned a tie. His usual greeting was to dip his head, peer over his glasses, and smile.

He wouldn't be alone long. People, most of them high-profile media types, gravitated to Les. The press club was a swamp crawling with opinions. Les was a proving ground. A writer may have been ready to put an opinion into word or print and if lucky enough to find Les at the north end, could flight test the latest punditry. If there were design flaws in the thinking, they would show immediately. Les looked like a shy man, but he wasn't. He was also one of the most opinionated players in the place.

During his career he helped launch northern music stars like Hank Karr, Susan Aglukark, Charlie Panigoniak, and Kashtin.

He took early retirement from his producer's job in Ottawa, saying there were other things he wanted to do. Then he surprised us all. He could sing. He could write songs. He was raised in the Yukon and could have been the territory's unofficial historian. He knew the works of Robert Service by heart and put many of them to music, then went on tour with Tracey Brown (of the Family Brown singers), and the mother of Kelly Prescott. They produced records of the music of the North. Photos for CDs and promotional material were done by longtime McLaughlin friend and club member Ray Stone, who during a eulogy said: "He accomplished so much in his own quiet way that most of us didn't realize the scope of his talent." He also explained how Les turned out looking so dapper on one of his CDs. "He's wearing my jacket, shirt and tie."

McLaughlin was also a painter. His battered paint box was on display at the service. It contained his ashes. Stone reminded attendees that McLaughlin's favourite footwear was a pair of slippers made of caribou skin and duct tape. The urn replacement was the right style.

The service was conducted by Rev. Nancy Murphy, for many years the press club's chaplain. The event needed a special touch, and she nailed it. She talked about ministering to the north end bar, said they really needed it, and admitted she had a swell

time. Although Les was not religious, she referred to how he prospered under God's grace; "whether he believed it or not."

Changing times and a shrinking membership closed the press club's Wellington Street quarters three years ago, and it now exists as a foundation struggling to keep alive a variety of awards commitments.

In case it appears Les spent too much time at a bar, it should be mentioned that, like some of us, he quit drinking years ago.

He was the youngest of a large family, and although divorced about 30 years ago, stayed close to his two children and two grandchildren.

“99/12/01” document submitted by Dan Boyd dan.boyd@gov.yt.ca (In Whitehorse)

Interview with Gunnar Nilsson and Mickey Lammers - May 19, 1999, 7:30 – 9:30 PM

By Juergen Korn (In Whitehorse)

Part one of two:

Jan 22/00

Gunnar had his 78th birthday, January 17th, 2000. (he as therefore born on Jan 17th 1922). Lots of things happened in the last few months. He saw the meteor, the year 2000 and his 78th birthday. We had a lot of laughs about road trip mishaps. Gunnar was in a good mood. He was experiencing considerable pain however, and did not move from his chair by the window.

He expressed disappointment with the weather over Christmas as it was too warm, and created a mess. He also felt ready to let the sawmill go now. They didn't have plans to do anything with the sawmill equipment since it was all paid off. He felt the planers were not good enough, but the Pendu was still worth something.

GN – About my story, you know, I think it is disappointing, I think.

PICTURE

GN - I want to get the picture out. You haven't seen the picture. Well, here are us three kids now, and 72 years later (this was a picture of Gunnar, his brother and sister at a very young age, beside a recently taken picture of them 72 years later).

JK - When did you take that picture?

GN – Two months ago, in Sweden.

FARM

GN - We grew up on a farm, and there were lots of other people around. We all helped on the farm. And we were paid! From very early on. It wasn't much, but it was enough so we never asked for allowance or money. It was because my father was not treated that well at home with money, you know. So, he said "if I have kids, I'm going to try better", you know. And...it functioned. And I think that is why all three of us, we always had money. We were never out of money, in our entire life. It still functions, all three of us, the same thing. Never been any shortage. And, but basically, it doesn't matter what you get paid, but it's what's left over. It has nothing to do with the amount, it's what's left over that counts. If after there's a little left over then you'll never be out of money.

To have enough money, you could control the spending, or if you need more, then you have to make more. There are those two choices.

JK - What kind of farm was it?

GN – It was a mixed farm. Not very big. It had a forest too. So in the winter, we worked in the forest. Everything was an adventure.

COMING TO CANADA

JK - When did you leave the farm?

GN – When I was 20 years old. I went to the army then. And that was the end of working on the farm. Then I leased my own farm for oh... 6 years or something. After that I thought that I would immigrate to Canada. So then I went to a welding school and learned how to weld. And then I was running equipment, bulldozers and backhoes too. Yeah, I came to Canada in 1953, but it was (welding and driving equipment) two to three years before that I practised a little bit in Sweden, so that I could do something when I come here. And it worked well. I come to Alberta, there was lots of work there, just like now. There was the oil boom. Most of the little towns, they were putting in sewer and water. And then the contractor I worked for, he...got this work in Whitehorse. It took three years to put the sewer and water here... in Riverdale, but we did downtown too... It took three years, three summers.

JK - That took you to 1958 or so.

GN – Yeah, mhmm

JK – So, then you stayed?

GN – Yeah, I liked it, so then I stayed (laughter). And then the Dempster highway was another thing I worked for another 2 years on.

JK - So, what were you doing there?

GN – I was a mechanic. Welding and mechanic.

JK - After the Dempster highway, did you go straight into the forest industry?

GN – No! Then after that there were so many small bridges that needed to be built, with the mining boom. In 1964 to, oh it went on to the 1970's. That's when I was a partner with Hector Lang.

JK - To build bridges?

GN – Oh, yeah...over a hundred. We built so many bridges. Whenever there was exploration they wanted roads, and little bridges.

JK - Steel bridges, wood bridges?

GN – Yeah, yeah... The Canol Road, that opened up. One summer we built 22 there.

JK – What's that, about one every three days for the whole summer?

GN – Yeah, once we had all the material in place, we did three per week. We were five people.

INNOVATION

GN – When we did those 22 bridges, we had a person that was going to do the trucking, but he kind of gave up on it. It was raining that summer and the road was muddy and it was bad. And he got stuck a lot. So, I took over the trucking. I was trucking all the materials to those bridges. So I thought, how could I get more rubber on the ground? More tires, so I don't get stuck. So I started to think of those farm tractors. They just add another tire to each side if they wanted more traction. And then I had it you know. Then it was only a matter of doing it. And there were lots of old rims and stuff from the time when they built the pipeline. So I made up a set and bolted them on, so I had three tires on each side. And it worked all summer, you know! It was a five ton truck. It was sturdy as anything. I think that was one of my better innovations.

JK – I hear that you've had many!

JK - Do you miss those days?

GN – Ohh, well, I don't miss anything. It was okay... It was good. We worked very good together.

THE BEGINNING

JK - I've heard stories from others about your skills out in the field... improvising and so on.

GN – Yeah, this is what I know.... Field Mechanic. But to carry on from 1970, this is when we started on the sawmill here. And this is fairly well, mostly what I've been doing, from then on.

ML - Maybe you should explain that you started just with the sawmill.

GN – Yeah, well you can explain that.

ML – No, I think it is your story.

GN – The sawmilling has to be very much Mickey's and my story...totally, because we totally worked together on it and (we) enjoy it both.

ML – That's how it started, all we had was the sawmill, in the middle there. I don't know for how long we did that.

GN – Oh, a couple of years. The thing is we started small, and sort of kept on building it up... even today after thirty years.

ML – And the first real thing that we bought was the Pendu. That really smartened things up.

GN – Yeah, the gang saw was a big purchase for us, and it made it that we could saw boards like no body else could saw boards. And I have demonstrated it for people, for the government too when they were in Watson lake and tried to start a sawmill there. And for some old sawmillers, I started it up and I showed them. And nobody would buy it. Recently a new mill purchased a new one. Now it changed hands and the new owners don't like it. And ours, you know it's now nearly twenty years old. And so today we sawed some 2x6's and then when we were finished I said, "and people don't like this saw!" (laughter). It made this place. If it is anything that helped us along, it is that saw.

ML – Because it is so precise.

GN – And easy to operate, and low cost to operate. It is V-belt drive from an engine, but it can be run electrically too.

ML – Then we got a planer, of course,... and then we just carried on.

THE GOLDEN GOOSE AND STARTING SMALL

GN – But to do it again, I think it is very good to start small, and put money back into the business. You know, it is the story of the goose that laid the golden egg. You better feed it good, you know. And give it water you know, and it will keep on laying a golden egg every day! But if you just try to get the eggs without looking after the goose, then pretty soon it doesn't lay any eggs anymore. The story was so bad that the farmer killed the goose. He was going to get inside and take all the golden eggs (laughter).

ML – What? Did you just make that up yourself? (more laughter)

GN – No, no, there was no eggs in there, Mickey! That's not how it works!

ML – That must be a new twist!

GN - NO, forever, you have to put money back into it. And you have to give it your time and your effort, to your business. And it will work! I kind of think that nearly everything will work if you do that.

JK – Take it one step at a time and don't over extend yourself.

GN – Yes, it takes a long time before it gets up to any size. Now, Mickey and me we could really start something now, but it's too late.

ML - Now we don't want it.

GN – That is the disadvantage.

NOT ADVERTISING

GN - There are a couple of things that I marvel over at the business. As you see, people come and order and we don't advertise and it is just endless. I just marvel at it, and I don't understand it. I haven't figured it out.like white wine.

ML - We should put a sign on the road, they always tell us.

GN – It has something to do with the way we do it, I guess.

JK – It is amazing. I called last night, but no one was standing by (the radio phone). You don't advertise, and you only monitor the phone at certain times of the day, but people still come.

ML – We are afraid of that.

JK – Afraid of greater success?

ML – No, too much pressure.

REWARDS

JK - What interested you in sawmilling?

GN – Oh, it was from the beginning, on the farm.

JK - Did you see a need for dimensional lumber or other wood products...?

GN – Well, yeah, everyone can use 2x4's and wood products. It's really not so much the money you make. You have to make a little money, or nobody could carry on. You have to get a little income, but it's a way of life. That is something totally different from just working for money where you get the most money for the least work. It's a way of life, and this place here is like a way of life. The reward is part money, but there are so many other things. Like when somebody brings a hanging basket. And we get customers here and we meet people that do things, really interesting people. There are not complainers so much. Why, you take this young couple here, you know, they're just excited and now they are going to build their first house, you know. And we are a little link in that.

GN – Well yeah, there is some money, but there are the other rewards too. And when it's all finished, we get invited for a house warming party, or something. And if you look around this house, it's all things we got from various people. It all goes around. And this is how it is...lots to be rewarded. And if we go to Whitehorse, we see many people we know. We can't avoid it. Where ever we go!

JK – Everybody knows you.

GN – Everybody knows us. Well, many. So,...then maybe it has to do with too many thinking too much about the reward they are going to get, monetary usually. If one contributes a lot, the reward will come. You don't have to worry about it. Because you do get rewarded if you do something for somebody. It's another little thing... I know functions.

JK – I feel like this would be a great place to work.

GN – Yeah, it's been nice. It's the people you meet.

USABLE PRODUCTS

GN – There is one thing that I do say about sawmilling, and that is that the end product should be so that people can use it. We don't make a finished thing, but we make the board for inside panelling and outside siding. People can use it. If it's just a rough board, or rough square cant, not too many people can use it. What we make, anybody can use it. A handyman can use it and they like using it. I think that's important, and it's overlooked.

MOTTO

GN – Our motto is “We do what we can, with what we have, where we are”. So we don’t look for cedar, and fir and .. We work with what’s here. And I always think when I look at that willow craft, “that is just fantastic!” The way they make things out of that little bit of willow. And it grows like crazy, and there is no end to the supply. I think there is the solution so that everyone could have work, and every one could be a craftsman. Every body could be a producer, not just a consumer.

ML – Now, who said that? Was it the gander?

GN – I think that was Confucious (laughter). Yeah, a society that has many producers and few consumers, is a good society. Well when people do something, then they are happy.

HARVESTING

JK – How many people did you employ when you were the most busy?

GN – We were five,.....in the summer, we were five.

JK – And that was just in the sawmill/planer operation?

GN – Yeah.

JK – And you had a logging operation too?

GN – Yeah

JK – What equipment did you use? Skidder?...

GN – Yeah.

JK – Hand falling?

GN – Yeah, hand falling and skidder

JK – Grapple loader?

GN – No, a line skidder. We were dragging the trees right home to the yard, most of it.

JK – And it was all local logging?

GN – Yeah.

JK – And how long have you been logging back there?

GN – Oh, we'd have to look, but we must have been going for 20 years. We had a contractor that logged and sawed for us. He was contract logging for 10 years, before he started his own sawmill.

ML – Oh yeah, he worked for us here a long time.

GN – Yeah, he did piece work.

ML - He did the logging and sawing. And then, already we kind of felt its getting too much, and we have to get away from cutting of the trees. It's too heavy and too much work.

JK – And that was how many years ago?

ML – Oh,...ten for sure. Now we just buy cants, or squares from others.

JK – Who is selling the cants?

GN – Other operators,...yeah.. At the present there are quite a few actually.

ML - Like that wood there comes from Pelly Crossing. And there are two small operators in Atlin. Watson Lake too, but we don't know them all.

GN – Do we have all the things in there that we wanted to talk about,...We got the money, we got the goose and....

OPERATION

JK – It always amazes me how you always have your yard full of packages and pieces, and I ask how things are, you say oh fine, your lumber is right over there.

ML – Yeah, that bothers me always more that they don't pick it up. But then, we still have the wood. So then, we can sell it. But then you just hum and hah (about it).

JK – Do you have a formal system for keeping track of where your orders are?

GN – Yeah, oh yeah. It's quite well organized. There's a worksheet written down for everything, and it stays in here. And I have to work after the worksheet, you know. And I have to turn the stuff out. Then Mickey usually counts it and checks it, and then she puts a tag on it.

ML – And I hope the tag doesn't fall off (laughter).

GN – And then we cover it so it doesn't get any harm from the weather. So,...it's a little routine.

JK – You’ve kept the operation very modest. The planer mill is open on one side, so it’s not very warm in the winter, so you are not out there when it is very cold. Are you?

GN – At Christmas, it stops, nobody comes anymore. Then in January and February, on warm days, then we’ll plane again.

JK – And the same with the sawmill?

GN – Yeah.

NOISE

ML – And by the way, the noise is far less when you are in an open place. It’s fairly noisy if you’re boxed in. We have pictures of those Pendu mills, and they are open on the one side.

JK – I’ve seen planers that are enclosed in an insulated box, basically, and the boards go in one side and out the other. But it keeps the sound inside.

ML – But you can’t see a thing. Some planers, they make them so nice, but you can’t see inside to check the workings of the machine.

GN – But I think that helps the sound a lot.

PRICING

JK – When you do your pricing is it based on what outside products are worth?

GN – No, it’s totally based on what our costs are.

JK – So it is based on your production costs?

GN – Yeah, and if the prices (outside) goes up or down, we don’t change it. We just changed it because we have to pay more...labour is higher, and stumpage went up so much. We have to pay the logger and the sawmiller more for the cants. So there it went up. But we haven’t changed the price of the planing in all these thirty years.

ML – No, it hadn’t changed for quite a while.

GN – I think we upped it once in these thirty years. See, in the beginning, I guess it was good. ML – The employee makes more money too.

JK – Well, you don’t have to justify one price hike in thirty years! And I guess electricity and fuel prices went up too.

ML – Actually, if you look in the books at the fuel prices, for a year, let's say, they haven't gone up that much.

GN – It's definitely cheaper to generate your own electricity. Oh yeah, than to buy it. Definitely, way less!

ML - Commercial electricity is unbelievably high.

GN - And it's very easy to make electricity. It's one of the easiest things I've done.

ML - With Yukon Energy there are demand charges, and commercial rates are higher.

GN – And you pay if you use it or not.

ML – And we just shut it off, and it doesn't cost us anything.

GL - They say that industry is a bad one to supply electricity to because they only want it eight hours per day. So there is a big demand in the daytime, and then at night, they (the industry) don't use it. But they have to have the facilities to generate that power.

TO CARRY ON

JK – If you could carry on, what would you have in mind, to really start something?

GN – Well we have this nice pine. You see it makes good moulding, and you could make cupboard doors. Look at that little stand over there. A school class made it. They go out in the woods with their teacher, bring me the logs, and take part in the whole process from scaling to drying the lumber. Then at school they make valuable things out of the wood. Just by gluing little pieces of wood together and... There is no end to it.

JK – So you could see a moulding operation?

ML – That, and the same thing we are doing, siding.

GN – Essentially that's the most basic thing, the siding. But then if you do it for the inside (panelling) then you need a little better planer – something quite good. I am sure it would work. And then if you can have a partner like Mickey, that makes it easy.
(laughter)

KILN?

JK –Would you consider putting in a dry kiln?

GN – Yeah, Yeah,.. I would say so. I often think we don't really need it because if we have enough dried over the summer, then we don't really need it. I admit that mouldings should be really dry, and cupboard doors too.

JK – What about specialty woods like birch and poplar? Do you see a good market for it?

GN – ML –Yes! There would be a good market.

JK – There are at least 6 cabinetmakers in town. Do you think it feasible to supply them with cupboard doors for instance?

GN -Yes, most of them don't make their own doors, even though they have the equipment to do it if they want. They buy them.

ML – I don't know, there are some that make them. They buy pine maybe once a year – a couple of thousand footboard measure, and dry it inside, and use it the next year.

JK – I wanted to use Birch for my cabinets since I felt that it was such an under utilized species. The doors had to come out of Quebec!

ML - Birch does take a long time to dry, which means you have to have space too, etc. etc.

MARKETS

JK – What about the market? If you talk to local retailers, they will say that the market is really small, not a lot of room for expansion. What do say to that?

GN – Hmmm. It is limited, yes. But if you make something that other people don't make. I guess now the suppliers do have everything.

ML - But they used to get it here too.

GN - But it is priced accordingly too. Like cupboard doors, they are quite high priced!

ML - So is the siding.

PLANERS

JK – You had more planers here, then you moved some out to the McCrae Industrial area.

GN – We had five here. We were so successful there for a while. We had all three lumberyards bringing trucks with full loads. All with lumber they wanted planed.

ML – ...cove siding and log siding and...

JK – Was this mostly wood coming from down south that they wanted replaned?

GN – Yeah!

JK – So why did you have so many planers? Were you using them all for different purposes?

GN – Yes, you can have one set up for log siding only, and one for cove siding only, and so on.

ML – And one for house logs...

GN – Then you don't have to change all the time (the knives and set-up).

ML – That takes the time. Half a day to set it up.

NEW OR USED Equipment

JK – Did you buy mostly used equipment, or new?

GN – Yeah, nearly all used. But two planers were new, and the gang saw was new.

JK – And the little band saw, that must be new?

GN – Yeah that is new. Yeah, it comes in handy.

JK – And you fixed up a lot of machinery. You get cars that other people have finished driving...

GN – Yeah, I don't get much new.

JK – Why? You must have a philosophy or a story behind that.

GN – Yeah, make good use of things.

JK – But you have bought a few new things. A new loader... Why?

GN – That loader, we had it with us now for 30 years. Everyone can use a loader. It is such a good tool. A skidder is very specialized and is only good for one thing.

JK – So you see more value in good used equipment than in new?

GN – Yeah, but sometimes when technology has marched forward and superseded anything old, then you have to get a new one.

JK – Like the Pendu at that time.

GN – The Pendu was one, yeah. It was so revolutionizing that there were no used ones around. I only needed to see the advertising and I would buy it.

ML – When the other Pendu was purchased, the company representative came to install the machine. When he came over to see our machine. He just stood there, he never had seen one (like this one).

GN – But the one who figured it out, the Pendu, he was a real entrepreneur. He was building forage wagons for International Harvester, and he needed a lot of wood to make these boxes. He tried to buy wood, but that didn't work too well. Then he made up this saw to make those boards for himself. And it was so successful it took right over, and now they only make these saws.

GRINDING

JK – Getting back to your machines and tools here. You sharpen all your own cutters, and you make your own knives for your shaper. I guess that is a necessity out here?

GN – Oh, you can buy them too. It is good to be able to make it.

ML – Oh, the grinding is very important, that you do it yourself.

JK – So the bottom line is to be self-sufficient?

ML – Yeah (hesitantly). You still have to buy the fuel (laughing).

JK – Did you go through a stage where you had to buy for a while before you could buy the machine to make your own the knives?

GN – Yeah, I had to find one that was affordable. And that is what happened with that. I come to know that one that was made in Quebec. It was for a very reasonable price, and it worked well.

TRAINING

JK - You changed your own knives, but did you ever train others to do that?

GN – Yeah, but then people don't stay. There were two women that were very good at it. Both were very good at it. I could just go away.

JK – How long does it take to train?

GN – Oh, it takes no time for those that will do it.

JK – Once you told me that people shouldn't go into something that they know nothing about.

GN – That is part true, but they can go and learn it before they start. They can go and work somewhere, and learn about it.

JK – I like what you’ve done. You’ve made lots of different products, and continually added equipment (over the years). Now you have a shop for mouldings and you have your moulder knife grinder...

GN – That is to feed the goose, Juergen. Don’t forget the goose!

(To be continued)

Fulda/VW Tour returns to Dawson

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

January 25, 2011

Participants in this year’s Fulda Extreme Arctic Adventure were tested by almost continual temperatures between -40 and -45 degrees this year. They’ve had cold weather during the previous 10 years worth of events, but never such a long stretch. According to Rod Raycroft, with YTG’s Dept. of Tourism and Culture, they loved it. This year will give them all bragging rights.

Super cold temperatures make for some quick changes in events. When a proposed helicopter drop fell through in Dawson City, the group went to the airport and showed off how well their VW Touareg sport utility vehicles, mounted with Fulda winter tires, of course, handled on the gravel airstrip.

Earlier that same day they did manage a run up half of the Midnight Dome (6.5 kilometres) on snowshoes. It was -41 at the bottom of the hill that day, and enough of a breeze in the circle at the top that Raycroft figures it dipped below -50 when they arrived. From Dawson it was on to Eagle Plains, where they staged a half-marathon at the Arctic Circle.

In Inuvik on Jan. 21 they watched instructors build snow houses called Quinzhees and then had to build their own to sleep in that night. Fortunately it was bit warmer than it had been in Dawson, where they had had to cancel their plans to overnight in tents.

After the drive to Tuktoyatuk the next day they participated in a harpoon tossing contest in which they had to score by getting the harpoon through a target made of – what else? – tires.

That same night there was a banquet back in Inuvik. Then the athletes and the media people departed by air, to be replaced by an incentive and VIP tour by Fulda employees. The incentive group drove back to Dawson from Inuvik and spent Monday in the Klondike.

Event organizer Holger Bergold explained that this group had more of a tourist experience, with a skidoo trek on the Yukon River in the afternoon and curling scheduled, as well as a dinner and shopping time.

For them the weather was nicer sunshine instead of ice fog and mere -23°, which Raycroft said some of them referred to as balmy.

In Dawson the Fulda people turned the vehicles over to a contingent from Volkswagen, who embarked on their own Yukon tour. At one point about 48 VIP visitors were in Dawson at the same time.

Volkswagen is one of the sponsors of the challenge, along with Condor Airlines, Lova and Schiller Medizintechnik. Fulda itself is now part of the Goodyear-Dunlop Tire Company of Germany.

The Yukon government invested \$150,000 in a cooperative marketing agreement to support the coverage by European journalists and broadcasters.

The government estimates that € 5.4 million Euros (\$7.4 million Canadian) in public relations advertising can be expected to flow from this event. In addition it's estimated that \$1 million is spent locally by Fulda on equipment rentals, food and beverages, transportation, accommodations, staging of events and other services which help to stimulate the local economy in the middle of our slowest tourism season.



European visitors line up at the SS Keno to head out for a skidoo tour.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



And away they go.

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



Fulda in the Ice Fog

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



Frosty Correspondent: Apparently the writer didn't have a pencil and paper.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Grade 3 class at Robert Service School comments on January's cold snap.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Just a little cold weather warning
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Berton House Gala Supports Residency Program

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

Photos courtesy of the Writers' Trust of Canada

The annual Berton House Gala was held in Toronto's Berkley Church on Tuesday, November 30, 2010. The festive event brought together friends and admirers of Pierre Berton to raise funds in support of Canadian writers-in-residence at Pierre Berton's boyhood home in Dawson City, Yukon.

The evening included fabulous entertainment from host Vicki Gabereau, musician David Warrack, and our CanCan girls. Writers-in-residence were also involved: eminent historian Charlotte Gray talked about her Yukon experience and the book she wrote while at Berton House, *Gold Diggers: Striking it Rich in the Klondike*; and current writer-in-residence Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail was Skyped in to talk about what its like to live in Dawson City as winter approaches.

"I was pretty nervous leading up to my interview, even if it was only to last a few minutes." Metcalf-Chenail wrote on her blog. "After all, I used to watch Vicki's (Gabereau) talk show all the time in university and have always admired her. I'd also heard I'd be following a slideshow by Charlotte Gray about her time in Dawson and her recently released book, *Gold Diggers: Striking it Rich in the Klondike*. Gulp...no pressure, eh?"

"I don't actually recall much of what I said - which is often the case when adrenaline and nerves are at play - but near the end I did gather my thoughts enough to give a shout-out to my wonderful mentor Dr. Desmond Morton, who was in attendance. And I mentioned that I'd carefully squeezed my book in next to Charlotte's in the Berton House bookcase."

Silent and live auctions featured the most exciting prizes this side of the treeline, including fine wines and scotches, vacation experiences both northern (a one-week Klondike Adventure Summer Getaway in the Yukon for two) and southern (access to a luxury villa situated between Manuel Antonio National Park and the town of Quepos, on Costa Rica's Pacific coast), and a buckskin coat designed by Canadian fashion icon Linda Lundström.

The Klondike adventure was won by Lynn Bevan of Kleinburg, a childhood friend of the Bertons in their Ontario hometown. She has travelled to the eastern Arctic several times in her role as a mediator, but has never been to the Yukon.

James Davies, with the Writer's Trust of Canada, which manages the Berton House program, reports that Bevan said she had "wanted to do this (go to the Yukon) her whole life." The prize has a \$6,000 value and includes air travel, hotels and vehicle rental. Bevan plans to make the trip in July.

We offer our gratitude to the numerous sponsors, table and ticket buyers, and auction-item winners and donors who through their generosity have supported this program. All the expenses aren't in at this point, but it believed the event raised just over \$30,000.00. The Writers' Trust of Canada thanks the Berton House Writers' Retreat Gala committee for their continued dedication in putting together this fantastic event.



Elsa Franklin, Berton's long time manager, addresses the gala.
Photo supplied by the Writers Trust of Canada.



This year's gala took place in Toronto's Berkley Church.
Photo supplied by the Writers Trust of Canada.



Jay Mandarinino & Charlotte Gray. Gray is wearing a jacket that was one of the auction items. - Photo supplied by the Writers Trust of Canada.

YUKON WILDLIFE



Bison

Heinrich Lohmann heinrich@lohmann.ca (In Airdrie AB)

OBIT

Eulogy – by Dennis Blaker

Bill Horback was born February 10th 1923 in Livingstone Yukon, the youngest of 9 children. Within a few months, the family moved to the homestead in Redwater Alberta where his father took up farming and Bill grew up learning what farm life was all about.

In the late 1930's Bill left the farm and home to seek his fortune elsewhere. Like many during the depression, he rode the rails across the country looking for work, ending up in Halifax. Soon after he arrived, broke and hungry, Bill met a kindly older Black lady who took him in and treated him like a son. There was no work to be had on the east coast just then and eventually and with regret, he said farewell to his new friend and made his way back to Ontario where he found work in the mines.

In 1940, at the age of 17, Bill lied about his age and enlisted in the Canadian Army, spending time with both the Calgary Highlanders and the Regina Rifles. He was sent to Scotland for training as a sniper. Bill had the dubious distinction of participating in the major landings at Dieppe and Normandy.

Bill was wounded at least twice but it didn't stop him. One of the times he was wounded, he was held in a prisoner of war hospital. While recovering from his wound, he was given access to the hospital grounds for exercise. One day he went for a walk and forgot to return. He made his way to the French Underground who assisted him in returning to England.

On his return to Canada, Bill spent some time in the Shaughnessy Hospital for further treatment of his injuries. Upon his release, Bill mustered out of the army and eventually made his way to the Yukon.

After a time of driving truck for the army and learning plumbing with Matt Nelson, Bill was hired on at the Whitehorse Fire Dept in 1948. In the early '50's, he left the Yukon for the warmer climate of Vancouver but returned to Whitehorse in 1958. He hired on again with the Whitehorse Fire Department and remained there until his retirement in 1988.

During this time Bill met and married Helen. After several years of domestic bliss in a tiny little home in Whitehorse proper, they purchase property across the river on Wickstom Road and built a home there. In their travels around the Territory, Helen had managed to scrounge, a huge and historic bar in Dawson City. Early on, they recognized that they would never be able to put the bar into the basement after they'd built their house so they put the bar in the basement and built the house around it and a mammoth billiard table they'd also been able to procure.

Bill's favourite hobbies were done in the basement. In addition to restoring antique furniture like the wonderful old bar, and playing pool and a pretty good fiddle, he was a

better than average photographer and had an extensive collection of old and new cameras. To pursue this last hobby in all its aspects, he talked Helen out of her downstairs pantry and turned it into a darkroom and did his own developing. He loved his photography so much that one day back in the "old days" he was summoned to a fire call of some sort and he yelled back that he wasn't done developing his film. Getting to a fire was very important, of course, but Bill had his priorities!!!

Helen died in 1985 and Bill traveled at loose end for a bit, returning more and more often to Vancouver to visit an old friend, Jeannie MacCulloch. Jeannie returned him look for look and for the last 20 years, she and Bill were constant companions, spending many enjoyable times together, travelling in Canada, the States and England.

In 2005, Bill suffered a severe stroke which left him partially paralyzed.

Here, I would like to tell you about Bill's love of Robert Service's poetry. Immediately following his stroke, he was seriously ill and had to be medivaced to Vancouver. A friend and I were waiting with him to be taken on the gurney to the airport. We were gently joking with him and one of us started quoting Cremation of Sam McGee, a favourite of his. Bill opened his eyes and took over the recitation and, stroke or no stroke, recited the entire poem, barely flubbing a line. Service was also one of Bill's priorities!!

On his return from Vancouver, Bill moved into Copper Ridge Place and remained there until his passing. In his room he had many pictures of his favourite places and people. He loved Great Britain and especially Hadrians Wall. Salt Spring Island, Sooke and Hawaii were a few of his favourite places to holiday. He loved poetry of all kinds and his other love was music. His selections were mostly classical and instrumental with the comedy troupe "The Goon Show" thrown in for good measure. He knew every song from My Fair Lady and sang them all in dialect. But he also loved "You Are My Sunshine."

Bill was a kind and generous man but with a very private and sentimental side. He was an honourable man with a great sense of humour and a distinctly mischievous side.

My friend Bill was a gentle giant who never complained but accepted his life with all its good and bad. He was a dear man and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

NEW ADDITIONS

Hi Sherron:
Greetings from Barb Johnson (formerly Barteaux).

The last time I saw you and Bill was back in the 80's and that was when you were living in Vernon. When did you move down south?

Murray Ash just recently sent me the link to the Moccasin Telegraph 327. I enjoyed reading it and would like to subscribe. How and where do I have access to the site. Let me know what I need to do. Lloyd had told me about this site a few years ago but I could never find it on-line.

Just to fill you in a little since I last saw you, I am still living in Kelowna, Brett (son) moved back to Whitehorse back in 96 when Lloyd was still there. Lloyd and his wife Jill have since moved to Ontario. Lyle (my husband of 2 yrs) and I spent an enjoyable day with Lloyd last summer when he was in Kelowna. April (daughter) and her family live here in Kelowna so I get to see the grandkids (2 - Mia and Aaron) all the time. Oh Brett is married and has a son Anthony. Lyle and I took a road trip last June up to the Yukon so I could show Lyle what I was always talking about. We did the Golden Circle Tour up there so I was able to say I saw some of the Yukon which I had never seen. Got to visit with Brett and family and we took Anthony with us for 5 days on our trip. We also bought a new home last summer so we got back from our trip we were quite busy. I am still working at the law firm but only 4 days a week (just to my liking) and Lyle is a long haul truck driver by trade and he is doing that part time right now.

Anyway hope to hear from you. All the best

Barb (Barteaux) Johnson bad2006@shaw.ca (In Kelowna)

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

Wondering if you got my previous email asking to be removed from your subscription list? Jackie Hinde

HINDE, Barry & Jackie (ARCHER) sienaday@hotmail.com (Barry in Yukon 1969-2004, Jackie 1978-2004) Courtenay

Regrettably, what with travelling and grandchildren close by and volunteer work, I'm not finding time to read the Moccasin Telegraph. I do appreciate your hard work and I've enjoyed your publication when I've had the time to read it but, for now at least, I'll ask you to drop my subscription.

Thanks.

Bill Klassen

KLASSEN, Bill & Rayanne wjklassen@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Automatic simply means that you can't repair it yourself. --- Mark Waldrip

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
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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

Sherron Jones

#483 – 5707 32nd Street

Yuma, Arizona, USA 85365