

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 331st Edition – March 13th, 2011

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



Haines Junction area – March 6, 2011

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

HAINES JUNCTION TRIP

I took a road trip to Bear Creek (five minutes west of Haines Junction) yesterday, March 6, 2011. It was a beautiful, bright day. The mountains were spectacular. I've attached some photos I thought you might enjoy.

Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



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



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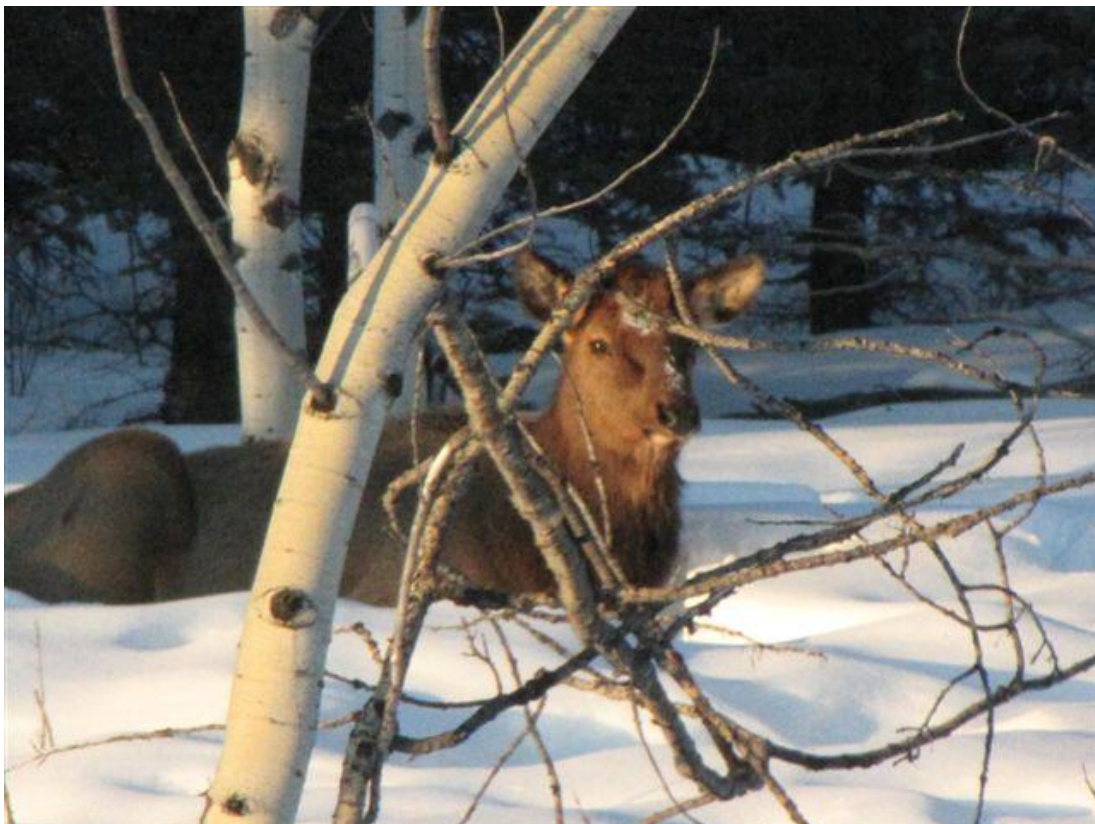


Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



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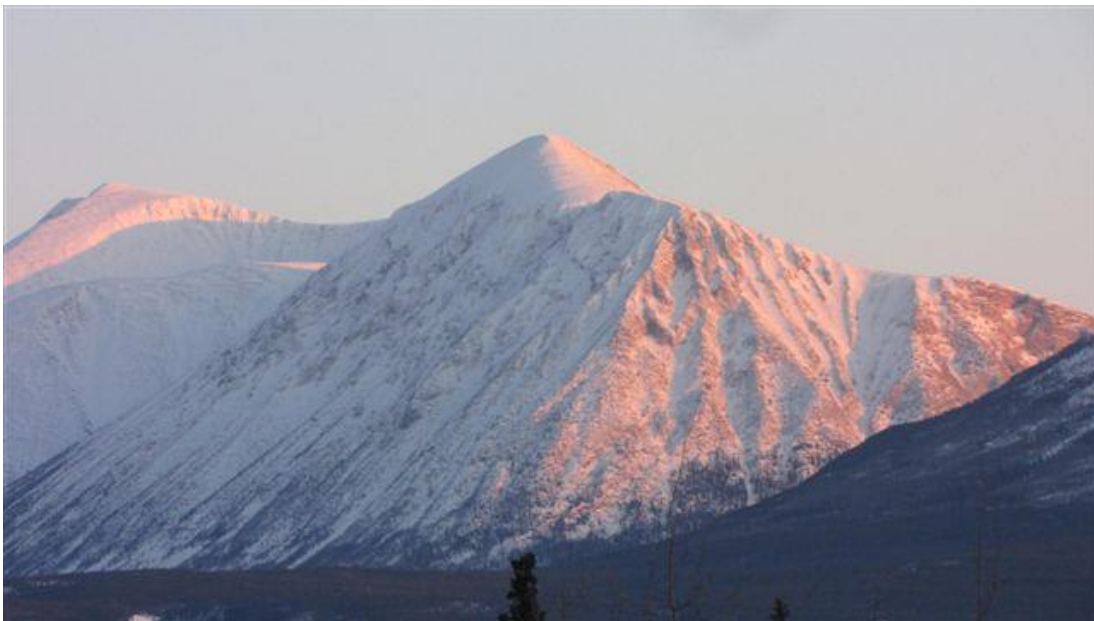


Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



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ONE MUSH

John Firth signing his book '*One Mush*' at the Yukon Quest store in Fairbanks February 18, 2011 as Bryan Clayson looks on. Newton Marshall also autographed the book. Fifty percent of the net proceeds are going towards the Jamaican Dogsled Team and their animal shelter dog rescue program. The book can be ordered through Amazon.com.

I have read this book cover to cover and would like to endorse it. It's a wonderful read full of facts about not only dog mushing but Jamaica as well. I have never visited the country but after reading the book I feel I would be familiar and comfortable enough through John's descriptions of the land and people on getting around on my own.

Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Brian Clayson and John Firth at the Yukon Quest store in Fairbanks
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

CAP BADGES - Can you Help with an image of the cap-badge used by the "Dawson Rifles," circa 1900. ??

Sherron, I'm wondering if you could place this into the next MocTel. Perhaps there are some readers that could help Doc out. This sounds like an interesting subject.

Greetings, it's Doc Knight in Calgary.



The above badges were struck in 1914 for the Yukon Infantry detachment (not Boyle's Machine Gun detachment), for First World War service.
Images courtesy Doc Knight thepellyscribe@gmail.com (In Calgary)

I am seeking an accurate photo or depiction of the cap-badge used by the "Dawson Rifles," circa 1900. The above badges were struck in 1914 for the Yukon Infantry detachment (not Boyle's Machine Gun detachment), for First World War service. These are, I am told, somewhat different from the Dawson Rifles cap-badge, circa 1900. No-one in Canada has ever published a Canadian military badge directory for the era the Dawson Rifles was raised in, which is a major historical failing at every level. If you have information on the Dawson Rifles cap badge (no-one in Dawson was able to help) I would be most grateful.

Cheers!
Doc Knight thepellyscribe@gmail.com (In Calgary)

GREG LYSLO

I hadn't seen or heard of Greg Lyslo since the late '50s, but it was still sad to hear of his death.

Greg & I were neighbours (more or less). As I recall, his family lived between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, on Rogers St. (or possibly Lowe), which isn't far from 4th and Hawkins,

where my home was. I remember Greg as a good hockey player. He and I both played on the Whitehorse Beverages juvenile team.

Whitehorse Beverages 1955-56, Juvenile League (R.Lortie photo)



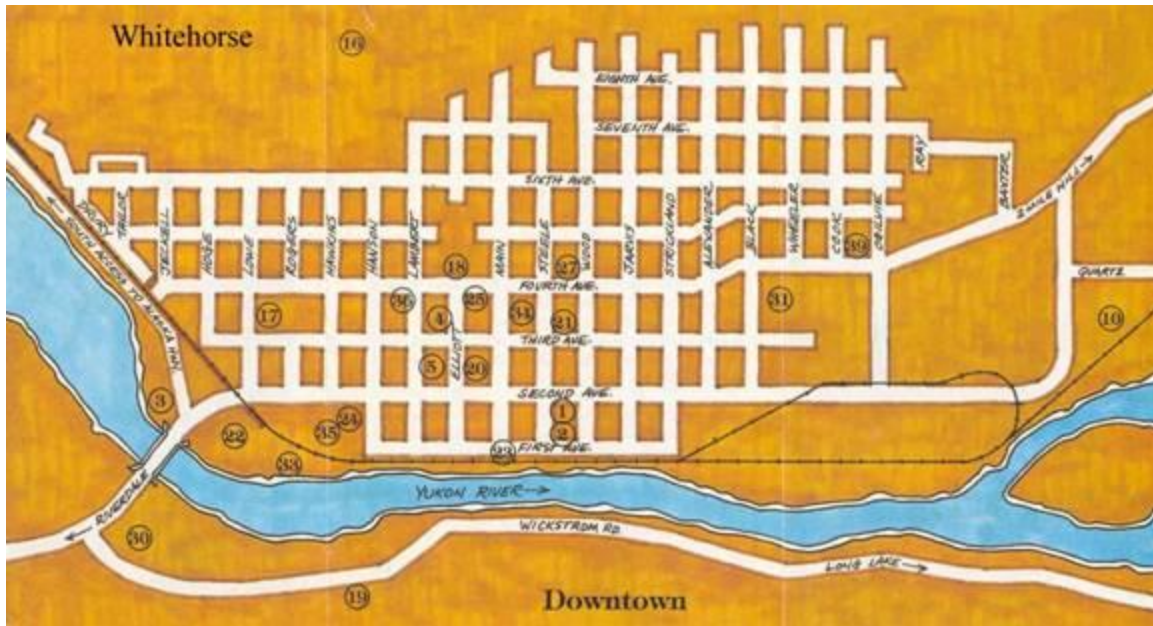
BACK : Lawrence Seeley (Sponsor), Mike Scott, Al Fromme, Greg Lyslo, Al Norrington, John Carswell, Stan Wilcox, Dick Carswell (Coach).

FRONT: Jay Amor, Ralph Lortie, Grant Lortie, Wayne Lee, Neil Campbell.

Best wishes to Greg's family.

A street map so everyone can see where Greg lived.

Ralph Lortie rlortie001@sympatico.ca (In Mississauga ON)



AL KULAN

As I recall, Kulan was just one in a prospecting syndicate, which included Jack Simpson (a famous Whitehorse hockey player in the early '50s). In '64, when I worked on the DPW Soils Crew, I met another member of the syndicate, whose name I can't recall. He was an engineer, who directed our soils testing along the highway at Marsh Lake, across the great swamp at the east end of Army Beach. One day he showed me a sample of pure massive sphalerite (ZnS) and asked me if I knew what it was. I didn't, much to my embarrassment now (although I didn't start taking mineralogy courses until Sept. '65).

Cheers.

Ralph Lortie [rlortie001*sympatico.ca](mailto:rlortie001@sympatico.ca) (In Mississauga ON)

McBRIDE MUSEUM – HOCKEY IN CANADA

When Patricia Cunning from McBride Museum contacted me about possible information about Hockey in Whitehorse in the Moccasin Telegraph I gave her Ralph Lortie's name and email address as well I referred to Rolf Hougen's excellent collection of photos and his memory of names.

Ralph Lortie was keen enough to compile all the information collected by the Moccasin Telegraph into one Special Edition.

So asked him today if he did see the CBC Special coverage on TV last weekend. – Sherron

Hi, Sherron.

Yes, I enjoyed all of the Hockey Canada Day. I had sent my hockey special to Patricia Cuning for display at the McBride Museum.

One thrill I had - after the introduction of Terry Delaney, a tape of a game at Jim Light Arena was briefly displayed. I could clearly hear Terry's voice say my name. Wonderful! I think it said I had just scored. I'm trying to get the whole show on DVD.

Ralph

RIVERBOAT YUKONER – can anyone help Joyce ?

Would you do me a favor when you've time to do it, please. I would be very interested to know what year it was that the old Riverboat "Yukoner" caught fire on the "ways" in the Whitehorse shipyards. I'm writing my memoirs again or at least trying to continue, and I'd like to have that info.

Thanks, and best regards to you and Bill there in the "sunny south."

Fred and I just got back from a wonderful trip to the Big Island of Hawaii, and I've decided that's where I want to live forever. (*when we win the lottery, of course...*). We were joined by Norma and Cal for a while, so it was great...

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

Sorry, Sherron - the last confirmed date I have for the Yukoner is 1949, when she was being used as a lumber storage warehouse.

Murray Lundberg yukonalaska@gmail.com (In Whitehorse)



Mr. & Mrs. Yukon 2011 Lorne & June Raymond

Born the second of four children in 1933 in Milden, Saskatchewan, **Lorne** and his family lived on a homestead in Medstead and then farms in Mount Leman, BC growing crops of wheat, oats, and other crops. After finishing his education at 17, he was recruited by British Yukon Navigation and made his way to Whitehorse and worked on river boats. His duties were deck handling and fireman before moving on to working in the office of the train depot which is the rail division of White Pass. Lorne met his first wife (Myrtle Acton) and married in 1955 and had four children Paul (deceased), Debbie, Linda, and Joanne. While working for White Pass he was involved with the Santa Claus parade. He fondly remembers how the train would pick the kids up at the Whitehorse Depot and take them to the Montana station to pick up Santa, and return to downtown Whitehorse. After sixteen years with them, Lorne took a position with the Whitehorse City Fire Hall until he retired in 1978. His involvement with raising monies for Muscular Dystrophy was personalized when one of the firefighters was afflicted with the disease.

June was born the youngest of four children in Deal Kent in 1942, and was raised in London, England. After immigrating with her parents to Canada in 1952, they settled in Windsor, Ontario. Her sisters both stayed in England and were married there and then immigrated to Canada. Her brother still resides in England, and June notes that he still has not been to Canada. After moving to Minstrel Island, June completed her education. Moving around Canada with her Mom and Dad, they settled in Whitehorse where June found work at the old Federal Building stamping envelopes, then working for the Erickson's at the Regina Hotel. From there, she and a friend traveled to Swift River where they worked for Pete Van Der Veen. There she met her George Burton in 1959 and they married. George worked for White Pass and June worked in laundry and bakery at the Whitehorse Inn. They had three children- Cathy, Sherry (deceased), and Larry born in Whitehorse and were joined by Lance whom was born in Dawson Creek and Brian in Nanaimo. While there, June volunteered for Brownies, and ended up having two Brownie packs. They moved back to Yukon (Haines Junction) when June's mother's health was failing. George started his own trucking company while June worked at Mother's Cozy Corner and continued her volunteer work with the Brownies. Sadly, George passed away from cancer at the age of 37 in 1976.

In 1978, Lorne met June and they married in 1982. They had been acquainted from when both George and Lorne worked at White Pass. In 1983, June and Lorne moved to Haines Junction to run Mother's Cozy Corner Restaurant as June's parents were getting older and wanted to spend more time with family and traveling. After selling the business in 1990 they retired again and moved back to their home at the Yukon River Bridge. With seven children, fourteen grand children, and six great grand children they are blessed with a large family and lots of friends. Lately you may recognize June from her appearances as one of the Golden Girls or from her volunteer work with the Golden Age Society, where she happens to act as President. She is also a member of the Yukon Order of Pioneers as well as the Yukon Council on Aging, Elder Active, and TOPS.

GILLIAN CAMPBELL

We were all packed to leave for Whitehorse. After coming back from the Dawson City Gig, we were feeling on top of the world.....as we didn't expect the Surprise Gig in Dawson. Mark calls out of the blue and wow it all comes together. He is such a great Friend to us, as is his wife June. Then there we were again. Packing and getting ready to go for the Sourdough Rendezvous in Whitehorse.

This time, we had Annie Avery. I call her Rag Time Annie, fabulous lady. She has a great smile and great attitude just like Grant Simpson. When she plays her whole body moves, she is having such a great time. And we took Smiley this time; Ron Thompson who is a Gem. There is nothing he can't play...any song.. he has such a good ear...and he and Annie and my Dear Son Richard.. played well together. Such a great time we had. Often we did more than the 45 minutes we were supposed to do.

It was bitter cold and having Edward with me, who is my second husband, much better than my first husband, is a real bonus... he has the best nature.. So kind and patient....and pleasant to everybody. Also Richard brought our Dana with us for the first time. They will be married on the 1st July.... And she will be the most beautiful Bride ever. Such a classy Lady she is, and a great sense of humor too. Actually it's just as well marrying into the Cambellini Family...ha ha... Every performance I told the audience that they were all invited to the Wedding....look of panic on Dana's face.. Then she laughed.. knew I was kidding.. but then was I ???

When we arrived in Whitehorse on the 23rd February...Mary Seeley was there to help us.....such a great friend she is too. Always there to help us.. coming and going....as we had left 4 pieces of luggage..including the Music so Annie could go over it for a few days....also some gowns to save me taking them home and the bringing them back up again, and that really did help so much and was appreciated.

We then went to the Hotel and had a rehearsal. And I have to be honest I am not the easiest person to back. I am all over the place, I love the Freedom, of changing my mind,

when I need to... Poor Annie and Smiley at times were sweating bricks, but having Rich there.....we did o.k.... Annie did get used to my antics Bless her.... Smiley is such a Gem..love working with him too.. but I must remember always to take his vest with me, I forgot it, as I had 3 from the last Gig in Dawson.. but alas, none did fit him, and he was quite unhappy about that.

At times working in the Tent, we had to go around the back of the Tent, as that was where the Green room was. But it was always closed down.....and so hard to open, but I said there was no way I was going to go into the Front of the tent while someone else was entertaining. In my costumes I would have definitely up staged them.. and I just wouldn't do that. So Edward, Rich and Smiley had to undo the Tent, and it was FREEZING...and the wind was brutal, as we also had all the balloons to take in as well.... It was 50 below.. most days.. went to 40..sometimes... brrbrbrrr

This particular day was so funny... as we were at the barricade and no one was on duty and we had to move it. So Edward said, I will do it, so out he goes, and the wind was harsh... he picks up the barricade and the 2 ends fell off... but it was the expression on his face. He just stood there...so Smiley went out and helped him....we all had such a good laugh about that also Edward.

We met some interesting people this Year. The Native Band 3 Ladies.. and a huge Drum were singing before us. And after us there was a Story teller Sharon Shorty "Gamma Susie". We didn't get on stage until after 10.30 p.m. so as we went for an hour. We were anxious to get back to the Hotel, which was wonderful. So we didn't stay for her act, which I was sorry about.

We were booked into the High Country Inn. We had a wonderful room, as did Richard and Dana. I was so pleased as it was her first trip. They had a lovely view. We were so comfortable there, full kitchen etc. It was like going home every night. All the staff, the Front desk, also the Chamber Maids, were so nice.

We were also so happy with the Van that NORCAN gave us to use. Just perfect it was, as getting in and out of the van in my gowns is not easy. We were again so lucky.

Working for the Sourdough Rendezvous Society was such a pleasure. Derrick and John, also Marj and all the ladies. It was a pleasure...but ...we really missed seeing the Can Can girls, when we did it was brief... also the Snow Shoe Dancers.

We popped into see Derrick and the Gang before we left and took photos and they will all get a copy for sure.....and Derrick said that next Year it will be about Transportation and we are invited back... we are all ready excited. They are a wonderful bunch of people, and they all volunteer. What a lot of work to coordinate everyone.

We had pictures' taken with Rusty Reid and the Gang. And the famous Calvin Vollrath and Mark Sullivan, wonderful Master Fiddlers back stage at the Yukon Art Centre, such a beautiful Theatre to perform in.

I have always wanted to play an instrument...but alas never did.....so when I asked Lyal Murdoch owner of the Frantic Follies with Grant Simpson, to teach me to play the Saw - he did...we had an hour's lesson. And just after our last Show in the Tent Lyal presented me with my own SAW. Can't wait to get at it.....I am thrilled to bits.

We also went to both the Senior Homes and saw some of the old timers. We did a Show at McCauley Lodge and Copper Ridge. Sad to see that we have lost so many; so glad we saw them last year, before they passed on.

We also want to thank the Lottery people and Hougen's Group of Companies and White Pass, as with out their support the Celebration would not happen.

It takes a while to unwind when we get home.....unpack.. ... hang the costumes up.. do the washing etc...but we all have a warm and fuzzy feeling.

Thanks to everybody.....until next Year. Stay well and warm....

Edward, Gillian and the Show Family.



Gillian with a group of youngsters on stage in "the tent".
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)



Ron Thompson (bass player), Commissioner Doug Phillips, Gillian Campbell & Mike Scott. Photos courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)



Gillian with the 2011 Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Queen Court
Caroline Carter, Miss Horizon Helicopters won the title of **Queen**. Caroline works as a news announcer for CHON-FM and loves the outdoors and "singing in the shower".
Cheryl Major, Miss Cannaccord, was named **1st Princess** and **Brycie Klassen**, Miss Evergreen Homes and Construction, was named **2nd Princess**. **Denali Ducharme**, Miss TD Canada Trust, was named **Miss Congeniality**.



?, Goody (Erickson) Sparling, Miss Gillian, Shirley Keopke (Mrs Yukon 2008).
Photos courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)



Gillian entertaining at a senior's home in Whitehorse.



L- R: Mr & Mrs Yukon, Jack & Myrna Kingscote 2010, Gillian Campbell, Mrs and Mr Yukon 2011. June & Lorne Raymond.

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



Lois, Gillian Campbell, and ?



Richard Campbell, Dana, Gillian Campbell, Ron 'Smiley' Thompson & Edward Thompson Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)



Rusty Reid (left) and other musicians with Gillian Campbell during Sourdough Rendezvous 2011 Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)

PHOTOS FROM SOURDOUGH RENDESVOUS

Hello Lady Gillian and Sir. Ed,

It was a pleasure to meet you last weekend at Rendezvous, you are a fantastic woman and your performance, along with the band and Ed was fabulous!

Anyway, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be photographed with you and, most excitingly, to introduce you.

Here's a quick note for you to view a few photos during parts of your last performance. They have been uploaded to the site <http://sherryljacobs.ca/PhotoAlbums/questrendez/> with the celebrity photo opportunity here <http://sherryljacobs.ca/PhotoAlbums/Celebs/>

I will be delighted to post your events to our website free of charge in the future, with a link back to your homepage.

Please take care and I look forward to seeing you again soon!

Sincerely,
Sherryl Jacobs
President & CEO
Sherryl Jacobs Events & Promotions
PO Box 31235
Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 5P7
Phone: 867.668.5105
Mobile: 867.336.1888
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1958 WHITEHORSE BASKETBALL TEAM

I'm attaching the 1958 WHS Basketball Team, which includes Greg Lyslo, Les McLaughlin, Dan Vars, and others.



L-R : Mike Scott, Danny Vars, Greg Lyslo, Les McLaughlin, Jim Reilly, John Carswell & Al Norrington #77. Mr. Bugara was the trainer.

Ralph Lortie [rlortie001*sympatico.ca](mailto:rlortie001@sympatico.ca) (In Mississauga ON)

Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

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

Percy De Wolfe

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

It's hard to imagine a life filled with more adventure than that of Percy De Wolfe. Like many young men from eastern Canada, when he heard about the Klondike Gold Rush he and his partner, Peter Anderson, headed for the Klondike.

They arrived in Dawson City in June, 1898, but, as it was for other late comers, the pair could not find any ground worth staking.

Both had done some fishing on the east coast, and decided to try their luck with a fishing business on the Yukon River. With a net bought on credit, they set up camp ten miles down the river from Dawson and brought back the first fresh salmon to the booming town.

The fishing business in the summer time was good. In the winter, the pair did freighting to the Fortymile mining camp. During this time, they built the 16-mile Road House and Halfway House on the Yukon river.



A portrait of Percy DeWolfe, taken at Fortymile, in fur parka and moccasins. DeWolfe was the mail-carrier between Dawson and Eagle, Alaska, for 35 years. Date: 1938.
Yukon Archives. Claude & Mary Tidd fonds, #7098.



Percy DeWolfe handing a sack of mail to RCMP Constable Joe Kessler at Fortymile.
Date: ca. 1930. Yukon Archives. Claude & Mary Tidd fonds, #8370



Portrait of Percy DeWolfe. Date: 1932.
Yukon Archives. Claude & Mary Tidd fonds, #7124

In 1920, De Wolfe and Anderson ended their partnership and Percy got a contract to carry the mail from Dawson to Eagle, Alaska. It was the beginning of a remarkable career, at times risking his life to get the mail through.

On one trip, his horses broke through the river ice. Percy was able to throw the twenty bags of mail off the sleigh before the three horses and sleigh went under the ice.

In 1935, Percy De Wolfe received a silver medal from King George, in recognition of his public service.

Percy De Wolfe carried the mail between Dawson-Fortymile and Eagle, Alaska, from 1910 to 1949, when they finally ended the mail contract to Eagle. His last contract was to Fortymile.

The post office at Fortymile was closed in 1951. Percy De Wolfe died in St. Mary's hospital in February, 1951, after several months of illness. He had carried the mail for forty years in all kinds of weather and conditions, travelling more than 100,000 miles by dog team.

In 1976, to commemorate the contributions of Percy De Wolfe, the KVA sponsored the Percy De Wolfe Memorial Mail Dog Sled Race.

Still going strong, the route follows the Yukon River trail, from Dawson City to Eagle, Alaska, and returns on the same trail to finish.

Volunteers are Eager to Help at the Dawson City Checkpoint

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

February 14, 2011

It's a bit gloomy in the Visitor Information Centre on Front St. in Dawson on February 11. The lights are down and much of the illumination on the faces of the people sitting around the long tables comes from the glow of their laptop computers, or their cell phones. In spite of the fact that there is half of the race left to go, those in the room seem settled.

Outside, a group of volunteers have been battling the breeze to take down all the banners and steel frame assembly that had marked the teams' arrival point at this halfway marker. In the next room the volunteers of the Percy DeWolfe Race Committee are staffing the refreshments canteen and talking about the big hockey game between the Dawson Nuggets and the Ottawa Senators Alumni team the night before.

Weather is a topic of discussion. The day before had been quite mild. There had been no

wind to chase people off the river, and Governor General David Johnston had donned hockey gear to play with students from the school on the makeshift rink, scoring a goal against fire chief Jim Regimbal.

That had changed during the night.

A wind had blown in from the south and then shifted; coming from the north, the end result being that the Yukon Quest trail to Eagle was pretty much drifted over, the markers hard to spot where they were still standing. A team that had started out alone had returned and started again, travelling more safely with some other mushers, and the group that needed to leave this day, the last of them, were planning to travel in a pack and take turns breaking trail.

Gabrielle (Gaby) Sgaga is the lead organizer of volunteers for this checkpoint, and she seems fairly alert for someone who thinks she's had perhaps five hours of actual sleep since Tuesday when the teams began to arrive in town. For her the job here actually started some time ago.

"I met with the race manager in, I think it was October, and then, after New Year it was BOOM, full scale. I was getting emails from volunteers before that, as early as November-December, but I didn't have a schedule put together ... so I just put them on file and then in January I started organizing volunteer meetings, doing all the other peripheral things I had to do."

She needed volunteers for the vet shack, over in the YTG Campground across the river where the dogs spend the 36-hour layover here. They keep the shack warm and run messages back and forth for the vets and the checkpoint.

Other volunteers staff the checkpoint, and are responsible for updating information, helping the handlers get their supplies and checking the mushers in and out. These last two procedures also include the checks for mandatory gear, counting the dogs and - new this year - resetting the spot trackers on the teams. The Dawson checkpoint opened up on Monday, February 7. The teams began to arrive on Tuesday and are planned to be all out by Saturday morning at the latest. The volunteer crew is three people on a shift, three shifts per day.

In past years Gaby's been cleaning up and closing down the center the Monday after opening, but this year it's all happening faster.

"With the last dogs out late Friday, I'll be cleaning up Saturday and out of here on Sunday. It's like a day earlier than recent history and two days earlier than past history. "It seems like the trail is getting harder and faster and smoother. I'm hearing words like 'concrete.' "But she notes that it's still unpredictable.

"Look how it changes. Suddenly on Friday it's snowing and blizzard conditions. You've got a highway one day and no trail at all the next because it's all blown in."

Sgaga knows her history. This is her thirteenth year at the checkpoint, starting out as a volunteer and graduating to being in charge of the checkpoint. This used to be a two-person job, but the race now has an assistant race manager here so there's a little less work.

However, aside from being the lead hand here, Sgaga also fills in the spaces where someone doesn't make it or can't make it.

"I fill up whatever needs doing."

Not that there's a lack of volunteers.

"I had close to 30 this year and I had to turn people away."

She thinks this year's group was about half locals and half from out of town, and a lot of them were what she fondly refers to as "repeat offenders."

At this point those who volunteered for weekend duty are going to be disappointed this year, because they really won't be needed, unless they decide to help her clean up the place.

That will leave behind the smaller crew of volunteers connected with the Yukon Arctic Ultra race.



Gaby Sgaga is looking forward to some restful days now that the Yukon Quest rush is over. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Waiting time at the Visitor Information Centre.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



One of the late arrivals in the Yukon Quest.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Dawson Needs Land, say both Chamber and Council

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

February 15, 2011

Land seemed to be on everyone's mind in Dawson City at various meetings on February 9. At both the Chamber of Commerce and the City Council the lack of available land was held to be a major detriment to the future development and growth of the town.

Denny Kobayashi, Director of Business and Industry Development was the chief presenter at the monthly chamber meeting, but the major chatter after his presentation concerned land and the availability of housing.

Chamber president Helen Bowie asked that Kobayashi pass on to the Yukon Housing Corporation that it should shelve its immediate plans to demolish the aging Kobo Apartments once the new units on Turner Street are complete as the town has a need for entry level rental spaces. Bowie and Jannice Johnson, both of whom rent apartments in town, told the group that their places are never vacant and that they are aware of a pressing need for more rental spaces in the town.

Bill Bowie went further and stated that the community is losing opportunities for young people to settle here because they can't find anywhere to live.

This same concern was echoed by Mark Wickham, who has been doing research on behalf of the fledgling Klondike Development Organization, a group formed by the City of Dawson, the Chamber of Commerce, the Klondike Visitors Association and the Dawson City Arts Society.

In a letter circulated to concerned groups in the town the previous week, KVA executive Director Gary Parker, writing on behalf of the KDO, blamed a demographic shift towards an older population in the Klondike on the fact that younger people had no place to set up housekeeping.

“A mismatch between the existing (housing) stock and the needs of households has led to an increasingly acute housing crunch. Key services are endangered as businesses report difficulty sourcing skilled labour and not-for-profit groups lack volunteers and a decreasing school roll may endanger educational opportunities.”

The theme continued on into the evening council meeting, where Wickham provided an overview of his population survey showing that the number and percentage of Dawsonites below 54 has been on a decline since 1996 while the number over 54 has risen by 122.6%.

Discussion at the council table revealed that there are perhaps 12 residential lots in the

North End of Dawson. They are not selling because, as Councillor Wayne Potoroka summed it up, they are undesirable plots of land with little to attract a buyer.

Land has been a pressing issue before the last two Dawson councils, an issue made worse by the failure of the Community Services Dept. to deliver on the country residential lots it had proposed to develop on the first bench of the Dome Road. His plan fell through due to a conflict with placer mining claims on the same plot of land.

Laura Prentice, YTG's Program Manager for Infrastructure Development, was at the meeting to discuss a proposed development agreement between the town and the territory over a new subdivision expansion on the Dome. Council had some reservations about the wording of parts of the agreement, which will be tweaked and presented again later, but Mayor Jenkins expressed concerns that the government was not willing to carry on with developments outside the town boundary without the agreement being in place.

He invited the territory to go ahead and develop lots outside the town's boundaries with as much speed as it could muster.

He said there are areas outside the city limits than have been identified as worthy of development.

"Is there anything to preclude the Yukon government from proceeding on their own initiative in those developments?"

"What would the city have to do," Jenkins asked, "to get the government to develop (residential lots) outside the city boundaries."

Prentice indicated that it was the government's preference to have the City of Dawson involved in all aspect of further land development and it therefore preferred to have a development agreement in place before going ahead.

Jenkins noted that residential lots had been developed in West Dawson over the years without any input from the town and wondered why the change.

Prentice replied that the current thrust in her department and from the government was to have development agreements in place.

Further discussions between her office and the town's administration are being scheduled.



Dawson seen from the ice bridge on the Yukon River.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Letting the Bones Tell the Story

By Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)
February 17, 2011

It wasn't entirely a surprise when four coffins and skeletal remains were found last November in the former Highways Compound (and before that, Northwest Mounted Police Compound) just off 5th Avenue.

It had been known that the early edition of the Mounties had carried out executions in that yard and that the bodies had been buried below the gallows on which they were hanged, a practice that was common across the nation. But the exact location of the graves was unknown, and nothing had been encountered during the drilling and geotechnical work that had been done to prepare the compound to be the site of Dawson's new wastewater treatment plant, so when the backhoe exposed two deeply buried coffins on November 4, 2010, it was unexpected.

Because it was unexpected, because there were eventually two more coffins, and because the discovery made the national news during the next two weeks, it was no surprise about 40 Dawsonites turned out at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre just over two months later to find out what had been learned about the people who had been buried.

Government archeologist Greg Hare and Susan Mooney, an osteologist who works for

the Carcross-Tagish First Nation, were on hand to present the details of the excavation and the conclusions that had been reached during the study of the skeletons since that time.

Hare explained that coffins filled with skeletal human remains, clothing fragments and lime were found 2.7 metres below the surface of the excavation. Due to backfill and compression over time, the coffins had been squashed (from about 20 inches to 6 or 8 inches) and had ruptured when the backhoe hit them.

The response by Corix, the contractor on the job, was exactly correct. Stephen Johnson contacted the company, the RCMP and local coroner, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Hare's office. The discovery was carefully excavated from the partially frozen earth and a cadre of volunteers from the city and the first nation, without whom this operation would not have run so smoothly, set to work screening the earth to make sure nothing had been missed.

“It was remarkable,” said Hare, “Within a few hours we had ten or 12 people who had volunteered to assist in the excavation.”

Some earth had already been trucked to a dumpsite, and that was also recovered and screened.

While the first few days weren't so bad, it became bitterly cold, and a tent was erected on site with gas heaters inside to make it bearable.

In researching this site Hare found that the executions done on this site were the first executions to take place in Canada in 1899 under Canadian law after the nation took charge of its own system.

“They made national press,” said Hare, “but they were also well covered in the Dawson papers.”

In the case of the November discoveries, the same thing was true, especially after it came to be assumed that at last two of the coffins belonged to two of the four Nantuck brothers, who were executed in 1899 for the murder of a prospector named William Meehan. Speculation about this outran the actual confirmation of the identities of the four men. That's where Susan Money took up the story.

Sounding a bit like Temperance Brennan from the TV show, “Bones”, she explained that “an osteologist's job is to let the bones tell the story.”

They had a bit more than bones to go on. The bodies had hoods on them, which confirmed the execution by hanging hypothesis, and the remains of clothing, which gave some confidence in the dates. Beyond that, it was the bones that told the story, or most of it.

Identified for purposes of study as Burials A, B, C and D, each skeleton revealed clues which, when compared against the records of the men who were known to be executed in the time period, gave Mooney a sense of confidence in drawing certain conclusions. Using such evidence as jaw and tooth formation she was able to determine the height of three of the individuals and the probable ancestry of a different set of three. Two of them were First Nations men between the ages of 17 to early 20s. They were the Nantucks, Dawson and Jim. Burial A was probably Edward Henderson. Burial D was an older man, probably in his 50s and in poor health. There are two possibilities in the records: Alexander King and Ned Elfors.

There were thirteen executions in the Yukon between 1899 and 1932. All but two of them took place in Dawson, which was then the territorial capital. That means there are a few graves still to be found. Hare thinks some may lie along the line following the slough that used to run through Fort Herchmer as far as St. Paul's Anglican Church. Walker Graham, a nurse who has been doing research for a paper on this subject, thinks some other graves will be located nearer to the NWMP barracks, in behind the Commissioner's Residence.

Jackie Olson, director of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's Heritage Dept. says she has been in communication with the Carcross-Tagish and Kwanlin Dun First Nations regarding the remains of the Nantuck brothers. The bodies are currently in storage somewhere in Dawson, but the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in would like to see them back in the ground somewhere before summer.



Yukon government archeologist Greg Hare and Carcross-Tagish osteologist Susan Mooney presented their findings in Dawson on February 8.

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



This group photo shows most of the people who worked on the burial site excavation in November 2010.

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

WHITEHORSE ARTS



Quiet Lake, 51cm x 41cm

Cathy Henderson

Migration: Landscape images from the Yukon and Ireland

Handmade, limited edition, relief prints

Yukon Art Society Gallery

Opening reception Friday, March 11th from 5 to 8pm

Exhibition closes April 5th, 2011



Yukon Art Society Gallery 15-305 Main St. Whitehorse, YT
p: 867.667.4080 e: reception@artsunderground.ca



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Hungry Pup Saloon

In the Hougou Heritage Gallery

Fundraiser in Honour of Les McLaughlin

Featuring an auction of an original

Jim Robb watercolour painting
"Hungry Pup Saloon"

Friday, March 11th from 5 to 8pm • Auction to start at 6:30 pm sharp

15 Limited edition prints are available at a cost of \$250 each

The net funds raised will be administered by the Yukon Foundation



Thank you to sponsors: The Hougou Family; YTG Tourism & Culture; Arts Fund; CTF; Lotteries Yukon and the City of Whitehorse

Cathy Henderson Opens & Les McLaughlin-Jim Robb Auction, Friday March 11, 2011, Yukon Art Society Gallery 15 – 305 Main Street, Whitehorse

VISITING IN THE SUNNY SOUTH

Bill and I travelled to Laughlin Nevada for a couple of days last week to visit with Gus and Blanche Barrett as well as Blanche's sister Marianne (Holbrook). Blanche and Marianne grew up in Dawson. Gus & Blanche are taking a month away from winter weather on Vancouver Island and staying across the Colorado River from Laughlin Nevada, in Bullhead City, Arizona. California also intersects nearby so you can be in three states within minutes.

Last weekend we had a visit here in Yuma from Don and Muriel Frizzell from Whitehorse. They were due to head back to Whitehorse by now. Don and Muriel have a lot in the Foothills of Yuma with John and Linda Avery. There were other Yukoners staying in that area of town, who we have not met yet.

George Bliss and his wife Joan will be heading back to Regina from Yuma mid month.

Gail Laroque from Whitehorse is still here to the best of my knowledge, but we haven't been out to visit her yet.

Tom & Marilyn Law from Whitehorse were in our park for a short time and headed back to Calgary early to welcome a new addition to their family. Tom was kind enough to play mechanic to Bill's bicycle which we had loaned him with only one brake working.

Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca (In Yuma)

Aviation/History

Winter is going out like a lion here in Edmonton but I was on the phone to someone in Inuvik today and it sounds like they've been having worse!

Just wanted to check in that I can still send you convention-related materials for publication in the Moccasin Telegraph. Your putting the call for papers in December resulted in a great interview in Whitehorse for my book on aviation, btw!

I've attached the February announcement. Still working out the registration details and all that, but this gives a good idea of the speakers and connections to the Yukon and north...

Cheers,
Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail

Canadian Aviation History Society

February 2011

Dear Aviation/History Enthusiast:

This year's CAHS convention will take place in **Edmonton, Alberta** from **Wednesday, June 22nd to Sunday, June 26th** and will explore the theme "Edmonton: Gateway to the North." I hope you'll be able to join us for a great program of speakers, visits to top-notch heritage institutions, and special events. Of course there will also be lots of time to catch up with old friends – and make some new ones!

The convention headquarters will be the nearby **Chateau Nova Hotel & Suites** (www.chateaunovahoteledmonton.ca) at 159 Airport Rd. We've secured convention rates of approximately \$97 for a single queen room or \$103 for a double queen room (taxes incl.). Please reserve by calling 1-888-919-6682 and quoting the group name CAHS and number 576.

The convention kicks off Wednesday evening with registration and a meet & greet. Thursday morning we're off on a day trip to Wetaskiwin, home of **the Reynolds-Alberta Museum** and **Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame**. We'll also get a rare glimpse inside the **RAM warehouse**. After dinner will be the CAHS Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers.

During the day on Friday and Saturday, you'll be introduced to **dynamic speakers** with heavily-illustrated presentations on a variety of military, civil, and heritage topics connected to

Edmonton, Alberta and the North. Flip this page for a quick list, then visit the convention page on www.caahs.ca for full bios and descriptions.

We're holding the convention to coincide with the **Alberta Aviation Museum's AirFest**, and we've been invited to attend several of their events. These include:

- A Friday-night swing dance featuring a big band and static display of Second World War-era armoured vehicles
- A Saturday-night Northwest Staging Route-themed dinner
- Sunday AirFest activities – including the fly-in breakfast

Full program details, including registration costs, will be on the website and circulated by e-newsletter in a few weeks (to sign up for this free e-newsletter, please go to www.caahs.ca). We will also provide information on other places you may want to visit in the area, such as: CFB Cold Lake, Nanton's Bomber Command Museum, and the Aero Space Museum of Calgary.

Looking forward to seeing you in June!
Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail
CAHS National President and 2011 Convention Chair



Dynamic Speakers and Fascinating Topics!

John Chalmers	A Century of Aviation in Alberta
Shirlee Smith Matheson and Fred McCall	Freddie McCall: Maverick of the Sky
Chris Weicht	High River: Alberta's First Air Station
Margaret and Denny May	Mercy and Mail by Air: Wop May's Historic Interwar Flights
Clark Seaborn	Flying is Funny: The Lighter Side of 1930s Aviation in Alberta
Bill Zuk	Tom Lamb: "Mr. North"
Rachel Lea Heide	Wings for the Community: The History and Social Impacts of British Commonwealth Air Training Plan Bases in Alberta, 1939-45
Richard Goette and Whitney Lackenbauer	Frigid Wings, Warm Hearts: RCAF Arctic Mercy Flights During the Early Cold War

Todd Kristensen

Archaeology of a Crash: B-17 Discovery and
Heritage Assessment in the Yukon

Darrell “Doc” Knight

Buffalo Airways: Diamonds, DC-3s, and “Buffalo
Joe” McBryan

For more information contact Danielle at info@daniellemc.com

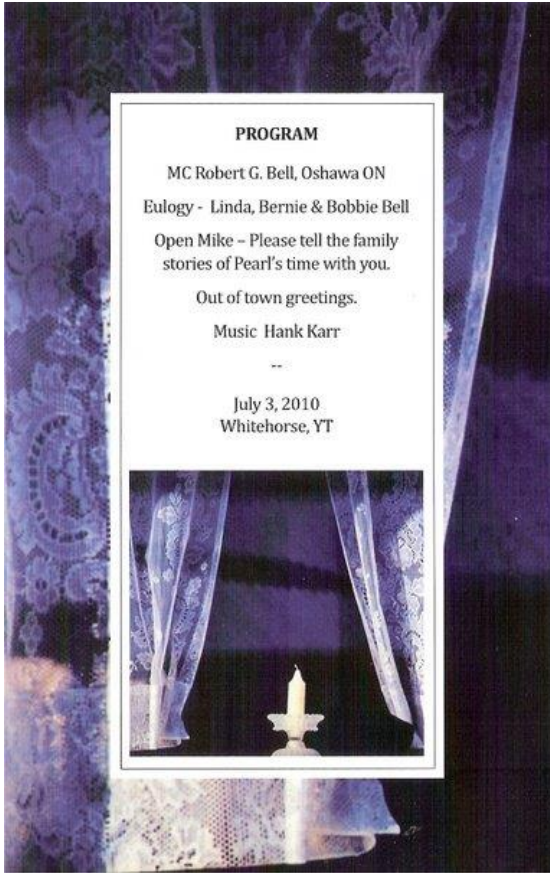


Sunset – Yuma – Feb 2011

Photo courtesy Bill Jones ve7yi@shaw.ca (In Yuma)

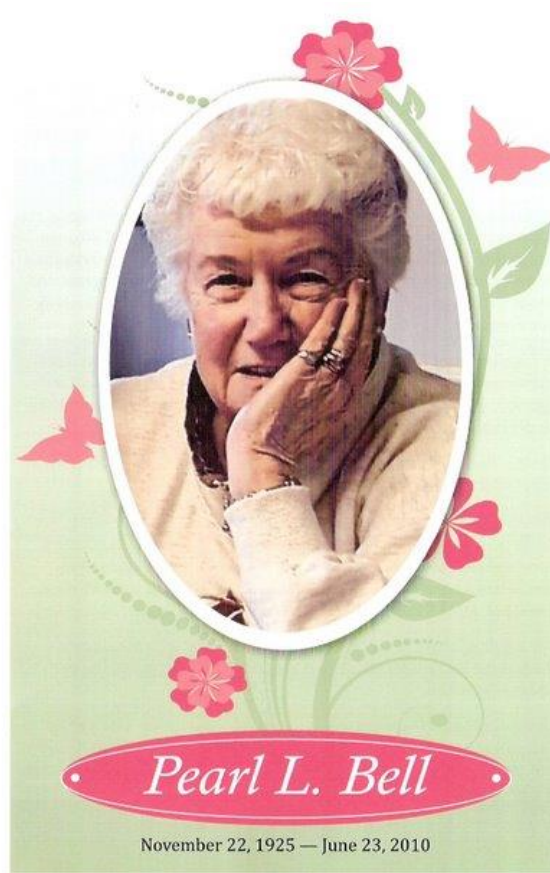
OBIT

I asked Doug Bell to share the funeral service pamphlet for his late wife Pearl who passed away in June 2010. – Sherron



PROGRAM

MC Robert G. Bell, Oshawa ON
 Eulogy - Linda, Bernie & Bobbie Bell
 Open Mike - Please tell the family stories of Pearl's time with you.
 Out of town greetings.
 Music Hank Karr
 --
 July 3, 2010
 Whitehorse, YT



Pearl L. Bell

November 22, 1925 — June 23, 2010

Pearl's Day...

She turned 16 in late '41, me in mid '42. We met when spring was making winter snow nourish prairie soil and green blessed prairie fields again healing the scars of drought. Sadly war replaced it, soaking our world in an even more devastating form of violence. The Depression had shaped us, war was now testing us, but luckily we had love to keep us right side up.

Born of Irish parents, 22 November 1925, Pearl walked into my sight unexpectedly late one spring day in '42. Her blue Irish eyes twinkling, her saucy red lips were smiling at a friend who was laughing at something she'd said, her shoulder length blonde hair glowing golden in the setting sun, and her legs, -wow, even better than Betty Grable's ...it was over: I was smitten, never to recover...

It wasn't mutual. "He's a bit of a drip," she told her friend. Patience and perseverance were her first lessons for me and later she said yes, and we began our mutual admiration society for two. And they say teenagers make poor decisions well t'ain't necessarily so!

She has had her day this Irish Canadian colleen of mine but she has left a mark of which our family stands proud.

We celebrate her life today, and what a life it was. She walked paths through prairie grass, holding hands with me, then holding our children's hands: Linda in a bush camp shack too tiny even to swing a cat, but she turned it into a home in Beaton River, B.C. Bernie joined us in Fort Nelson, B.C. and Bob in Whitehorse, YT.

She invoked love of home and country into them all with her mantra, 'Canada is the best country in the world to live, consider yourself lucky to have been born here.'

Shawn, grandchild number one, received the same advice, followed by Robbie, Trevor, Jordan, Grant, Leah, and Elizabeth. It's my turn now to carry her message to three great grandchildren Shea, Hanna, and Liam, more than one who've inherited her quick wit.

Pearl L. Gray, born Moose Jaw, SK 22 November 1925 to Margaret & John Gray of Irish descent. Survived by her older sister Olive Small, Langley, B.C. Predeceased by brother Charles W. Gray, Edmonton AB.

Married to Doug Bell, 25 September 1946 in Moose Jaw Saskatchewan.

Made homes in Beaton River, BC, Fort Nelson, BC, Lethbridge, AB, Watson Lake YT, Medicine Hat, AB and Whitehorse, YT. Lived 54 years in the north, 30 years in the south.

Three children

Linda (Wayne) of Saanichton, BC, b. Fort St. John, BC
 Bernie (Caroline) of Whitehorse, YT, b. Vancouver, BC
 Robert (Judy), Fort McMurray, AB, b. Edmonton, AB

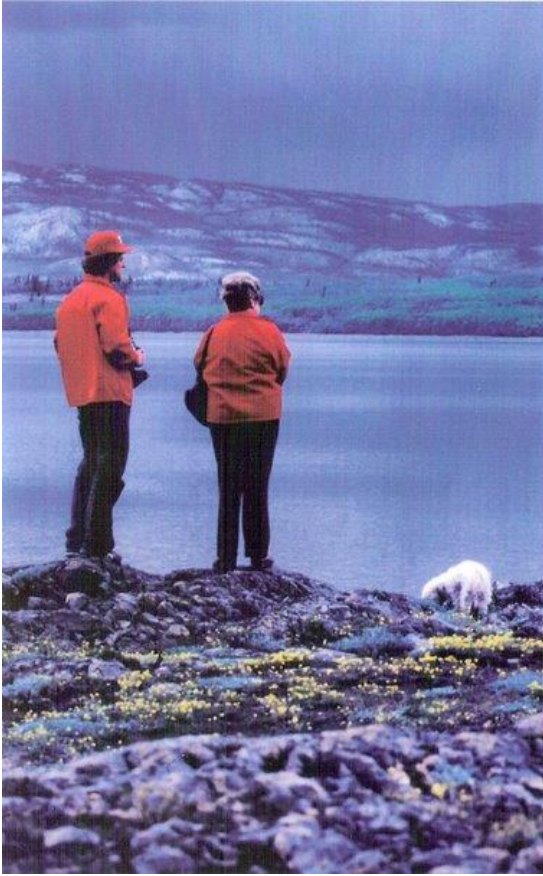
Seven grandchildren

Shawn Syverson, Fort McMurray, AB
 Robert Syverson, Saanichton, BC
 Trevor Bell, Prince George, BC
 Leah Bell, Prince George, BC
 Jordan Bell, Naval base, Victoria, BC
 Grant Bell, Houston, BC
 Elizabeth Bell, Houston, BC

Great grandchildren

Shea Syverson, Fort McMurray, BC, daughter of Shawn & Chelsea
 Hanna Syverson, Saanichton BC, daughter of Karin & Robbie
 Liam Syverson, Saanichton, BC, son of Karin & Robbie

Oh, there was a "second" marriage, 25 September 2006 in the same church, in the same town with some of the same guests but not many. We exchanged vows & had a party. We had our time!



Compassion was her calling card, she was as steady as a rock in her beliefs; beliefs lived, not merely spoken as is the habit of too many today. She'd often lament, "Who can we trust? Where are the leaders of our society who keep their word?"

Her loyalty to friends was her anchor. She stood with them, and she stood up for them, throwing in a touch of sass if she felt there was need.

Stalwart in love, spirited in support, and life savvy - oh she was savvy in the ways of people, although the ways of people of today puzzle and distress her.

She carried those characteristics with her into places of power where she later walked, holding my hand as always, encouraging, supporting, advising, criticizing when there was need. She caught nuances thrown in words, gestures, moods, and writing better than a big league shortstop catches a ball.

She could be stubborn too: "I must have been a maid in a previous life," she had often said before we found ourselves entering places where bowing was decreed. Pearl's decree took precedence, it shall not be done, and wasn't. "Democratic equality means looking into each others eyes, not at their feet."

Yes indeed, she stumbled as often as anyone, but owned up immediately, so when you met Pearl Bell, you got Pearl Bell, up front, open, outspoken sometimes, honest, compassionate, strong and steadfast for her family, her friends and her country.

A promise made was a promise kept, and she was a fighter. She browbeat four different cancers into remission over fourteen years before she said goodbye.

Her day is over, but as long as we are here, her memory and her spirit is alive and well, and that we shall cherish, and share for our time.

db

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

Please delete me from Moccasin Telegraph. Thank you. Lynda Wray
lynda.wray*shaw.ca (In

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half the wars of the world. - Thomas Jefferson

DATES TO REMEMBER

**Vancouver Yukoners' Association
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

Banquet Tickets:
\$55.00 per person with cheque payable in advance to
Vancouver Yukoners’ Association
Banquet Reception: Ballroom Foyer 4pm – 6pm
Dinner: 6:30 pm

Hospitality Room: Open Friday from 4pm and Saturday from noon
Note: Pick up tickets at Hospitality Room

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)

IN WHITEHORSE CONTACT GOODY SPARLING: 867 668-3958

For further information contact:

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

Please share this invitation with your friends and family

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

If you have received this copy of the Moccasin Telegraph from a friend and wish to sign up to receive future editions yourself, the criteria is that you **are or were a Yukoner**.

The goal of this project is to provide an opportunity for folks to reconnect.

There is an annual subscription fee of (\$20 - \$25. your call) for the Moccasin Telegraph.

– Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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