

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 364th Edition – November 3rd, 2012

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



Sunset – Thanksgiving Weekend – Carcross

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

YUKON NUGGET

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

Courtesy Rolf & Marg Hougen marg@hougens.com (In Whitehorse)

The Thirty Mile River

The Yukon River is one of the grandest in the world. It flows almost two thousand miles from Marsh Lake to the Bering Sea. One of the gems in the entire Yukon River system - a section only thirty miles long - is now Canadian Heritage River.

More than half of the territory is drained by the Yukon River. That's a lot of fresh water heading into the salt-laden Bering Sea. The Yukon is fed by tributaries from the great mountain areas...the St. Elias, Cassiar, Pelly, Selwyn, and Ogilvie Mountains.

It might be surprising to some, but the Yukon River originates in the southern lakes, just 25 kilometers from the Pacific Ocean. Then it meanders northwest for 1140 km through the boreal forest of Yukon's central lowlands to the Alaska border. From here it flows westward for another 2,060 km through central Alaska and empties into the Bering Sea; A long river by any standards.



Hootalinqua junction at Carmacks with Lewis River. Yukon Archives. Frank Foster fonds, #158.

The Thirty Mile section is a relatively narrow channel. It begins at the northern end of Lake Laberge, and ends at the Teslin River, at a place called Hootalinqua. And the river has a special place in Canadian history.

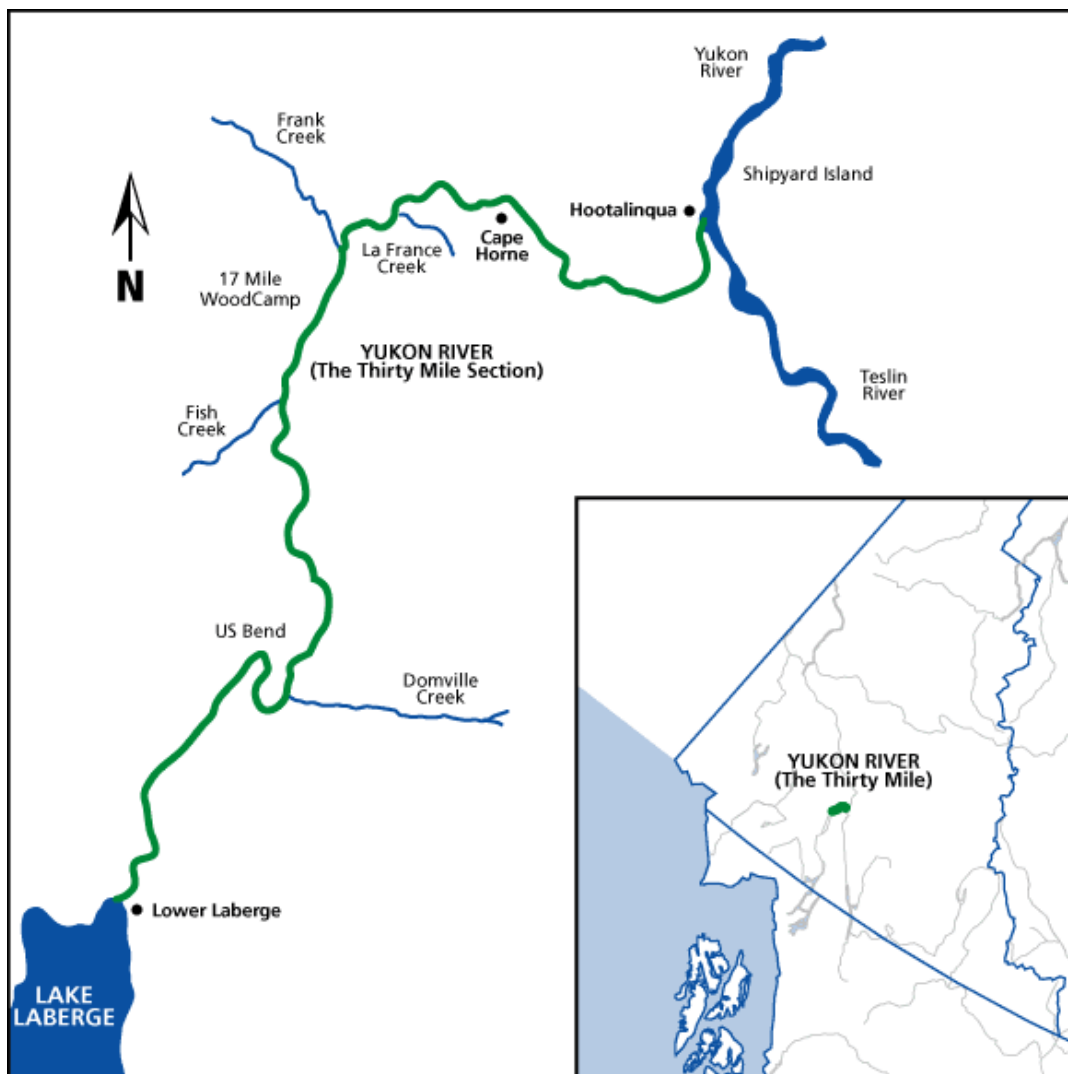
At its peak in 1898, the Klondike Gold Rush saw more than 30,000 gold seekers, in at least 7,000 boats, travel the Thirty Mile sailing from Lake Bennett to the goldfields. Although Hootalinqua already existed as a stopping place for Teslin River miners, both it and Lower Laberge became very important during and after the gold rush. At Lower Laberge, there was a telegraph station, a North West Mounted Police post, supply depots, and a roadhouse. At Hootalinqua there was a telegraph station and police post, and later, on nearby Shipyard Island, slipways and a winter storage yard for paddle-wheelers. 17-Mile Wood Camp, as it was called, was one of many along the river.

At Lower Laberge, Hootalinqua and the 17-Mile Wood Camp you can still see the remains of the log buildings in varying states of repair. Of particular interest are the remains of the slipways and winter storage facility on Shipyard Island. Built in 1913 by the British Yukon Navigation Company, it is the last such site in the Yukon.

Here the 360-ton S.S. Evelyn, built in 1908, lies as a rustic reminder of those riverboat days. It was hauled to shore at the close of the 1913 shipping season. Sadly, the hull is slowly disintegrating.

The swift, narrow channel of the Thirty Mile was the most difficult part of the stern-wheelers' run between Whitehorse and Dawson City. Its strong current, shifting shoals and treacherous rocks claimed more ships than any other stretch of the Yukon River. Simply marked grave sites are found along the Thirty Mile, and some locations are named after the boats wrecked there - Domville Creek, Casca Reef, La France Creek and Tanana Reef. The Thirty Mile was designated a Canadian Heritage river in 1991.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin



See some great photos of the Thirty Mile section of the Yukon River (now designated as a Canadian Heritage river) included in a 2011 blog of a river trip from Whitehorse to Dawson at: <http://www.venturevancouver.com/blog/yukon-river-2011-whitehorse-to-dawson-city>

Latrine on Front Street in Whitehorse – Can anyone help ?

Hello Sherron,

I have a bit of an odd request. I am wondering if you would be so kind as to ask your Moccasin Telegraph readership for information of the old Latrine on Front Street in Whitehorse. It was built in 1942 for use by U.S. Army soldiers during the construction of the Alaska Highway and - as it was constructed of concrete - has survived when many other buildings have been lost. The structure was later used by White Pass for storage. The Latrine is now being restored to its former appearance and we are looking for pictures to verify the paint colours, windows, light fixtures, roof, door and other details.

It isn't exactly the kind of place that people would photograph for a memento, but may appear in the background of events such as dog mushing and flour packing contests, Royal and V.I.P. visits and in photographs of the White Pass depot, looking north. If anyone has images or personal recollections that would help, please contact me at Paula.Hassard@gov.yk.ca or 867-667-8258. It would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you very much,

Paula Hassard
A/Historic Sites Registrar
Yukon Tourism and Culture
Cultural Services
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 2C6

P.S. For reference, I've attached a photograph of the Latrine taken in 1992.



Latrine - photo taken in 1992. - Built in 1942 for use by U.S. Army soldiers.
Located between 1st Avenue and the Yukon River to the north of the White Pass Train Depot and across from NC later Food Fair.

I sent a message to some who I thought might remember this building and here are some replies:

Sorry:

I do remember the building;

BUT having been away for over 47 years from living in Whitehorse (even though many visits followed) my memory bank recall is unable to come up with the information sought.

Cheers,

George Hartmann E.George_Hartmann@telus.net (Worked for T&D and White Pass)

Hi Sherron, sorry Bucks has no recollection of colors etc. on that building. He remembers exactly where it was but guess he was not too interested in colors or what it actually was. Sorry he could not be more help

Take care

Shirley Keopke mistyonmarsh@northwestel.net (Bucky drove bus for White Pass)

Sorry Sherron no luck.. That picture I took was on 2nd. I cannot remember that particular building either. Too many years,

Gus Barrett soudoughs2@shaw.ca (RCMP and took photos during Rendezvous in early 1950's)

Sherron, I'm wondering if anyone has contacted Jim Robb re: the latrine. I remember the latrine very well growing up in Whitehorse. I don't remember any paint – just concrete and tin on the roof. I see Rolf Hougen on the list and I wouldn't doubt he has photos and memories of what Paula is looking for. There has been notice on the latrine lately, both in the newspaper and with the residents. That entire area is currently being paved and renovated. It should look very nice when completed. I believe there is no intention of moving the latrine and many suggestions on what should be done with it while keeping it in the same spot. Imagine being so excited on the future of a latrine! LOL

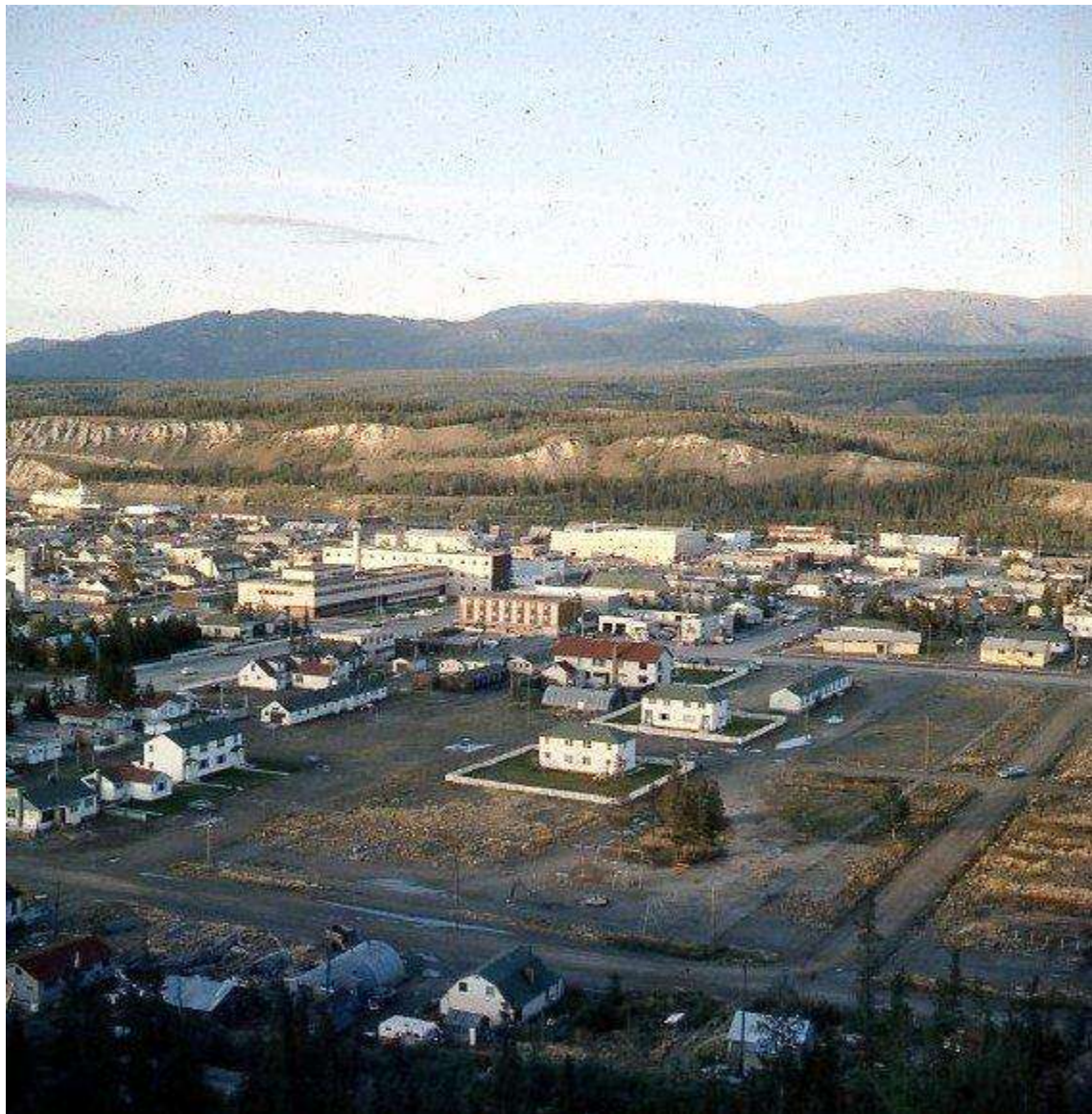
I will pass Jim Robbs email address on to Paula.

Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (Donna lived in the area as a child)

You were asking about a 'outhouse' near the Whitepass Depot. I do not have a colour photo but the small building next to the WhitePass warehouse is clearly shown



Latrine and Whitepass buildings – Corner of depot building on left.
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen marg@hougens.com (In Whitehorse)



RCMP Compound circa 1965

Photo courtesy George Leoppky galeoppky@telus.net (In Whse, W. Lake, Teslin, Mayo 1960-66)
(In Richmond)

Attached is a photo of the RCMP compound taken circa 1965.

I just received it from George Leoppky.

He says its okay for you to use it if you wish.

I see many changes were made before I arrived in 1973.

We should arrive in Yuma just before Xmas.

George Bliss jrsports@sasktel.net (In Whse 1973-78 & Watson Lk 78-79) (In Regina)

'Remembering the Yukon at War'

Sponsored by MacBride Museum a presentation on 'Remembering the Yukon at War' is slated for November 7 at 7:00 pm (see attached poster). I'm one of the speakers and am looking forward to showing my dad's photos that he took during the construction of the Alaska Highway in 1942-1943. There will be other speakers as well. Come out to a free, informative evening at the MacBride Museum. For further info: www.macbridemuseum.com

Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Remembering the Yukon at War

An evening of short presentations by pioneers and historians on Yukon's involvement in the First and Second World Wars

Wednesday, November 7 at 7pm at MacBride Museum
Free • All are welcome to attend



MacBride Museum of Yukon History **60 YEARS**
1952-2012
Located at 1124 First Avenue • Phone. 687-2709 • Online. www.macbridemuseum.com  

We are currently seeking nominations for
the 2013 Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame.

Do you know someone who has made a memorable
contribution to transportation in Yukon?



PAST RECIPIENT DAWN BARTSCH
2011 WINNER OF THE ORDER OF POLARIS AWARD

Born in Penticton, B.C. in 1932, Dawn Bartsch always longed to fly. In November 1950 she received her private pilot's licence. Dawn then obtained her commercial licence and, upon completing her instrument training in 1951, she had the distinction of being the youngest woman in Canada to be commercially licensed.

By the time Dawn arrived in Whitehorse in 1955, her flying experience included floats, skis, and wheels, and flying over oceans and mountains, in sleet, fog, snow, and in the extreme cold of the North.

Dawn has contributed to the development of aviation in the North by helping to break down gender barriers and making flying an accessible dream for today's young women.

To make a nomination for Order of Polaris, Person or Pioneer of the Year
for the Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame Awards, visit our website:

<http://www.hpw.gov.yk.ca/trans/transportservices/index.html>

OR

call (867) 667-5832 or email thof@gov.yk.ca



MVPA Pauses in Dawson for a Day

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

Seventy of the original 77 vehicles engaged in the Military Vehicle Preservation Association's 2012 Alaska Highway Convoy began to arrive in Dawson City early on August 13, the ninth day of their trek since leaving Dawson Creek on August 4. Some had arrived two days before, having elected not to take the two-night trip up the Dempster Highway to the Arctic Circle.

Those who made that trek spent one night at Eagle Plains, and then went north to have their photos taken at the Arctic Circle before heading south to overnight at Tombstone Campground. That left them with one of the shortest drives of their planned 26 day journey, a mere 88 miles, in order to get to Dawson.

Dawson is to be a day of rest for everyone in the convoy, which originally included 190 participants, including 46 women and 51 military veterans. During the day on Tuesday, most of the members of the convoy will cross the Yukon River on the George Black ferry at various times during the day in order to avoid having a horrible lineup on Wednesday.

Many of them will spend the night at the YTG campground. Everyone will assemble at a gravel pit just up the road before continuing on to their next destination, Chicken, Alaska.

The purpose of the convoy is to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the building of the Alaska Highway. The convoy will drive to Fairbanks by way of Anchorage before heading back down the Alaska Highway through Beaver Creek and on to Whitehorse, where they are scheduled to arrive on August 24 and spend a day on the 25 before heading south again.



Alaska Bound says the legend on this trailer.

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



Gassing Up at Fischer Fuels south of Dawson on Monday morning.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



This oversized camper was created by loading a small fifth wheel onto a 5-ton truck.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



This New Zealand couple who now live in Texas came in town to pick up some groceries.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Van Bibber Book Launched at KPMA Barbeque

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

Since a good portion of J.J. Van Bibber's middle life period was involved with Placer Mining in the Dawson area, it was only fitting that the official launch of his book, *I was Born Under a Spruce Tree*, was held at the Klondike Placer Miners' Association's annual barbeque on August 17. The book is not exactly an autobiography or memoir, but more a collection of stories – of which there are many, many more, though not perhaps as many as the thousands of photographs that J.J. and his late wife, Clara, left to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Dept.

After the excellent meal, with steaks prepared by the Dawson Volunteer Fire Department, Clara (generally known as "Sis") Van Bibber took to the stage with 13 members of the extended clan to explain the book and its origins and give thanks to those who helped it come into being this quickly.

Much of the work had been done by the time J.J. died last January, but the final layout, design and printing took money that the family had not managed to raise.

During the spring granddaughter Shannon Van Bibber, who took the reins of the project, appealed to the community at large.

“Grandpa J.J.’s book is close to becoming a reality. But for this book to come to life, we need to raise \$30,000 for layout, design, editing, printing, and distributing ...”

The book, along with the exhibits of J.J. photography, came out of his association with the TH Heritage Department, which he sort of adopted as a second home after the death of his wife of 64 years, Clara, in 2004, Chapter 22 of the book talks about his relationship there and is called “They made my life worth living.” Printing the book, however, was a product of the family itself, since TH just doesn’t have the resources to go into the publishing business.

“This is Dads’ story,” Clara told the crowded arena, “told in his voice and compiled by Niall Fink, a young anthropology student from Alberta, and illustrated by his own grandson, Shane Van Bibber.”

It is also crowded with dozens of photos from the Van Bibber collection. Nearly every page either has a picture on it, or is facing a full page shot on another page.

“For those of you that knew Dad, his stories will not disappoint you,” she said. “For those of you that did not have the opportunity to meet him you will find in these pages an amazing story of his experiences and life along the Pelly, Mayo, Dawson and North Yukon area. He had a remarkable life and a remarkable memory, which is filled with vivid details of Yukon history.

“Throughout the book here is love between Dad and his brothers, his courtship and marriage to his life-long love. My mother, Clara, and also his treasured time spent with us, his family...”

Clara went on to talk about her father’s employment history, which included trapping, road construction and mining.

“This history of the economy of the Yukon can be aligned with whatever the Van Bibber brothers were doing.”

There are stories of such unique events as building moose skin boats or rafts just to get across a river.

“There are keen memories of every place, river, stream and mountain, and a lot of the ridges of the Yukon.

“Photography was a passion for Mom and Dad and in this book lay many of their images, accumulated over several decades.

“As David Neufeld, who is here tonight, Yukon’s own historian, so eloquently wrote in the epilogue,

““ J.J.’s stories describe a romantic world where skilled and diligent people worked hard, where wealth and happiness were not measured in money or consumption, but where satisfaction and a

fulfilled life rise from a close and loving family and the exercise of skills and talents for the benefit of the community. It is a world that exists and J.J.'s stories are a map to find it in our own lives.”

“ J.J.'s siblings, Alex, Pat, Lucy, Kathleen (are here tonight),” Clara continued, “(as well as) Dad’s children Steve and myself, and grandchildren and great grandchildren to celebrate this wonderful occasion. All are available to talk to you if you have any questions.”

Special thanks were offered to the following people who supported the project in so many ways: Pat Van Bibber, Sr., Steve Van Bibber, Laurel Perry, Jo de Beaudrap, Lulu Keating, Karen Dubois and Jackie Olsen. These were cited as people who encouraged the project and helped to give it shape.

David Neufeld, Teresa Earle, the Yukon Archives and members of the Community of Dawson were given special thanks.

A list of two dozen key donors to the project is contained in the book but Shannon singles out Kaminak Gold Corporation for a \$5,000 donation, fully half of the \$10,000 that had been raised by the time the book was ready to go to press.

“This book was J.J.'s initiative, but it was only with support from (many people),” Clara said, “that this dream has come true.”

Clara described another donor, Raymond Caley, at some length, calling him “like another grandson” to her parents.

“Raymond was the first to come forward and offer a financial contribution. When it looked as though this book was not going to be completed, the thought of having to return his money and tell him the book was not going to be done, would have been extremely heart breaking for all of us. Raymond’s contribution kept us going. Thank you for that, Raymond.”

Much money remains to be raised, as the family borrowed the remaining funds to have the book ready. Part of the evening was a series of bucket draws to raise money for the project and the book itself was on sale at a \$10.95 discount off the \$49.95 cover price for that evening only. Items for the draws included enlarged landscape photos from the Van Bibber collection, paintings by local artists and items donated from businesses in both Dawson and Mayo.

“Thank you all for supporting J.J. Van Bibber’s legacy and making this dream come true,” Clara said.

She concluded with a special presentation to Shannon Van Bibber, who Clara said “came to my rescue” when the project was looking to be in a precarious state.

“We are very grateful for her. We cannot thank her enough for all the hard work that she has done to make this happen. We are forever grateful as a family and we love you dearly, Shannon. Mushi Cho.”



The Klondike Placer Miners Association annual BBQ was well attended in the Art and Margaret Fry Arena. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Van Bibber brothers - Pat and Alex Van Bibber chow down at the KPMA BBQ. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Van Bibber family. – Members of the Van Bibber extended family on stage with Clara (“Sis”) at the microphone. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Shannon and Clara (Sis) Van Bibber with a copy of J.J.'s book. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

J.J. Van Bibber straddled eras in the Yukon bush

Friday September 7, 2012



History Hunter

By Michael Gates

Michael Gates/Yukon News



Alex, left, and Pat Van Bibber autograph copies of their brother's new book in Whitehorse. J.J. Van Bibber, the author, passed away last January in Dawson City.

“Seems like I only remember the stories I have pictures from,” said J.J. Van Bibber of Dawson City.

And J.J. Van Bibber was a prolific picture-taker. The result was the book, **I Was Born Under a Spruce Tree**. Told in his own voice, it is an account of a life lived, of hard work, social change, and cultural identity.

As the title says, Van Bibber was born under a spruce tree on the banks of the MacMillan River on Sept. 6, 1920. His mother, Eliza, was on her way to Russell Post for supplies at the time.

“J.J.” was born of a mixed marriage. His mother was a First Nation from Aishihik, while his father, Ira, came from West Virginia looking for gold and ended up trapping in the vicinity of Fort Selkirk and Coffee Creek when the couple met.

Ira and Eliza had 16 children; J.J. (named John James) was number nine. He remembers a childhood growing up on Mica Creek on the Pelly River, not far from present-day Pelly Crossing. There they grew vegetables while Ira hunted and trapped.

The Van Bibber children were raised in a social milieu where they were not part of the white world, nor were they fully First Nation. They stood somewhere in between two cultures, with a foot in each camp. “Boys,” his father often told them, “you’re going to run into some rough obstacles in your life. One of them is being Indian.”

But the transition between cultures was easier for J.J. than it was for many others. He was as comfortable on a trapline as he was operating a Caterpillar tractor.

As historian David Neufeld states in his epilogue to this narrative, “for J.J., work was not about overcoming obstacles, rather it was a way of taking advantage of possibilities.” That seems to apply to all aspects of his life, which illustrates that wealth and happiness are not always measured in material things.



J. J. Van Bibber

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

J.J. and his siblings were sent to attend school at Dawson, where they stayed at St. Paul's Hostel. There, they experienced food deprivation, beatings and illness. One of his sisters eventually died of tuberculosis she contracted while staying in the hostel. Had his father known what was going on, J.J. states, he probably would have killed the man in charge of the hostel.

He left formal schooling behind at 12, and so began his remarkable career. At first, he trapped in the winters, and tended the garden, hunted and cut wood in the summers. He left home at 16 and got a job as a longshoreman, then drove Caterpillar tractors at Keno. He never had trouble getting a job because he was a hard worker.

He was in Dawson cutting wood when he first met Clara Taylor, whom he would eventually marry and remain with for the next 61 years. Clara was a hard worker too, and when J.J. left the employment of the dredging company in Dawson because of appendicitis, he never returned. Instead, he started helping Clara fish for salmon. He said they made a good team.

He later logged on the McQuesten River, then operated a trading post at Moose Creek on the MacMillan River. Quickly, things began to change. First the price of furs fell through the floor, then the construction of the highways to Dawson and Mayo did away with riverboats, and the focus of life moved away from the rivers.

For J.J., the transition to a cash economy was an easy one. He worked for contractor Leo Procter, then at United Keno Hill Mines. After a stint of placer mining on the McQuesten, he mined for Lorne Ross, and eventually became a consultant to other placer miners.

Meanwhile, he gained experience operating Cat trains in the winter to supply camps in remote regions, which led to a family business operating supply trains. Following this, the Van Bibber family mined on Clear Creek in the 1980s.

He had a hard time after Clara died, but with the attention of the heritage department at the First Nation in Dawson, he told his stories and shared his thousands of photographs. "They made my life worth living again," he said.

He was a natural storyteller, and his narrative was compelling, filled with the richness of the details of personal experience. His powerful storytelling style led to collaboration with anthropology graduate student Niall Fink.

Working with J.J., Fink "reconstructed his sentences and idioms until I felt I had captured his storytelling voice in written form. Then I would read his stories back to him and he would make sure that they were told correctly." The result is both readable and fascinating, filling in the story of the era that follows the gold rush.

J.J. Van Bibber passed away last January 10, before he could witness the completion of this book.

I Was Born Under a Spruce Tree is 157 pages long, on glossy paper, with a foreword by granddaughter Shannon Van Bibber and an introduction by Niall Fink. It is followed by an epilogue written by historian David Neufeld, a simplified Van Bibber family tree, and an album of small photos.

The story is richly illustrated with 115 photographs, 30 of which are in the five-page album at the back of the book. My only complaint about the excellent photos is that some of them, particularly in the album, are too small to fully engage the viewer.

The book is further enriched by a number of illustrations by great grandson Shane Van Bibber.

This is a captivating book that belongs on your Yukon book shelf.

*Michael Gates is a Yukon historian and sometimes adventurer based in Whitehorse. His new book, **Dalton's Gold Rush Trail**, is now available in stores. You can contact him at msgates@northwestel.net*

Victor Henry Receives Jubilee Medal

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

The City of Dawson was one of the agencies given the opportunity to nominate an individual to receive one of the medallions being handed out to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. The occasion for the presentation of that medal arose on the evening of August 22, when Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Elder Victor Henry was invited to appear before council.

"We were presented with the opportunity to recognize one individual in the community for outstanding service," Mayor Peter Jenkins told the small audience, which included Chief Eddie Taylor, MLA Sandy Silver and Ranger Sgt. John Mitchell.

"Council unanimously supported Victor Henry for that wonderful medal. It's my privilege this evening to present Victor with that medal.

"As we all know, Victor was born and raised in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional lands, spent a great deal of time up the Dempster with his family, and has been a stellar example with his involvement with the First Nation. (He's been) kind of the heart of gold that gives it all, does everything that he's asked to do and more."

Victor is noted for his participation as a lead singer in the Han Singers, the group that has done so much to foster pride in the TH community as well as the larger Dawson community. They have been acclaimed for their performances here and elsewhere in both Canada and Alaska.

Victor is known for sharing his advice and experience with community leaders and passing along what he was taught as a young person to the kids at the Robert Service School, both at the school and out on the land.

"Victor, on behalf of all of us here on council, all of us here in the community, it's my privilege to present to you the Queen's Jubilee Medal. Just keep up the good work and set that wonderful example as you've done all your life."

Victor received the medal and the congratulations of the gallery in silence, and no amount of prodding could coax any comments from him.



Victor's medal – Mayor Peter Jenkins presents the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal to TH Elder Victor Henry.

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

CIBC Repairs in Limbo as Ownership Dispute Continues

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

It will take until next April to settle who actually has care and control /ownership of the Old CIBC building that sits crumbling on Dawson Front Street next to Parks Canada's SS Keno, but that isn't preventing the two sides in the argument from each continuing to maintain that it's theirs. Mayor Peter Jenkins announced that the town owned the building in "fee simple" back in July of 2011, but the reality of the situation has not proven to be anywhere near that cut and dried. The town does own the land on which the bank building sits. That deal was negotiated with the territorial government during John Steins' administration and seemed, for a time, to give the City of Dawson some leverage in dealing with contractor Mike Palma, who acquired the building itself from the CIBC back in the 1990s.

While Palma has maintained that he would happily fix up the building if a potential tenant approached him with a proposal, the fact remains that the building has continued to run down over the last twenty years, with bits of the tin siding and decorative facades falling off, and all the windows long since broken out.

Chamber of Commerce members complain about its condition on a regular basis and both the

Visitor Information Centre and the Klondike Visitors Association report that they are asked why the building where Robert Service once worked has been allowed to get into such a sad shape. Some years back the foundation was repaired, so the place is not likely to fall down. Windows were boarded up rather shabbily at one time further renovations promised by the owner in 2010 never did take place.

In May 2012 City Council, while the matter was still in legal limbo, decided to act under its Nuisance Bylaw #07-03, which allows it to deal with matters of “unsightly property in or on public or private property.

“Part II - Nuisances, Dilapidated Buildings 2. No person shall cause or permit a bldg or structure to deteriorate into a ruinous or dilapidated state such that the bldg or structure: (b) Substantially depreciates the value of other land or improvements in the neighbourhood.”

Council issued a request for proposals and eventually a tender, which led to acceptance of a bid for repairs by Williams Construction for approximately \$8500.00 worth of remedial work on the building.

This was to include boarding up the windows in an acceptable manner and reattaching some of the tin siding and roofing that has been seem to be flapping in the breeze.

When Williams began work on the project, Palma arrived on the site and, with a lawyer on the phone, ordered him to halt work on the property.

This led the town to pass a further resolution on August 13, once again asserting its ownership of the property and maintaining that, as the owner, it is up to the town to carry out the necessary repairs that have not been taken care of in order to look after the city’s legal interests.

The resolution states that “the current condition of the property poses an unacceptable potential liability to the City of Dawson and ... the Council of the City of Dawson, in its capacity as owner of the Property, has ordered that the works required to bring the Property in compliance with the Bylaw be undertaken as a matter of urgency and has approved a contract to that effect ...”

It is worth noting that the resolution refers to the “property”, which the city does own, while the repairs are to be carried out on the building, which both parties claim to own.

Mayor Jenkins continues to maintain that the fact that the building is permanently attached to the land makes it part of the land, and therefore, since the city owns the land, it also controls the building and that the work needs to be done.

“There’s tin on the roof that’s flapping in the breeze,” he said, “and tin on the north side that’s ready to fall off. It’s titled to the city so if anybody gets hurt around that building, guess who’s gonna get sued.

“We’re covering ourselves, plus we’re making an eyesore into something that should be much more (safe and attractive).”

The resolution goes on to register a lien on the title of the property to “for the total of the costs

related to the works, including, but not limited to materials, labour, equipment, engineering, planning and administration.”

The lien will cover the town’s expenditures on the project in the event that the court decision does not go in the town’s favour.

At the August 22 meeting CAO Jeff Renaud indicated that Jim Williams is not yet working directly on the site, but is preparing materials offsite for eventual installation.



Tin siding is missing from the north side of the old CIBC Building where there was once an exterior stairway leading to the second floor.

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

The Shanty Faces Demolition After More than a Century

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

The crumbling building on Sixth Avenue is generally known as ‘The Shanty’. It’s listed in the Yukon Historic Sites Inventory as having been built between 1896 and 1905, and was originally owned by Dawson City’s founder, Joe Ladue.

Being well past 40 years of age, it is one of those historic buildings that falls under the purview of the City of Dawson’s Zoning and heritage Management Bylaw, where it states that such buildings may be demolished “only in exceptional circumstances.”

The owner of the building and the two lots on which it sits, Zlatko Fras, approached council on August 22 to request that council recognize that there were exceptional circumstances related to this building and that he should be allowed to look into getting a demolition permit for the structure.

“This building has been uninhabited for many years,” Fras wrote in his submission to council. “(It) is in an unsafe condition and is often the target of illegal squatting activity.”

Members of the town’s Heritage Advisory Committee have examined the building and are in agreement that it would take “an unreasonable amount of money to restore it.”

Mr. Fras obtained an estimate from Jim Williams Construction that it would cost up to \$164,000 to restore the building to a useful state, including reframing the floor, walls ceilings, foundation work and portions of the roof. In addition the building would require insulation, wiring, plumbing and a great deal of interior finishing work.

Mr. Fras estimates that about 70% of the wood in the building could not be salvaged. Mayor Jenkins joked that reconstruction would probably be on the order of saving the chimney cap and constructing a new building underneath it.

There was some discussion around the council table as to whether the building could be moved, and Mr. Fras offered to donate the building to the town if that was something the town wanted to take on.

He does, however, want to get it off the property one way or another, and intends to construct a new dwelling, one which will incorporate some of the design elements from this building, on the site. Any new building would likely be larger than the rambling 700 square foot Shanty, which is one of those buildings that seems to have grown out in several directions from an original core structure.

In the end, there was general agreement that the cost and condition of the Shanty did, in fact, constitute an exceptional circumstance and that Mr. Fras could begin the process of applying to demolish the building.

The permit is not yet a done deal. The town is still looking for an estimate on what it would cost to

relocate the Shanty, or if that is indeed possible at all. Mr. Fras is still open to having the building moved if someone wants to take that on.



The Shanty was originally built and owned by Joseph Ladue during or just after the Gold Rush.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Authors On Eighth Tour Walks the Block

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

Given the importance of the written word in spreading a maintaining the legend of the Klondike, it is more than fitting that one of the highlight events of the Discovery Days celebrations should be a leisurely afternoon's stroll along the Writer's Block that is 8th Avenue.

The block begins at the corner of Eighth Avenue and Firth Street, where journalist and author Dick North caused a portion of Jack London's Cabin to be deposited after it was rediscovered on Henderson Creek. Later Dick's collection of London memorabilia and documentary proofs (many of which are now displayed at a computer workstation) inspired the creation of the Jack London Centre, which is run by the Klondike Visitors Association.

The collection is currently interpreted by Dawne Mitchell, who welcomed some 45 visitors to the first stop on the afternoon's tour, gave an abbreviated version of her usual daily lecture and inspired the creation of a progressive story (which made very little sense, but was kind of fun).



Dawne Mitchell makes a point at the Jack London Centre.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Moving along to the newly landscaped grounds of Robert Service's Cabin, the crowd got to sit on the newly constructed visitor seating (roofed against the rain, but still not proof against the glare of the mid-afternoon August sun) and listen to Parks Canada interpreter Sam Coxwell explain some of the history of the cabin (which he did not build, in spite of what you may read elsewhere – he rented it) and give an overview of the poet's life.

It's worth noting at this point that London was the best known, highest paid writer of his era and Robert Service certainly made more money from his verses than just about any other poet in the 20th Century. Both drew their inspiration from the Klondike.

Just across the street from that cabin is the modest house in which Pierre Berton spent half his boyhood, the part that seems to have inspired a great deal of his life. As most of the guests on the walking tour were not Canadians, it was necessary to explain something of Berton's life and significance and how the home, which is now a Writers' Retreat under the management of the Writers' Trust of Canada, has come to house 60 guests since it opened in 1996. This background was provided by a local journalist.

This year the summer time guest has been Joan Thomas, who was the host for this part of the tour, reading some from one of her novels, and assisting KVA staff with the giving out of some prizes. Thomas also assisted by announcing the winners of the annual writing contest. This year there

were 18 entries in the contest, which was themed to require stories, poems or essays that featured Yukon animals. The winners, who were announced at the Berton House stop, were Joanne Bell for her story “Wolves” and Shelly O’Brien for her poem “The Upgirl”.



Sam Coxwell tells about Robert Service.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Bell is a local author with numerous published short stories and two young adult novels to her name. O’Brien is an artist, writer and musician who has been visiting in town this summer, having lived here on two occasions in the past.

Thomas allowed a tour of Berton House, which is not usually open to the public, in spite of the odd tourist who ignores all the signs. The afternoon tour was a complete success and almost the entire starting group made it to the end of the afternoon.



Joan Thomas reads at Berton House.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Discovery Days Wraps Up the Summer

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

With both the 34th Dawson City Music Festival and the 11th Moosehide Gathering out of the way, you might think that Dawson City was about to settle down into its pre-autumn jog after running all summer. A peek at the lineup of events due to start up on August 16th, clearly indicated that this assumption would be wrong.

Some events began early and simply concluded between August 16 and 20. The Klondike Visitors Association announced the topic of this year's Authors on Eighth writing competition a couple of months ago, and the winners for the poetry, nonfiction or fiction contest (up to 2500 words on a theme of Yukon Wildlife) were announced at Berton House, the last stop on the tour of the Writers' Block, which began at the Jack London Centre and continued past the refurbished grounds of the Robert Service Cabin.

The same day saw a Goldfields Extravaganza at Gold Bottom Mines, Dredge No. 4 and the Discovery Claim, as well as the Gallery Hop, which kicked off the 12th Annual Riverside Arts Festival. This included a look at the entries for the Parks Canada Photo Contest.

Friday saw the Arts Fest's Open Studio events beside the Dike, the KPMA BBQ and Dance (featuring the launch of the book about J.J. Van Bibber), as well Sheila Heti's lecture and a film screening at the Oddfellows Ballroom, organized by the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture. Also on Friday, the Dawson Daily News Building began to be the site of the three day Print and Publishing Symposium sponsored by Parks, KIAC and the Dawson City Community Library.

Eight artists used the building's facilities to produce work on a variety of themes. On both Saturday and Sunday there were readings and a roundtable discussion on related topics.

Finally, Friday saw the beginning of the annual Fastball Tournament, held at Minto Park. This continued all weekend and concluded on Monday.

Saturday is always the time for Dawson's biggest parade of the year, one that makes the Canada Day event look like a ndry run. Before the parade St. Paul's Church offered a pancake breakfast at St. Mary's Catholic Church, while the Curling Club had one just down the street. After the parade and the awards there was a BBQ and kid's games.

A Tribe Called Red hosted an afternoon music workshop at the Front Street Gazebo over the noon hour and then gave a concert at the Palace Grand that night. In between and after there was a YOOP open house, Indian Bingo at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre, and another film screening at the Oddfellows' Hall.

The messiest event of the weekend is one of the most popular: the Klondike Valley Mud Bog. Sunday saw two sets of talks. The first, called Spread the Word, was about publishing and was held at the Daily News. The second, called The Grand Old Soapbox, took place at the Palace Grand and featured the music of Old Time Machine and a series of "talks by local and regional non-experts on random subjects."

After all that, there's the Outhouse Race and things will begin to calm down as September approaches.

Riverside Arts Fest Photos



Aubyn O'Grady and the Klondike Drawing Company.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Young people work on a loom.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Meshell Melvin demonstrates her sewing machine portrait technique.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



* The Riverside Art Festival also had a full lineup of musicians playing at the Front Street Gazebo. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The weekend was also a busy time in the skies above Dawson. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Lots of people bring their dogs to events like this one.' Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Joann Vriend's pottery table was a popular spot.' Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Discovery Days Parade photos



Barnacle Bob and George McConkey ride the Van Every truck and provide the music for the parade. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Hunters in the woods.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



A gold panner tries to corral all his nuggets, which are trying to escape, while Eldo Enns rides by on his Pennyfarthing cycle. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Parks Canada chose to celebrate Dredge no. 4 with an impressive display. The second photo shows the “janitor” cleaning up at “the end” of the float, reflective of the fact that it will be closed to the public at the end of this summer.

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



This motorcyclist and his little dog are perennial parade entrants. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



MP Ryan Leef joined the parade this year and spoke of his commitment to local history and tradition. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Bicycle Parade organized by the Recreation Department gets the kids involved.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Yukon Order of Pioneers led the parade this year.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

NEW ADDITION

I received your name from Sheila Parry. I lived in the Yukon from 70-78 and my parents longer. Mom (Joan Craig) is living down in Chilliwack near me now, and I understand a group of past-Yukoners meet informally? Can you provide details?

Marion

Thank you for both the beautiful newsletter and prompt response! The MT is phenomenal! You have some fantastic photographs published!!!

I received both the link and PDF - and was able to open both. Whichever method is easiest.

My preference is for one subscription for Mom at joaneecraig@gmail.com. Mom & Dad (Doug and Joan Craig) lived in the Yukon from 1969 until Dad passed away in 2005. Mom remained in Whitehorse until Jan 2012, and she resides near me (eldest daughter, Marion) in Chilliwack. I left in 1979 for UBC in Vancouver, then joined the RCMP and have been working for them for 28 years, currently in Chilliwack BC.

Marion

Can you put us on the e-mail list for your newsletter?

I'm not really sure where our interests lie - Mom has compromised health and has more-or-less moved from the Yukon (her home of over 40 years). So I was just looking for "southern connections". The newsletter is a good start.

Marion Craig (Joan Craig) joaneecraig@gmail.com (In Chilliwack)

Mom is Joan Craig. The family moved to Whitehorse in the summer of 1969, came in on the WP&YR. Mom taught at FH for a year in the early 1970's – then back to full time mom also included many community activities. These activities included - Consumer Association of Canada, the Anglican Church, Braeburn Camp, TEST ski training and Father Mouchet (all us kids skied in the program), Rotary, worked with her late husband Doug in stocking glacial pothole lakes with rainbow trout, collecting lodgepole pine seeds for reforestation in Scandinavia, reclamation work of the Whitehorse Copper tailings piles, and conducting surveys establishing the viability of wind energy from Haeckel hill, a couple community composting programs and most recently the Downtown Urban Garden.....

Dad was Doug Craig and he was the regional geologist for DIAND until 1979, then taught at FH for ten years (retired about 1990).

All us kids went to Takhini Elementary, Jeckell or Christ the King and FH Collins. Marion has had a career with the RCMP, now residing in Chilliwack, David is an engineer in Red Deer and Pauline is an occupational therapist with the Yukon Department of Education (presently on a year's sabbatical).

Marion Craig comartan@gmail.com (In Chilliwack)

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

Mail returned:

DOKKEN, Jim sandraleefd@yahoo.com (In Whitehorse) High River

PRENTICE, Joe jwprentice@shaw.ca (Whitehorse 1976-2004) Victoria

MacMILLAN, Alan & Phyllis (PATTERSON) macmill@shaw.ca (Dawson born - 1931) Nanaimo

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

A leader in the Democratic Party is a boss, in the Republican Party he is a leader.
--- Harry Truman

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Submitted by Noelle (Cyr) Misko sourdoughyt@hotmail.com (In Edmonton)

CORNFLAKE COOKIES

1 cup White Sugar
1 cup Light Brown Sugar
1 cup Margarine
2 eggs
1 Tsp Vanilla
2 cups flour
2 Tsp baking powder
¼ tsp salt
2 cups Corn Flakes
1 cup shredded coconut

Cream margarine, add sugars, and continue beating. Add eggs and vanilla, beat until fluffy. Beat in flour, salt, baking powder. Add coconut and corn flakes and stir until mixed well.

Drop by full teaspoon onto baking sheet. Cookies will spread.

Bake at 375 F about 10 minutes or until golden.

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.

An easy way to send a money transfer is via your internet banking. Log into you bank's website, find "Money Transfers" or "Email Money Transfers" or however your bank may list it, enter the amount, my email address of sherronjones@shaw.ca and enter a password ie: moctel and press "Send". It's that easy. Then please send me an email to confirm your payment.

– Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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