

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 369th Edition – February 17th, 2013

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



Carcross, Yukon – Feb 2013

Photo courtesy Norma Waddington norma@southklondike.ca (In Carcross)

YUKON NUGGET

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

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

Cassiar

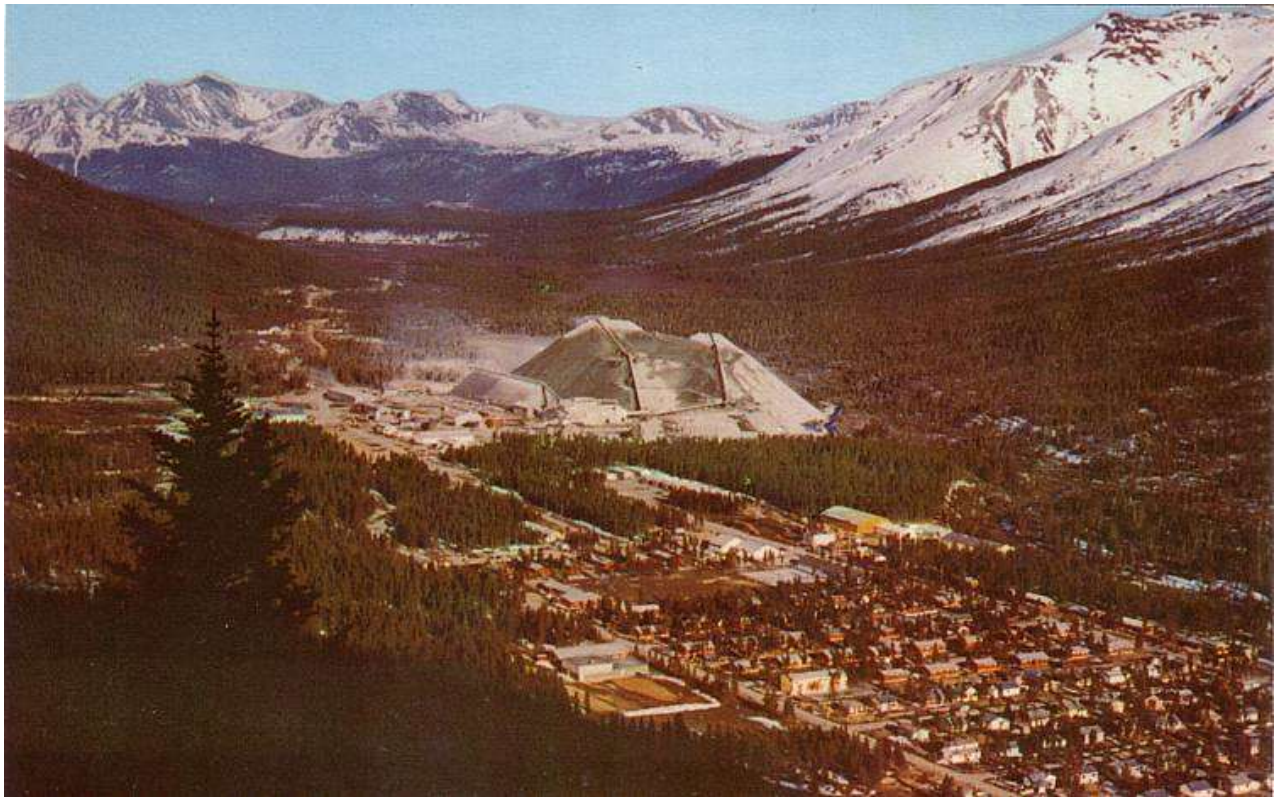
The future of a mining town is usually guaranteed. It will become a ghost town. So it was with Cassiar, a company-owned asbestos mining town in Northern British Columbia. After 40 years of operation the mine closed in 1992.

Early prospectors had seen asbestos in McDane Mountain in the Cassiars as far back as the early 1870s. Native people told goldseekers about the woolly hill to the north. They talked of birds that built their nests of white fluff that could withstand the heat of fire.

Famed Yukon prospector Anton Money visited the remote region in 1923 and saw veins of asbestos. He wrote that although transportation seemed far away from this isolated corner of the wilderness, this could be an important discovery. He was right.

In 1950, two prospectors, Victor Sitler and Hyrum Nelson and two equipment operators from Lower Post, BC staked the first claims on McDane Mountain. Then the renowned Alec Berry a Conwest Mining man in Whitehorse heard about it. Pretty soon his company Conwest Exploration sent a geologist from Toronto to Watson Lake with instructions to “get up there and buy it”. This event led to the formation of Cassiar Asbestos Corporation.

In 1952 Conwest decided that a mine was feasible. A tent town was built to accommodate Cassiar’s first 250 pioneer miners and construction workers. In 1953 the company’s first production mill was in operation, eventually producing more than 4000 tons of ore a day. It was shipped by truck over the gruelling Cassiar highway to Watson Lake, then to Whitehorse for loading on to the White Pass railway. A Cassiar transport division with headquarters in Whitehorse was established and a fleet of trucks carried 24 tons of bagged fibre the 350 miles to the railway.



It was a heady time, but it came to an end in 1992. The shutdown was driven by diminished demand for asbestos and huge costs after converting from an open-pit mine to an underground mine. Cassiar which once had a population of 1500 is gone. A few houses were sold off and trucked away, but many were bulldozed and burned to the ground. Today the ghosts walk the land where once a thriving mining town existed.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

Photo above found online and included this caption:

Look closely at this photo -- the white mountain in the middle, beside the town, is asbestos waste from the mill of Cassiar Asbestos Corporation. The market-quality product was bagged inside the mill and the waste was piled where you see it here. Note the haze to the left of the mountain -- this is asbestos dust which settled over everything in the town and surrounding countryside, depending on which way the wind was blowing.

To make contact with former residents – see: <http://www.cassiar.ca/>

GOLD MINER – Don is looking for information, photos and stories.

I have an interesting story started and wondering if anyone out in MocTel land has a photo of **George Clarke** who lived on upper bonanza in Dawson and died in the mid 1950's [actually Oct 1965]. This man walked on his knees, using tire treads, inner tubes, and gunny sacks to protect his knees. The first story we got on him (from Dennis Eve in England) was that he was living in a tent about 1 mile above Grand Forks. The people that I have talked to say the tent must have been years ago as he had a cabin at the same location. He was very independent, cutting his own wood and hauling it on a toboggan in the winter. Everyone should try that on their knees and you will see what makes this guy unique. Those of us that have researched a bit of this story are astounded that it is not in the history books somewhere. Anyway, if anyone has anything they can add to the story, or pictures, we would very much like to have copies. Eventually we may have a story for you.

Thanks

Don Frizzell frizzell*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

BELOW I HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH SOME PEOPLE I THOUGHT MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP WITH MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GEORGE CLARKE - Sherron Jones

Hi Sherron, Les [Butterworth] and I both knew **George R. Clarke**; I first met him when I worked in the Penguin Cafe. He was what you would call different.... Les worked for Will Crayford at Klondike motors and when old George came to town, he might have made arrangements for someone to bring him to town where he would buy his groceries etc. I remember seeing this old man coming down the street on his knees with 2 sticks, into the cafe where he would hoist himself up on the stool and order a glass of water and a packet of soda crackers (THESE WERE FREE) he would complain loudly about all the people who were cheating him of his money etc. etc. He was a very stubborn old man he lived in a very small cabin, (which I never saw) he used to crawl on his hand and knees to the bush behind his house and cut down saplings for wood which he dragged down the hill and poked thru a hole in the wall of his cabin near his stove, don't know how he did it. The RCMP finally talked him into moving into the Old Folks Home (Commissioners residence) and then into the hospital where he died. My Mom was a nurse at the hospital when he was in there and one night the night nurse caught him walking upright from the bathroom to his bed. No sticks!

I understand that he had a family member come and visit him while he was in the Hospital But don't know what his name was or where he came from .. Irene Crayford probably could tell you more about him as he most likely bought his groceries at Caley's store. Irene is Fred Caley's daughter.....

Myrna Butterworth myrnab*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

I talked to Irene Crayford a few weeks ago and she remembers him being in their store (Caley's). I am hoping to connect with **Jim Archibald** as he collects this kind of stuff. **If anyone has his address, they could pass this along.** There is nothing in the Dawson museum which was a surprise. **Darrel Morgan** carted him from the old folks home (McDonald Lodge??) to the mortician in the mid 50's, he couldn't be any more exact than that. [This date estimate was incorrect and according to Myrna's understanding he was first in the Commissioners residence and later in the Hospital.] Tommy Taylor was with him at the time. Tony and Joe Hanulik remember this guy well. Al Close remembers him. Hopefully someone will come up with the rest of the story.

Thanks
Don Frizzell

Yes, I knew George Clarke quite well when I was in Dawson in 53/54. As a matter of fact I wrote a poem about him in 2007, although he was not mentioned by name. I will get my thoughts together and send you my memories of him.

Gus Barrett

George R. Clarke – the gold miner on Bonanza Creek who walked on his knees.

By Gus Barrett sourdoughs2*shaw.ca (In Qualicum Beach BC)

I knew George very well during the time I served as an RCMP constable in Dawson, 1953/54. He had a claim on Bonanza Creek which he had been working since he came into the Country after walking the Trail in 1898. He was an American citizen I believe from the Detroit area. He told me he had a wife and son living in Michigan. The son apparently was employed by one of the large automobile manufacturing companies.

George had suffered from Arthritis for years. By this time, 1953, he was walking upright on his knees, dragging his feet behind him. To protect his knees, he had rubber knee pads sewn onto his jeans. Made from old inner tubes, I believe. He came to town only rarely, for supplies or medical attention, the latter being very rare as these old timers seemed to go on for ever without becoming ill. He would hitch a ride to town with a YCGC [Yukon Consolidated Gold Company] worker, Govt. Rep., or anyone who happened to pass by. Then after taking care of business he would come to the "Barracks" and talk me into giving him a ride home. As you can imagine, Dawson was not a high crime area at that time and much of our time was spent in patrolling the creeks, to

check up on the scattered prospectors, checking on their health and generally being a "lifeline" to them. And as was sometimes necessary and packing back the remains of those who unfortunately failed to make it through the winter. Digger Cook, the local taxi operator ran a weekly mail run around the creeks, was another 'lifeline'. Digger was also the local undertaker at the time. Blanche remembers that, while in town he spent much time visiting 'The B. and F. Store' where she worked as a teenager, visiting with the late Joe Redmond, Sr. who was always very kind to George.

I remember one time when I drove him home he insisted that I come in and have breakfast. While I was busy surveying his claim, cabin, mine shaft etc., he whipped up a "not to bad" batch of bacon and eggs, even if a little greasy. After we demolished this he asked if I would like some coffee. I replied "sure". He went to the stove, poured some water into the frying, threw in some coffee, boiled it up and poured it into two cups. Now that was coffee with body and aroma.

I will try to give you some description of his cabin, claim, etc. but please bear in mind that I am drawing from memories of sixty years that have become a little fuzzy. The cabin was about 12 by 16 ft. or possibly a little more. The first two feet of the walls were dug, except for the entry was, about two feet below ground level with an additional four feet or so above ground level and topped off by a low pitched roof. I am not sure if the walls were constructed from logs or just boards, but I believe it was just plain board. Inside furnishings were sparse. A small area had not been dug into the ground like the rest and on top of this a wooden platform and single mattress served as his bed. Light was provided by a single window and an oil or propane lantern. The stove was a small Yukon heater with a flat steel top for a cooking area. A gold pan and other small prospecting tools were strewn about. A table, one or two chairs a few old dishes, pots and pans pretty well completed the furnishings.

George had lived alone in this place for about fifty five years, (at that time). Like a lot of the people who lived alone on the creeks I would think he suffered a little from "cabin fever". Remember, most of them lived alone, far from any neighbour, nobody to talk to, no radio, TV or any form of entertainment, reading material was scarce and usually long outdated and the winter was long. Probably as important as any, nobody to keep the bed warm. He was very stubborn and independent, but I think that was a trait of the breed and was probably a big factor in helping them survive the life style that they led.

He supplied his own wood from the land near by which had to be felled, limbed, cut into lengths, piled on a toboggan (all this while working on his knees.) He would then loop the tow rope around his shoulders and neck and crawl back to his cabin pulling the toboggan load of wood behind him. (And I used to complain a few years later if I had to get up in the middle of the night to thaw the line to the oil stove.) He had a mine shaft dug quite close to the cabin. He would climb down the ladder hand over hand, fill the bucket with gravel, climb back up, pull the bucket up by a rope and dump it in a pile beside the cabin. Then start the process all over again. The gravel was then panned as water and time, was available. I doubt in all those years that George ever had a spare dollar, but he did have his independence and the belief that one day he would strike it rich.

George used to tell me tales of the gold rush days and what it was like to be young in the glory days of Dawson. He told me how, after a hard day of celebrating the young men used to trek

across the bridge to visit the Ladies in "Louse Town". He used to joke that they would be a lot more tired coming home than going over. I wish I had made some recording of those stories at the time. But what 23 year old is interested in "ancient history".

When George's health deteriorated he was taken into the Senior Citizens home in Dawson, but like many others before him, once the independence was taken away, so was the will to live and he quickly moved on down the trail.

In 2007 I wrote a poem about George Clarke although he was never identified by name in the poem. It may have already been published in the Moc Tel, but I will add it in here anyway.

I have often wondered if we ever again will see the likes of that generation. I sincerely doubt it. Life has become too soft. As has often been said, "They just don't make men and women like that anymore..

LAST OF THE PIONEERS

By Gus Barrett sourdoughs2*shaw.ca (In Qualicum Beach BC)

He came in the rush from the USA,
To that far-off Klondike creek.
He followed the throng o'er the Chilkoot Trail,
Crossed over the pass where so many failed,
Then on through Lake Marsh and LaBarge he sailed.
Where fortune and fame he'd seek.

He staked his claim on Bonanza Creek,
Up stream from "discovery" site.
All through that summer he slaved away,
Panning the gravel each long, long day,
Striving and sweating to make it pay,
Then lie 'neath the stars at night.

He carved a dugout 'ere winter came
Roofed it with planking that he found.
A single window provides the light,
Heat from stove that he's made airtight,
He'll sleep in his bedroll, spread at night,
On a bunk he's built on the ground.

He was king of his realm, though bare it was,
He was boss of his own domain.
The forest provided ample meat,
Plenty of fish in the creek to eat,
With rabbit stew for a special treat,
What more could man wish to gain.

For years he toiled in the frozen muck
And fought with the frost and the snow.
Through the winter cold and the summer heat,
With rarely even a neighbour to greet,
Work till he's darn near dead on his feet
With scarcely a colour to show.

When, finally, his health and strength gave out,
He still clung to his shack in the trees.
Convinced he would find the mother lode,
Though his hands were weak and his back was bowed,
And then, arthritis laid him low,
Yet he crawled around on his knees.

When I met him in Dawson in fifty-three,
He was getting quite 'long in the tooth'.
But he told me tales of the booming town,
Of the girls and gamblers hanging round,
And all the excitement, the sights and sounds
In the gold rush town of his youth.

At last he was placed in a senior's home;
For he was now old and frail.
He was free at last from his labour's yoke,
No more panning, nor fires to stoke,
But shortly thereafter his heart was broke,
And he passed on down the trail.

He was one of the last of that band of men,
Who sought fortune and renown.
Men who conquered their doubts and fears,
Fighting the elements through the years,
Now at rest with the other pioneers,
In a grave in Dawson Town.



Gold Scales – formerly owned by George Russell Clarke 1870 – 1965.

(Here's the scale. It was pretty rusted up and unusable when I received them in the 1950's, but many years ago I sanded it, polished it up a bit and put new gold chains on the trays etc. - Gus)

Photo courtesy Gus Barrett [sourdoughs2*shaw.ca](mailto:sourdoughs2@shaw.ca) (In Qualicum Beach BC)

The letter from Gus is the icing on the cake. I have tried some of the death records but no luck. I had the Dawson museum check their records and they found nothing. Feel free to search and don't worry about stepping on my toes. I didn't have the "R" in George R. Clarke until Gus's letter and there were many Clarkes in the Yukon and even on Bonanza Creek, but I couldn't find a George or a G. or a G.R. He should be buried in Dawson as there would be no reason to ship his body anywhere. Daryl Morgan thinks it was 1955 or so that he carted the body over to the mortuary but he wasn't positive, so give or take a few years and Gus saw him in 53 and 54. The dates are not important I don't think as I am positive beyond a shadow of a doubt that the man did exist. Gus has captured the story as well as anyone could, so have a look at the archives if you want or just go with what we have. The original lead I got on this story said that his father came from Detroit and tried to get George to go home, but he didn't want to go. The father was a doctor, not sure of what. Let's hope we get some more people with the story and maybe we will get a photograph. Hell of a story just the same.

Don Frizzell [frizzell*northwestel.net](mailto:frizzell@northwestel.net) (In Whitehorse)

The middle initial "R." came from Myrna Butterworth in her comments.

Sherron Jones [sherronjones*shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca) (In Yuma AZ)

Sherron, what would his middle initial "R" stand for? Robert, Russell? There are a lot of George Clarkes in the system.

One George Clarke from the www.yukon.genealogy.ca website:

Yukon River Basin , Deaths and Burials, 1887-2007:

Surname	Given Names	Death Date	Cemetary	Call Number
Clark as. Clarke	George Russell	1965/10/27	Hillside (Dawson)	Ref 929.5 Hill

The man above probably isn't the person you are looking for. This might be a needle in the haystack search.

Peggy Dorsay (Yukon Archives)

Hillside Cemetery, Mary McLeod Road, Dawson, Yukon Territory

<http://maps.google.ca/maps?hl=en&tab=w>

(Highlight, Copy and Paste the description above into the Google map input box and click on the magnifying glass and you will see where the cemetery is located in Dawson.)

Hi Peggy

Really appreciate your reply. I am asking around to learn if the George Clarke we are researching was in fact still alive up to 1965. We have the man who took him to the funeral home but he does not recall the date. Is there any record of burials from the funeral home end of the equation? The business was that of Digger and Jean Cook. See this note from Don Frizzell.

Also are there RNWMP records of entry into Yukon indexed (Chilkoot Pass or Summit entry point)?

Am asking around to find out if anyone recalls George in the nursing home ? – Or if in fact it was the hospital.

*Sherron Jones
Moccasin Telegraph*

Sherron, the only indexed source of names for the Yukon is at: www.yukongenealogy.com and I have attached the George Clarkes that appeared in the NWMP records. Unfortunately the most of the given names are either initials or abbreviations. Hopefully that will help. – Peggy Dorsay YA
I will take a look at the Hillside Cemetary index in a few minutes and will let you know what is indicated for the man who died in 1965.

[NWMP records at Chilkoot: checkpoints listing people who entered the Yukon](#)

Name	Date	Description
CLARKE, A.H.	Feb 1, 1900	Sumner, WA
CLARKE, A.T.	Jun 3, 1900	Maryville, MO - boat 135
CLARKE, F.J.	Jun 23, 1900	Seattle - boat 340
CLARKE, FRANK W.	Jul 12, 1899	Dyea, AK - scow 386, boat 387
CLARKE, G.W.	Feb 21, 1900	Portland
CLARKE, GEO.	Mar 22, 1900	Prince Albert
CLARKE, GEO. H.	Feb 16, 1899	Dawson
CLARKE, GEO. L.	Sep 27, 1899	Bractin, ON - 688
CLARKE, GEORGE A.	Jun 11, 1899	Portland, OR - boat 194
CLARKE, GEORGE W.	Oct 9, 1899	Dawson - boat 789
CLARKE, GEORGE W.	Sep 6, 1899	Dawson - scow 588, boat 589

[NWMP records at Chilkoot: checkpoints listing people who entered the Yukon](#)

Name	Date	Checkpoint
CLARKE, G.W.	Jun 13, 1898	Portland, OR
CLARKE, G.W.	Jun 7, 1898	Los Angeles, CA

[NWMP records at Lake Bennett: people who entered the Yukon via boats](#)

Name	Place	Boat
CLARKE, A.B.	TACOMA, WASH	BOAT 13850
CLARKE, G.W.	LOS ANGELES, CAL	BOAT 12789?

[NWMP records at Lake Bennett: people who entered the Yukon via boats](#)

Name	Date	Boat
CLARKE, A.T.	MAY 30 1898	SAVANNAH, MIS - SCOW 1877
CLARKE, GEO.	May 21, 1898	WA - boat 578

AN UPDATE FROM DON FRIZZELL

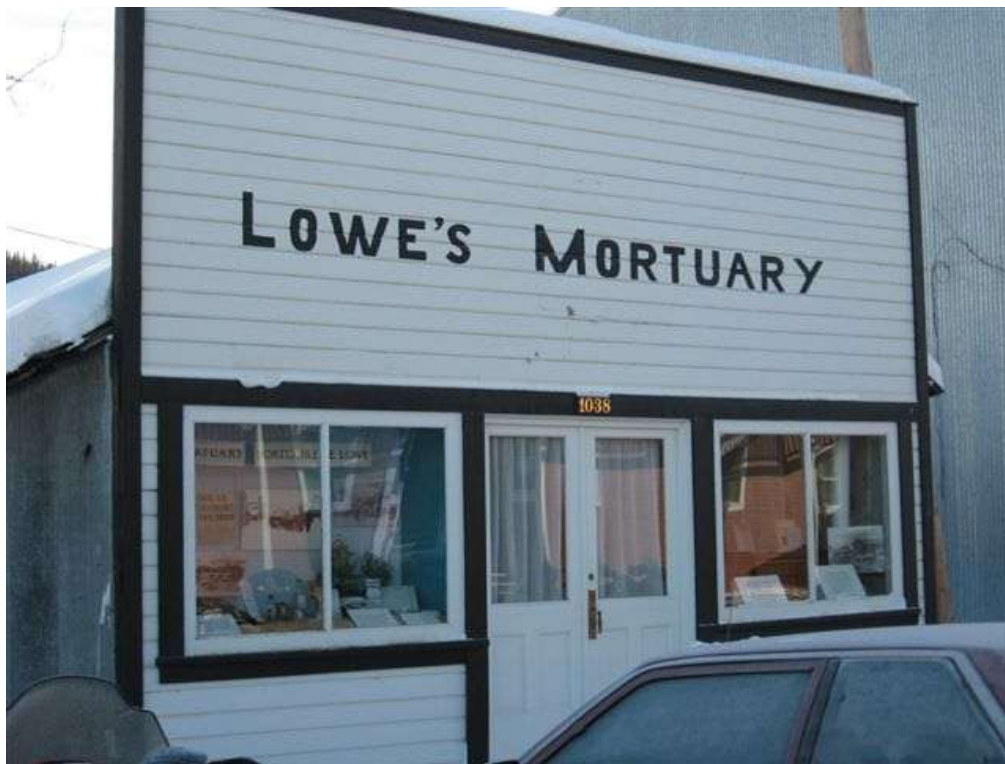
I talked to Darrell Morgan this morning as earlier **I thought** he told me that Clarke died in or around 1955. Today he said it was later than that and maybe in the 60's. So maybe you have the right one. Darrel says the last he saw of where George was living, there was no cabin, but a tent pulled over a hole in the ground. I thought that the tent must have been from an earlier era, as the undated letter that Dennis Eve got referred to a tent. Gus saw him in a cabin in 53 and 54 Perhaps George's cabin burnt down and he replaced it with a tent. If he came into the Yukon in 1898 and died in 1965, he would have been in the Yukon 67 years. If he was 18 when he arrived, that would make him 85 at the time of his death and most likely he would have been past the age of 18. Darrell couldn't give me his age, but he said when he took the body over to Jean Cook's and they

stretched him out, he looked younger than that. But maybe he came into the Yukon with his parents as a youngster. Not being a wealthy person, he likely didn't have much of a headstone so I doubt we will ever know. Let me know if you find anything on the Chilkoot Pass arrivals in the 1898 time frame. Sure wouldn't want to be living in a tent in Dawson today as it is mighty cold up there.

Don Frizzell frizzell*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Dad (Fred Cook) was still the undertaker in Dawson in 1965, they would have taken Mr. Clarke to **Lowe's Mortuary** not to our house as suggested when saying he took him to Jean (mom) Cooks. My guess is that he is buried in one of the Cemeteries up the hill not in the old YOOP cemetery in town. Again I will see if Jim remembers anything, I will also see if Myrna Butterworth (Dawson girl I do think death records are still alive and well in the Yukon. You could also check with the YOOP members in Dawson City for info on Mr. Clarke.

Bea (Cook) Wytinck bwytinck*yahoo.ca (In Louisiana)



Old Mortuary- 2nd Ave.

Photo courtesy Kris (Haydon) Janus janus*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

I will check with my Brother [Jim Cook] and see if he has the book [the Digger Cook Book], I don't think that I do. I sort of Remember Mr. Clarke, one of Dad's Stories claimed that one year he went Outside to visit family for the winter and came back walking upright off the plane but the next time he came to town he was crawling on his knees again.

Bea (Cook) Wytinck bwytinck@yahoo.ca (In Louisiana)

We are enjoying Louisiana this winter, New Orleans for Mardi Gras and now in Hammond, LO

Yes Sherron go ahead and post my comments. It is strange how images from long ago stay in our minds. I can see him with cut out tires strapped around his thighs and calves, a back pack on his back and a willow cane in each hand to keep his upper body upright.

Also remember a few other strange old guys the Brady Brothers (crazy Irish guys), Henry Leaman or Lehman (sp) Hans Hagan and also the Home that the Sisters of Saint Ann created for the old timers in their Convent (Commissioners Residence) in Dawson.

Bea (Cook) Wytinck bwytinck@yahoo.ca (In Louisiana)

The Sisters of St. Ann ran the residence for the old timers when I at School in Dawson. **I actually worked there serving the old timers their evening meal.** Not sure when the Sister's stopped operating it and the Hospital in Dawson. There still are Sisters of St. Ann in Victoria BC. I checked on line and it seems that they are still somewhat active. You could contact them and find out if they have records. If you can't find a way to contact them directly the Catholic Diocese of Victoria should be able to help.
Good Luck!

Bea (Cook) Wytinck bwytinck@yahoo.ca (In Louisiana)

I called Darrell Morgan again to confirm the details he gave me earlier. **He said he picked him up at the hospital and took him to Lowe's Mortuary.** I asked Darrell to estimate the age and he said 75 to 85. I said how about 95, and he said "I don't think so because he was a pretty spry old bugger". He said October would be the right time of year that he hauled him over to the mortuary so I think our info of Oct 65 is likely good. The newspaper article may have more info. Backing up from 1965, if he was 75 years old, he would have come into the territory at age 10 in 1900. If he was 85, he would have been 20, and at 95 he would have been 30 years old. Fun, Fun, Fun.

Don Frizzell frizzell@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT GEORGE WAS SOLICITED

Hi Folks

I am looking for information about a gold miner on Bonanza Creek by the name of George Clarke who lost the use of the bottom half of his legs and made his way around on his knees.

I am looking to learn what his malady was and also confirm that he was around into the early 1960's which would help confirm he was the George Russell Clarke in the cemetery records for October 1965.

Also trying to establish his age when he came into Yukon in 1898 and of course his age at death.

Gus Barrett has written some memories of him from 1953-54. Myrna (Hadley) Butterworth has also given some memories.

Also looking for a photo of him and any other memories of him.

I have confirmed that Dan Davidson, Michael Gates, Sam Holloway, Joann (Stevenson) Robertson – have NOT written about him.

Sherron Jones

Moccasin Telegraph

A REPLY FROM ED AND STAR JONES in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Hello, Sherron. Here is what we know of George Russell Clarke:

Born: Corry, Pennsylvania USA abt. 1870

Arrived Dawson September 20, 1898 with a scow load of supplies. Landed in front of Yukon Hotel.

Occupation: miner, Homestake, 27 Above, Upper Bonanza Creek

Son, John R. Clarke, Detroit, Michigan USA

"When he became too crippled to care for himself, he moved into the Old Men's Home, 3 years ago [1962]."

Died St. Mary's Hospital, Dawson, October 27, 1965, age 95.

Burial Hillside Public Cemetery, Dawson

Sherron, stories have circulated in Dawson that Mr. Clarke continued to mine after he lost use of his legs, and that he was particularly cantankerous. The latter are only stories, and may or may not be credible.

Sources: Anglican Funeral Records #614; Klondike Korner, October 28, 1965

Hope this information will be helpful.

Ed and Star Jones edandstar@gmail.com (In Santa Fe, NM)

FOLLOW-UP COMMENT FROM GUS BARRETT

Reading Ed Jones note makes me more and more convinced that you have the right George Clarke. I know that he was a very old man when I knew him, although I realize that to a 23 year old anyone over 60 would be "old". He would probably be well into his 20's when he came up in 98. I say this because I'm sure he told me he had a wife and son back in Michigan and that his wife once came up to the Yukon but would not stay.

I can also confirm Myrna's statement that he was a bit of a cranky old guy. This again seemed to be a trait that group. They lived very much as loners and were very distrustful of others. Myrna states that he was afraid of people stealing his money or property. This again seemed to be a common trait among these old pioneers, particularly in their later years.

I remember escorting one old timer out to Essondale, complete with a suitcase of fist sized rocks, his “gold”, which he refused to get on the plane without.

Gus Barrett sourdoughs2@shaw.ca (In Qualicum Beach BC)

A REPLY FROM JOE REDMOND

Hi Sherron,

I certainly remember George Clarke and think it's a reasonable assumption that it is he in the cemetery records. I left Dawson in 1960 and remember him from the 50's. He "navigated" on his knees, had two sticks/canes to assist and had cut up inner tubes as pads on his knees. I do remember him living on Bonanza and I have the impression he lived in a dugout on the side of a hill. I have a vague recall that he spent his last years in the senior's home in Dawson, but that was after I left. If that is so, Myrna likely remembers. I could only guess his age. Fifty odd years ago everyone was older than me! He was a bit intimidating to a kid and my impression was people thought him ornery. As if he didn't have reason.

He would come into town once or twice a year. He'd start out toward town, and usually someone would give him a ride, but traffic was light then and he'd sometimes do the total distance on his knees. He'd get his supplies, spend a few days in town and hire a pickup to take him home. Stan Rivers often did that and I'd sometimes ride with Stan.

Cheers, Joe Redmond yukon43@telusplanet.net (In Sylvan Lake AB)

PAGE 4 KLONDIKE KORNER – OCTOBER 28, 1965

George Russell Clarke, 95, died in St Mary's Hospital early Wednesday morning. Born in Cory [now spelled Corry], Penn., Mr. Clarke came to Dawson on a scow load of supplies, landing on the beach in front of the Yukon Hotel on September 20th 1898. Most of his mining years were spent on Bonanza, Homestake, 27 above Discovery on upper Bonanza. When he became too crippled to care for himself, he moved into the Old Men's Home 3 years ago [1962]. **He is survived by his son, John R. Clarke in Detroit, Michigan.**

Molly McDonald – Dawson Museum Archival Technician www.dawsonmuseum.ca
(In Dawson)

1901 CENSUS – DAWSON CITY

George R. Clarke was found on the **1901 Census in Dawson City** – Male, White, alone, Married, 30, Pa, 1898, 3 ½, American, Miner, Employed, \$200.

This confirms we have our man – his age – he was married - he was alone in the Yukon – his place of birth was Pennsylvania.

AT THIS POINT IN THE SAGA – I wrote to Don Frizzell asking about the letter he received from Dennis Eve in England – Dennis replied with a copy of Tom Tait’s story below which was also the story that was vague in my memory – I have since found it in MocTel 53 – Feb 2004. So the MocTel had caused George’s life to be questioned and the MocTel has resolved many of the questions. – You may have a photo or a memory to share too, please do.
Sherron Jones sherronjones*shaw.ca (In Yuma AZ)

The story about this same man from MocTel archived files:

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 53rd EDITION – Feb. 29, 2004

George Clarke On Upper Bonanza Creek 1953

By Tom Tait tom_tait@telus.net (now thtait*shaw.ca)

Constable Jimmy Simpson of the RCMP introduced Sheila and I to George Clarke in the late spring of 1953. Jim was making one of the Forces scheduled trips around “The Creeks,” checking on the folks in those sparsely populated areas of their jurisdiction. We asked if we could accompany him.

George Clarke lived in a double tent on Upper Bonanza. His claim was a mile or so from the main road but could be reached by truck if conditions were right. My recollection is that he would have been in his late sixties or early seventies when we met. He was very pleased to have a young lady visit and took pains to show us around his property, his accommodation, and serve us tea.

This Yukoner was memorable for a number of reasons, some of which we observed and some we were told about.

He lived and worked his claim on the creek, mostly in isolation for twelve months of the year. He “Drift Mined” which meant that he would sink a shaft down through the permafrost to bedrock and then drift (dig) out from the bottom of his ladder in search of gold. This meant moving a lot of ore which he had to load into a bucket and winch up the vertical shaft to his sluice box above ground. It was daunting work! In those days gold sold for \$35.00 an ounce.

George’s 10x10 double tent was built on a wooden floor suspended over an excavation of the same dimension dug into the ever-present permafrost. This space was used for storage and held his forty-five gallon drum stove/heater. The stoves’ cooking surface was at floor level, right in the middle of the tent. This arrangement allowed for stoking the furnace with the wood from the storage area by just reaching down, opening the door on the front of the drum and flipping in the logs without

getting out of bed. Cooking on that convenient stovetop could be done from the same place.

You will understand shortly why, for George this arrangement was so convenient.

The perimeter of the tent was all shelves filled with books and periodicals on every conceivable topic, but no novels that we could discern.

He had a radio and coal oil lamps but no electricity or telephone. During the summer months his food was kept cool in the permafrost storage area under the tent. In winter, no problem.

In the summer months when he wasn't digging for gold George laid down his winter wood supply. All the trees within a half-mile or so of his tent had been harvested for this purpose. This meant that he stacked his rounds and then waited for snow so he could move them.

You think that this sounds like a pretty tough existence for a seventy year old?
You don't know the half of it!

George was crippled! He did everything on his knees! The front of his pant legs were covered with inner tube rubber to keep them from wearing out as he moved about. He could stand but only with difficulty.

Read again about his method of mining and imagine the problems. Appreciate how his tent was set up to accommodate his handicap. Then put your mind to moving your woodpile over half a mile in sub zero temperatures. George's method was inspired but painful.

He used a toboggan, but pulling it from his knees was impossible. What George was forced to do was place the harness to the sled around his shoulders, raise himself to a standing position and fall forward on his face, thus levering the vehicle forward about four feet. Half a mile out with the empty sleigh and half a mile back with it loaded. That is a lot of falling on your face and that was for every load.

It was "just" a matter of repetition." Nothing to it!

He was a remarkable man, even for a Yukoner.

Incidentally, **George** insisted that **Sheila** accept a gold nugget as we were leaving.

Note: Tom Tait was with Canadian Pacific Airlines in Dawson in 1953. Tom's wife Sheila passed away in December 2012 (see obit in this edition) and may have 'seen' this memorable soul on the other side, 'crawling around in heaven' and stirred the pot a little to have us remember him. – Sherron



Canadian Pacific Airlines Office – Dawson City – 1953.
Photo courtesy **Tom Tait** thtait@shaw.ca (In Coquitlam)

Hi Sherron,

Yes I remember the old building that was used for the office. It looks seamier than I remember but that's likely because I'm now an older more discriminating person than I was in 1952.

Jim Austin jraustin929@yahoo.ca (In Yuma)

DAWSON CEMETERIES – Ed & Star Jones

Hello, Sherron,

Hillside Public Cemetery is located on Mary McLeod Road. From Dawson one takes King Street to the base of the hill where it becomes Mary McLeod Road.

About a mile up Mary McLeod Rd. one comes to Hillside Cemetery on the right. The cemetery was officially closed in 1974, being considered full. However, a number of families continue to bury individuals in family plots. The Cemetery was established in November 1898 at the direction of Commissioner William Ogilvie. At his request, the first burials took place "over the hill," an area on a steep incline that likely made graveside ceremonies difficult. Perhaps, because of that inconvenience, it now appears that only 14 burials were made before the decision was made to commence burying on the flat area above it, the area we refer to as the lower end. From that end the cemetery extends along Mary McLeod Rd. for perhaps 1/2 mile to its upper end, the general area in which George Russell Clarke is buried. At either end of the cemetery, and running along its length at the back is a wooded area. Hillside is the largest of Dawson's eight cemeteries, and holds at least 1,250 graves. **George Russell Clarke's gravesite** is among the 1,000 graves that no longer

have markers. Burial was made at the lower end of the cemetery, which one would come to first when arriving at the cemetery via Mary McLeod Rd.

Across the road from Hillside Cemetery is the Yukon Order of Pioneers Dome Rd. Cemetery. Behind it is St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Beside the YOOP cemetery is the Bet Chaim Jewish Cemetery. Beside Bet Chaim is the New Public Cemetery, opened in 1974. Beside it is the Masonic Cemetery.

The first Yukon Order of Pioneers Cemetery is located on 8th Avenue. The first individual buried in that cemetery was Fred Harte, November 27, 1897. He was one of a party of three men who were the first white prospectors in the Yukon.

Contained within Hillside Public Cemetery is a loosely defined area in which members of various fraternal organizations are buried; in that area have been found readable grave markers of members of the International Order of Odd Fellows, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Masons, Loyal Order of Moose, the Order of Redmen, and Woodmen of the World. Another area is known as the Police Cemetery, and contains the remains of members of the North West Mounted Police, the Royal North West Mounted Police, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Also buried in the cemetery a few men who were soldiers in the Grand Army of the Republic during the American Civil War.

We hope you will find this information useful. We have written history of each of Dawson's cemeteries, and have built databases titled *Yukon River Basin Deaths and Burials 1887-2007*; *Missing in Klondike*, and *Yukoners Who Died in Alaska and Outside*. Please feel free to contact us about any information in these databases, and questions you may have regarding the early history of Yukon.

Ed and Star Jones
7 Casa del Oro Court
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508-8718

The earliest of Dawson's cemeteries is located at what was in early days referred to as the "South End". The first burial was in May, 1897 when the body of Bert Stickney was brought downriver from either Lake Lebarge or Five Finger Rapids where he had been drowned.

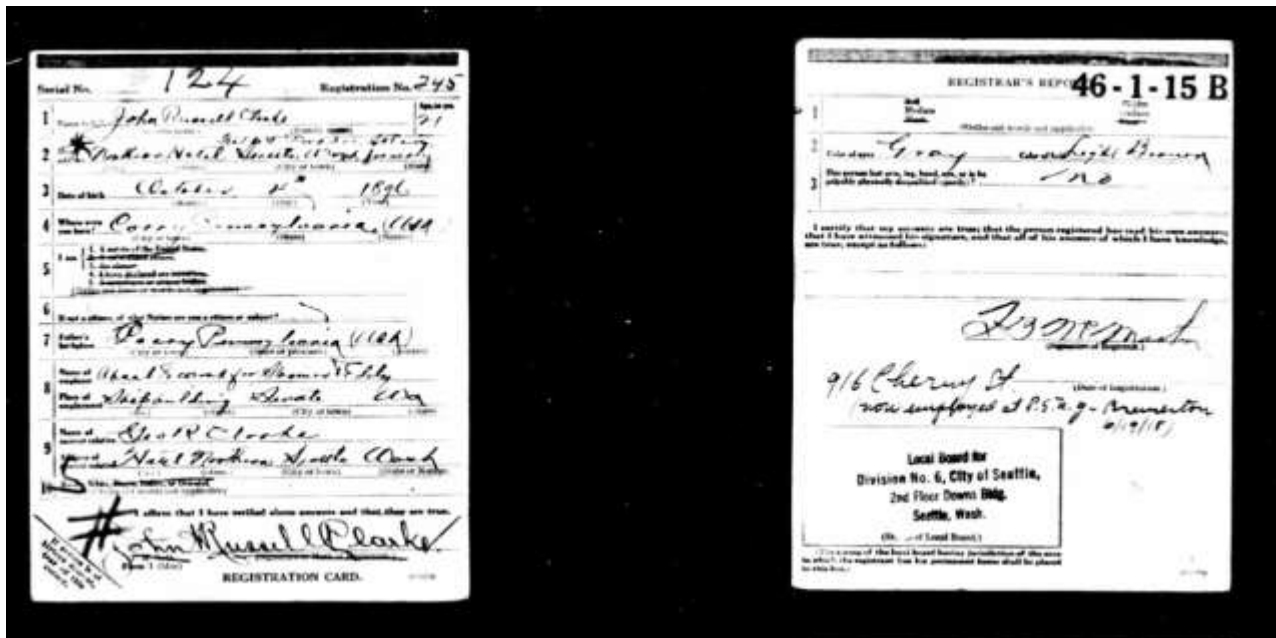
The first public cemetery, now referred to as the Third Avenue Cemetery is located at the north end of Dawson. After "Hillside Cemetery" was opened, few, if any burials were made in Third Avenue Cemetery.

Bert Stickney is believed to have been drowned May 16, 1897 at age 26. Stickney's body was brought to Dawson by his traveling companion, a man named Hogan. As he approached Dawson, he called to shore for someone to come out with a boat and take Stickney's body. Three men rowed out: Joe Ladue (founder of Dawson City), Phillip Kelly, and Fred, the son of Arthur Harper (one of a party of three men who were the first white men to prospect in the Yukon). In 2010, Stickney's relatively elaborate wooden marker was repaired, and the lettering repainted.

Unfortunately, we have located no information that indicates the location of George Russell Clarke's grave or any of the other approximately 1,000 unmarked graves in Hillside Cemetery. Over the decades wooden markers decayed and fell to the ground. Some of the wooden markers were destroyed by a fire that swept through the lower end of the cemetery during the 1950s or 1960s.

Incidentally, we are hoping to be in Dawson this summer to continue work on the cemeteries. We would be delighted to give you a tour. Across Mary McLeod Road from Hillside Cemetery is an 8'x12' gazebo containing large mounted maps of cemetery locations, and notebooks containing the history of each cemetery, and the names of those buried in them. A similar information centre is also located in the Yukon Order of Pioneers 8th Avenue Cemetery.

Ed and Star Jones edandstar@gmail.com (In Santa Fe, NM)



This image 1917 confirms George R. Clarke is John Russell Clarke's father.

US World War 1 Draft Registration Card 1917 – 1918
 Serial No. 124 Registration No. 245
 Name: **John Russell Clarke** Age: **21**
 Northern Hotel, Seattle, Wa
 Date of Birth: October 4, 1896
 Where were you born: Corry, Pennsylvania, USA
 Father's birthplace: Corry, Pennsylvania, USA
 Name of Employer: About 8 months for Thomas & Eddy (?)
 Place of Employment: Shipbuilding, Seattle, Wa
 Name of nearest relative: Geo. R Clark
 Place of residence of nearest relative: Hotel Northern, Seattle, Wash

I affirm I have verified above answers and that they are true:
John Russell Clarke

John R Clarke, "United States **Census, 1940**" (George's son is an Auditor in the auto industry)

name:	John R Clarke		
titles & terms:			
event:	Census		
event year:	1940		
event place:	Ward 22, Detroit , Detroit City, Wayne, Michigan, United States		
gender:	Male		
age:	43		
marital status:	Married		
race (original):			
race (standardized):	White		
relationship to head of household (original):			
relationship to head of household (standardized):	Head		
birthplace:	Pennsylvania		
estimated birth year:	1897		
residence in 1935:	Same House		
enumeration district number:	84-1577		
family number:	339		
sheet number and letter:	11B		
line number:	50		
nara publication number:	T627		
nara roll number:	1889		
digital folder number:	005461841		
image number:	00070		
	Household	Gender	Age
head	John R Clarke (b1897)	M	43 Pennsylvania
wife	Francise Clarke (b1896)	F	44 Wisconsin
daughter	Marion R Clarke (b1924)	F	16 Michigan

John R Clarke, "United States **Census, 1930**"

name: **John R Clarke**
event: Census

event date: 1930
 event place: **Detroit (Districts 0751-0879), Wayne, Michigan**
 gender: Male
 age: 33
 marital status: Married
 race: White
 birthplace: Pennsylvania
 estimated birth year: 1897
 immigration year:
 relationship to head of household: Head
 John's father's birthplace: Pennsylvania
 John's mother's birthplace: Pennsylvania
 enumeration district number: 0844
 family number: 3
 sheet number and letter: 69A
 line number: 8
 nara publication: T626, roll 1068
 film number: 2340803
 digital folder number: 4609308
 image number: 00279

	Household	Gender	Age	Birthplace
head	John R Clarke	M	33	Pennsylvania
wife	Frances Clarke	F	34	Wisconsin
daughter	Marion Clarke	F	6	Michigan

The above record Confirms George was born in PA.

name: **Frances Clarke**
 event: Census
 event date: 1930
 event place: Detroit (Districts 0751-0879), Wayne, Michigan
 gender: Female
 age: 34
 marital status: Married
 race: White
 birthplace: Wisconsin
 estimated birth year: 1896
 immigration year:
 relationship to head of household: Wife
 Frances father's birthplace: Canada
 Frances mother's birthplace: Vermont

1920 United States Federal Census

about John Clarke

Name: John Clarke
Age: 22
Birth Year: abt 1898
Birthplace: Pennsylvania
Home in 1920: **Seattle, King, Washington**
Race: White
Gender: Male
Relation to Head of House: Son
Marital Status: Single
Father's Name: George Clarke
Father's Birthplace: Pennsylvania
Mother's Name: Mary Clarke
Mother's Birthplace: Pennsylvania
Able to read: Yes
Able to Write: Yes
Neighbors: View others on page

	Name	Age
Household Members:	George Clarke	48
	Mary Clarke	38
	John Clarke	22

MADE CONTACT WITH a Grand Nephew OF GEORGE'S SON & JOHN RUSSELL CLARKE's WIFE

Hi Sherron,

Francise (Savage) Clarke, John's wife, is my great aunt. They were married in Tacoma, but later moved to the Detroit area. They had two kids that I know of, John Jr., who died young, and Marion. Marion stayed in Michigan and her married name was Walker. She had at least two kids, Cynthia and Johnny. Marion and Cynthia, I believe, both passed away; I am not sure what happened to Johnny. I never met any of them, but I do have lots of pictures and letters, that Francise sent her sister Marion.

If you would like copies of the pictures, I would be happy to send them.

Andrew Simpson



John Russell Clarke
1896 – 1983

HAVE ALSO MADE CONTACT WITH A GRANDSON OF JOHN RUSSELL CLARKE AND GREAT GRANDSON TO GEORGE RUSSELL CLARKE.

Sherron,

I checked with my father George Randall Clarke and he says that the information is correct. He said that George Russell spent a lot of time in the Yukon, but would come down from there to do trade work on occasion. He said that [John Russell Clarke] did automotive work in Detroit; spent some time in Pennsylvania where his wife Mary Roach was and so on. He was not able to confirm for certain the Seattle trip, but said that it was a possibility. My ancestry account has expired, but if you would like to send the obituary to me at this email address or ask any other questions feel free to.

Thanks,

Kevin J. Clarke, CISA CCE EnCE CCA ACE
Professional Investigator
kjclarke@comcast.net

Sherron,

I will follow up with my dad and tell you what he comes up with. Quickly though, I can tell you that the death year that I had listed on Ancestry was incorrect, the actual death year was 1965 (again I will verify, but I believe that is what my dad said). Additionally, the photo below [above]

is a picture of my grandfather. I have attached another photo from my father's wedding. John Russell Clarke, my Grandfather, did work in the auto industry in Detroit.

Kevin J. Clarke

ANOTHER UPDATE FROM DON FRIZZELL

Talked to Brian Pope who was with the RCMP in Dawson in 1959-60. He said during a cold spell one winter, a neighbor reported no smoke coming out of his [George Russell Clarke's] chimney for a couple of days. Brian and Mel O'Reilly from Forestry took a pickup and went to the cabin to investigate. George was on the floor and could not get his fire lit as his fingers and hands were so cold, he just kept breaking the matches off. They managed to get him to their truck and took him to the hospital in Dawson. Brian thinks that he went into the senior home shortly after that. His small cabin was built into the side of a hill and the door was only about four feet high. He recalls the bed which was very primitive, made out of lumber, and the stove, and said there wasn't much else in there. He said George did not look like he was 90 years old at that time, and he thought his problem was arthritis. He may have had dementia as well as he wasn't very coherent at the time. Kept mumbling about he needed a pail of snow.

I have one more contact to make. The Roberts on Homestake gulch did not have any info, but they said to try Walter Hinnek and he isn't answering his phone yet, but I will keep trying. Also have the secretary of the YOOP [Yukon Order of Pioneers] digging around Dawson and he may come up with something.

Don Frizzell (In Whitehorse)

Contacted Walter Hinnek today [Feb. 14, 2013] and he knows nothing about George. He arrived in Dawson in 1960 so likely too late as George would have been in the hospital by then. He will look around for his cabin next year when he goes back up there. There was no road in those days, so George probably used the railroad grade as it is right in that area. Walter's claim is 17 AD but they have been renumbered since the old days due to several fractions that were staked in there. Joe Hanulik is still mining below Walter, so the two of them will have a look. Too late for the story but it's still a good story.

Regards

Don Frizzell (In Whitehorse)

GEORGE RUSSELL CLARKE'S GREAT GRANDSON CONFIRMED

Sherron,

Tons of info to share. I am positive we are talking about the same George Russell Clarke. My dad confirmed that he [George Russell Clarke] passed in 1965 and had lost the use of his legs. Apparently, he got around on his knees and elbows. I am just learning about all of this now, so I am quite intrigued as well. John Russell Clarke was apparently married twice before marrying my grandmother (Laura Yaszek, the older lady in the photo), but my dad confirmed that he has a step sister named Marion. Long story short, I think we are talking about the same person and I have a ton of questions for my father since most of this is news to me.

May I ask why you are doing this research? If I understand your email you are writing a newsletter, correct? I would love to see the newsletter when completed and any other information you might have. I will help to get as much info as I can dig up; my Dad says he has letters that his dad wrote to George Russell.

In the photo from left to right are Laura (Yaszek) Clarke, Kathleen (English) Clarke, George Randall Clarke (my Dad), John Russell Clarke, and John Clarke (my uncle, I will dig up his middle name). My Dad did share the information about Marion [his step sister] and her two children Cynthia and John and he also said that John and passed away at a young age, I will try to find out when that was.



1974 Wedding photo of George Randall Clarke, beside him is John Russell Clarke.
L. to R. - Laura (Yaszek) Clarke, Kathleen (English) Clarke, George Randall Clarke (my Dad),
John Russell Clarke, and John Clarke (my uncle).

My dad had a step sister named Marion. My father [George Randall Clarke] was born in Michigan in 1950.

My Grandmother Laura Yaszek was born in 1920 and was apparently close to the same age as Marion and so I was told that they didn't get along very well.

Kevin J. Clarke (Great Grandson of George Russell Clarke)

RECAP by Sherron Jones

Descendants of George Russell Clarke

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Generation 1

1. **George Russell Clarke**-1[1, 2] was born about 1870 in Corry, Pennsylvania, USA. He died on 27 Oct 1965 in Dawson, Yukon, Canada. He married Mary B. Roach. She was born in 1875 in Pennsylvania[1].

Child of George Russell Clarke and Mary B. Roach is:

2. i. John Russell Clarke, B: 04 Oct 1896 in Corry, Pennsylvania, United States of America[3, 4, 5, 6], D: Aug 1983 in Dearborn Heights, Wayne, Michigan, United States of America[6, 7], M: Francise W Savage, Tacoma, Washington, USA.

Generation 2

2. **John Russell Clarke** -2(George Russell-1)[2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8] was born on 04 Oct 1896 in Corry, Pennsylvania, United States of America[3, 4, 5, 6]. He died in Aug 1983 in Dearborn Heights, Wayne, Michigan, United States of America [6, 7] . He married (1) Francise W Savage in Tacoma, Washington, USA, daughter of William Savage and Fannie L Foster. She was born on 21 Jul 1895 in Wisconsin[4, 8]. He married (2) Laura Yaszek, daughter of Lucas Yaszek and Stella Golinska. She was born on 09 Feb 1920 in Dearborn, Michigan, USA[6]. She died on 25 Apr 2001 in Ann Arbor, MI [6].

Children of John Russell Clarke and Francise W Savage are:

3. i. Marion R. Clarke, B: 1924 in Michigan[4, 9, 10].

- ii. John Richard Clarke, B: 19 Jan 1922[8], D: 20 Jan 1922 in Everett, Snohomish, Washington[8].

Children of John Russell Clarke and Laura Yaszek are:

- i. John Clarke, B: 1948 in Michigan, USA.
- 4. ii. George Randall Clarke, B: 1950 in Michigan, USA.

Generation 3

3. **Marion R. Clarke**-3(John Russell-2, George Russell-1)[4, 9, 10] was born in 1924 in Michigan[4, 9, 10]. She married Mr. Walker.

Children of Marion R. Clarke and Mr. Walker are:

- i. Cynthia Walker, B: Abt. 1950 in Michigan, USA.
- ii. John Walker, B: Abt. 1950 in Michigan, USA.
- 4. **George Randall Clarke**-3(John Russell-2, George Russell-1) was born in 1950 in Michigan, USA.
 - i. Kevin J. Clarke, B: Michigan, USA.
 - ii. Female Clarke, B: Michigan, USA.
 - iii. Female Clarke, B: Michigan, USA.

Descendants of George Russell Clarke

Sources

-
- 1
 - 2 Ancestry.com, 1910 United States Federal Census (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006), www.ancestry.com, Database online. Year: 1910; Census Place: Seattle Ward 5, King, Washington; Roll: T624_1659; Page: 13B; Enumeration District: 0112; Image: ; FHL microfilm: 1375672. Record for Mary B Clark.
 - 3 Ancestry.com, 1920 United States Federal Census (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010), www.ancestry.com, Database online. Year: 1920; Census Place: Seattle, King, Washington; Roll: T625_1929; Page: 19A; Enumeration District: 252; Image: 409. Record for George Clarke.
 - 4 Ancestry.com, U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005), www.ancestry.com, Database online. Registration Location: King County, Washington; Roll: ; Draft Board:. Record for John Russell Clarke.

- 5 Ancestry.com, 1930 United States Federal Census (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002), www.ancestry.com, Database online. Year: 1930; Census Place: Detroit, Wayne, Michigan; Roll: 1068; Page: 69A; Enumeration District: 844; Image: 235.0; FHL microfilm: 2340803. Record for John R Clarke.
- 6 Ancestry.com, 1920 United States Federal Census (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010), www.ancestry.com, Database online. Year: 1920; Census Place: Seattle, King, Washington; Roll: T625_1929; Page: 19A; Enumeration District: 252; Image: 409. Record for John Clarke.
- 7 Ancestry.com, Public Member Trees (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2006), www.ancestry.com, Database online. Record for Laura Yaszek.
- 8 Ancestry.com, Social Security Death Index (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2011), www.ancestry.com, Database online. Number: 386-09-3110; Issue State: Michigan; Issue Date: Before 1951. Record for John Clarke.
- 9 Ancestry.com, Public Member Trees (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2006), www.ancestry.com, Database online. Record for Francise W Savage.
- 10 Ancestry.com, 1940 United States Federal Census (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012), www.ancestry.com, Database online. Year: 1940; Census Place: Detroit, Wayne, Michigan; Roll: T627_1889; Page: 11B; Enumeration District: 84-1577. Record for Marion R Clarke.
11. Ancestry.com, 1930 United States Federal Census (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002), www.ancestry.com, Database online. Year: 1930; Census Place: Detroit, Wayne, Michigan; Roll: 1068; Page: 69A; Enumeration District: 844; Image: 235.0; FHL microfilm: 2340803. Record for Marion Clarke.

I was sooooh excited to receive these photos from Kevin, his Dad and Uncle John that I wanted to scream with glee. When I sent them out to Gus Barrett and Don Frizzell - Don's reply was "PAYDAY" and Gus called on Skype and exclaimed "JACKPOT". - Sherron

Below is a message from my Uncle John with some photos and captions for the photos. The wedding photo I sent you was from 1974. I will continue to help answer any questions and hopefully you can provide some of those stories, I'm sure my Dad and my Uncle would love to hear them.

Kevin J. Clarke (In Michigan)

George:

Here are the pictures I have. Your guess is good as mine as to what some of them are. You can see the resemblance to dad in some of the older pictures. I have one of dad as a kid...dressed like a girl....which they did in those days....hmmmm.

Further info:

Great Grampa George Clarke migrated to the Yukon Territory in Canada for the Gold Rush of 1898. He and another fellow staked out a claim on Bonanza Creek near Whitehorse [Dawson City] where he spent the great majority of the rest of his life. Apparently he made enough mining gold to eat, but not much else. We still have a few nuggets that he mined here at the house.

I only remember seeing him once when we were little kids...about 5 years old in Detroit. He came down for a visit, thought it was too hot around here and never came back. My recollection was he didn't pay much attention to his grandchildren.

Enjoy

John Clarke

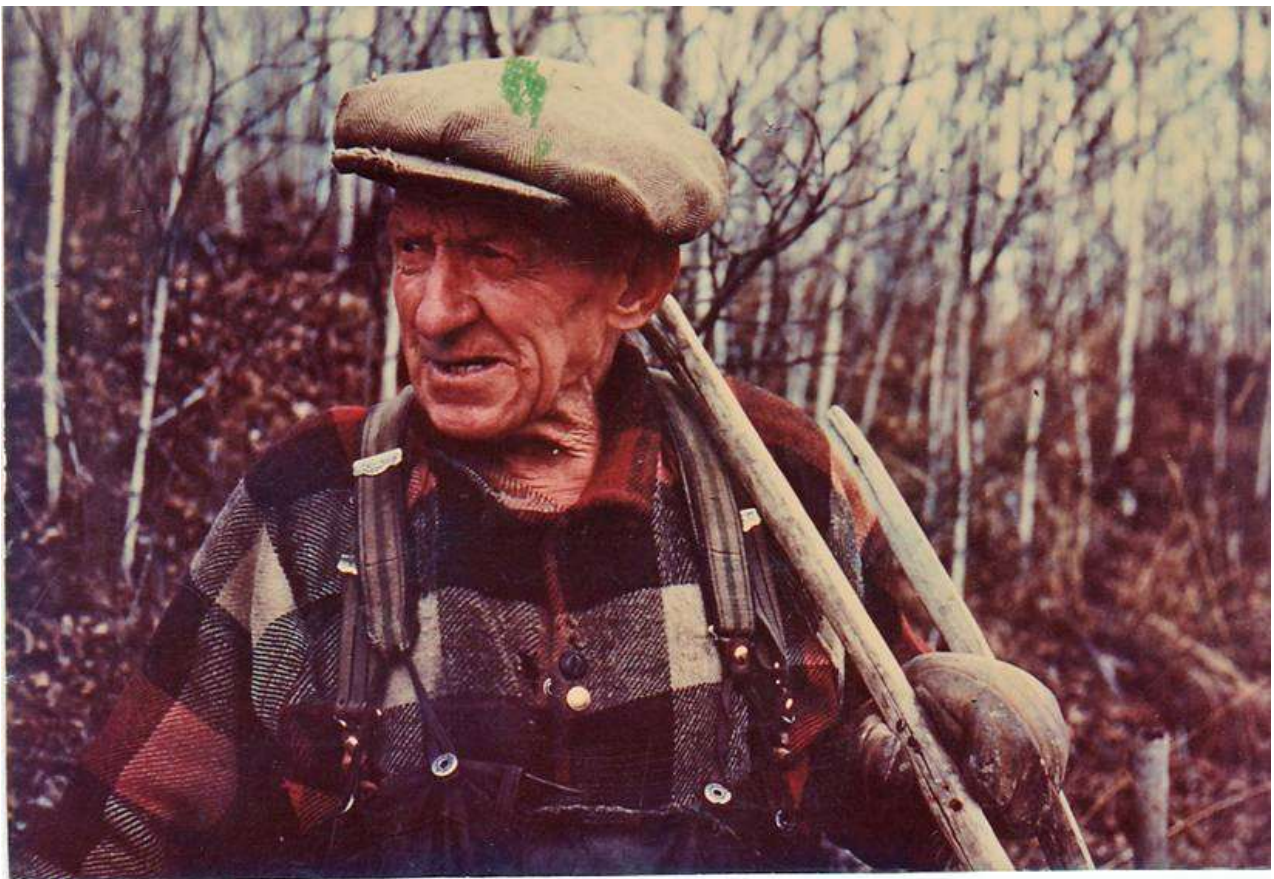


George Russell Clarke at his cabin on Bonanza Creek.

This is the picture George and I [John] [grandchildren of George Russell Clarke] remember the most. It makes you appreciate your own house a lot.

Basically, it was a cave with a roof over it. I would have to guess Bonanza Creek is close by.
[The front of the cabin and the door and window area are as Gus remembers the cabin in 1953.]
[The extra dirt piled up around the side of his house is likely the tailings from his underground mining; brought out bucket by bucket.]

Photo courtesy George Russell Clarke's grandsons John and George and great grandson Kevin J. Clarke in Michigan USA.



He led a hard life and his face shows it. One tough Irishman.

[Is this perhaps the hillside where he cut his winter wood. We heard in Whitehorse that birch burns hot and clean.]

Photo courtesy George Russell Clarke's grandsons John and George and great grandson Kevin J. Clarke in Michigan USA.



I am clueless who the kids are. It looks darn cold there, however. [(Looks like George has the rubber inner tube material wrapped around his lower legs in this photo.) (Could that be a claim stake behind him ? or a message left out for visitors ?)]

Photo courtesy George Russell Clarke's grandsons John and George and great grandson Kevin J. Clarke in Michigan USA.



Home sweet home....
Note the transportation implements in the foreground.

Photo courtesy George Russell Clarke's grandsons John and George and great grandson Kevin J. Clarke in Michigan USA.



Great Grandma Mary Clarke on the walk to her home in Corry PA. The house was very similar to the neighbor's which you see here. Photo courtesy George Russell Clarke's grandsons John and George and great grandson Kevin J. Clarke in Michigan USA.



The family questioned why this photo was in the album – so my comments below – Sherron

Skookum Jim and George Carmacks discovered gold in Bonanza Creek in 1896 which started the gold rush in that area. George Russell Clarke came in 1898 and worked the claim numbered 27 above “Discovery Claim” which is where the gold was found by Skookum and George Carmacks. This means that George Russell Clarke was 27 claims up the creeks from the discovery location. (That property description was changed in a resurvey at a later date.)

Photo courtesy George Russell Clarke’s grandsons John and George and great grandson Kevin J. Clarke in Michigan USA.



Another view of the cabin – window looks the same, area above the door and window look the same, but the elevation around the cabin is different.

Photo courtesy George Russell Clarke's grandsons John and George and great grandson Kevin J. Clarke in Michigan USA.



This may have been the view from the front porch or....?

Photo courtesy George Russell Clarke's grandsons John and George and great grandson Kevin J. Clarke in Michigan USA.



Last known picture of George Russell Clarke. The nuns in Dawson St. Mary's Hospital took him in for his last days. They were very kind to him. [thanks to Bea (Cook) Wytinck the name of the nun is Sister Mary Ephafan.]

Photo courtesy George Russell Clarke's grandsons John and George and great grandson Kevin J. Clarke in Michigan USA.

THE FOLLOWING PHOTO FROM 2007 Moc Tel Special Edition

St. Mary's Hospital was a twenty-five bed hospital with laboratory and X-ray services. It was operated by the Sisters of St. Ann. Sister Mary Jean was the Sister Superior, Sister Angel Guardian was the Nursing Supervisor, and the lab and X-ray departments were manned by Sister

Ignatia. Another sister was in charge of the laundry which was in a flat-roofed building behind the hospital. There was a doctor and occasionally two doctors.



This photo, (taken in 1962,) shows St. Mary's Hospital which was formerly known and is now known as The Old Court House. The hospital was located here after the Sisters' hospital at the north end of Dawson burned to the ground. I was told this happened seven years before my arrival.

Copyright photo by Emily Stillwell eistillwell@hotmail.com (In Moose Jaw SK)

From these notes with Emily's photo below – it indicates St Mary's Hospital closed in Aug 1963. So expect that photo of George Clarke with the nun would have had to have been taken in 1962 or before Aug 1963 when the nuns were still attending the senior men. Where do you suppose George was moved next, or did a non-catholic entity take over the building and the men.

Was there a separate non catholic hospital ?

Sherron

THE PHOTO BELOW WAS TAKEN WHEN I REVISITED DAWSON (now being called DAWSON CITY), IN 1962.



Copyright photo by Emily Stillwell eistillwell@hotmail.com (In Moose Jaw SK)

These Sisters of St. Ann were returning from a walk, and, are behind the Residence. I believe the one on the left helped to care for the dozen or so elderly, retired, prospectors who were living on the main floor of the Residence. [thanks to Bea (Cook) Wytinck the name of the nun on the left is Sister Mary Ephafan.] Sister Ignatia (who had worked in Japan for the Sisters for nine years) is in the centre. On the right is the Sister who lived with the nurses on the third floor. (Perhaps, someone reading this will remember the names of the Sisters in black.)

When we nurses came in via the front door, during the day, we would pass by the old gentlemen sitting all lined up on both sides of the main hallway. One elderly old gentleman, who was mobile, when I came in with my uniform on, would invariably say, "Well, another day, another dollar." This same gentleman presented at least two of us with a drawing he had done of us. I still have mine.

The Sisters were very easy to work for. At Christmas, they gave us lovely presents. Somehow, a decision was made to close St. Mary's Hospital. The closure came about in August, 1963, only thirteen months after my visit. Sadly, when the Sisters were leaving Dawson, en route to Whitehorse, Sister Ignatia lost her life in a car accident. The other sisters may have gone to their Mother House in Victoria, British Columbia.

UPDATE – Feb 15, 2013

The government took over the hospital and the old folks home, after the sisters left, and combined the 2 in the Old Court House. The Old Folks were downstairs on the first level with the Administration office and the Hospital was on the 2nd floor. I think that some of the nurses might have been on the 3rd floor (but not sure). Mary Turchinsky was the head cook for many years

after the sisters left. My mom worked for the sisters and for the government as a nurse from about 1956 until about 1966.

Myrna (Hadley) Butterworth myrnab*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

THESE 5 PHOTOS FROM 2007 MocTel Special Edition – ‘ Spring and Summer’ were taken by Emily Stillwell in 1962

Including these few photos is intended to give the Clarke family a glimpse at what George Russell Clarke saw in 1962.



The original 3RD Ave. Blacksmith Shop and the Red Feather Saloon are as I saw them in 1962.

Copyright photo by Emily Stillwell eistillwell@hotmail.com (In Moose Jaw SK)



The SS. Keno is on the east bank of the Yukon River in Dawson. I saw it there when I returned to Dawson in 1962.

Copyright photo by Emily Stillwell eistillwell@hotmail.com (In Moose Jaw SK)



This is the steamboat graveyard on the left shore of the Yukon River northwest of Dawson. This photo was taken in July, 1962. The last sternwheeler to be placed there was the “Julia B.” Another one was the “Lightning.”

Copyright photo by Emily Stillwell eistillwell@hotmail.com (In Moose Jaw SK)



**A common view is looking down on Dawson from the Midnight Dome.
Notice the demarcation line between the waters from the Klondike and the Yukon Rivers.
Copyright photo by Emily Stillwell eistillwell@hotmail.com (In Moose Jaw SK)**



**This is the view of Bonanza Creek from the Midnight Dome
Copyright photo by Emily Stillwell eistillwell@hotmail.com (In Moose Jaw SK)**



Sister Mary Angel Guardian with Nurse Betty Schumacker are seen standing by our house hospital.

Copyright photo by Emily Stillwell eistillwell@hotmail.com (In Moose Jaw SK)



Jim and Marion Hadley are working in their garden plot.

[Myrna (Hadley) Butterworth's parents.]

Copyright photo by Emily Stillwell eistillwell@hotmail.com (In Moose Jaw SK)

MOCTEL 10 YEARS OLD

Sherron, I can't believe the MocTel is already 10 years old! I remember the day Henry Breaden e-mailed me saying he was in correspondence with you regarding somehow hooking Yukoners up. He wanted my opinion. I don't even remember how I met Henry – luck, that's for sure.

Henry: “Donna, would you be interested in reading something like that or be involved in anyway?”

Donna: “Sounds interesting but I would be more interested in hearing what current and former Yukoners have to say with their stories and memories”

Henry: “Maybe talk to Sherron, here's her e-mail address”

Sherron: “Well, if you want to see something like that then be the first to write something and we'll see what happens.” (or a conversation close to this)

Somewhere along the way in the early days of the MocTel was the conversation on “What should it be called?”

And so the Moccasin Telegraph was born.

Sherron, congratulations and a huge Thank You for all the work you've put into this newsletter regularly over the last 10 years. Thank you as well to Bill for all the proofreading over the years and being a huge part as well. You've changed my life in ways you can't even fathom. For example, there were times I would tell a Yukon resident I was looking for a story or a memory for the new MocTel. I was then invited with open arms to events and into people's homes that I normally would not have been. I have become good friends with those in the news only because of my connection with the MocTel.

Thank you for everything and I'm looking forward to 10 more years. We need a party, a huge get-together with all the contributors over the years. Perhaps the next Yukoners Banquet could have a MocTel Theme.

Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – as I remember the beginning.

I had received an email forward from Fred Aylwin and in the header was the name Henry Breaden. I asked Fred if Henry would be related to Roy Breaden who my son Wes Jones had gone to school with in Whitehorse. Fred said yes and so I emailed Henry to make that connection. Henry replied that he had a list of other former Yukoners that I may know and sent it along. I did not recognize any of the names.

I remember laying down to have a rest that afternoon and thought to myself that it would be interesting to send that list to the people I had email addresses for that also used to live in Yukon. So I wrote back to Henry. I had also considered and decided it was possible that I could do it – so I

offered that if he were to send a message to those who he had email addresses for and I were to send a message to those I had an email address for and see if these people would be interested in registering with me to be part of an email address repository whereby I would send the list out periodically thereby providing folks with the opportunity to reconnect with people they had lost touch with.

For those of us who came from “outside”, Yukon was a place we lived for some period of years and unlike where we came from originally we were not able to easily determine where our former friends had moved to when they left Yukon.

One of the first to register was Warren Rongve. Warren included in his message that he had taught school in Dawson and Whitehorse and included the school names and grades he had taught along with a similar list for his wife. This information was not useful to me so I asked if I could send that information along with the list of email addresses when I sent it out.

For the first week this was what continued to happen when each person agreed to be included on the list and told me a bit about themselves. Each time I asked permission to include their message on my next mailing. It was only when it was time to send the second mailing of the list that I realized I needed to find a way to not be sending the same information to the same people and yet include it for those who had not yet received it.

At that point I realized what I was doing – repeating what I had been told – and remembered that Yukoners had a name for that – The Moccasin Telegraph and so the first edition was born. That edition included every message that I had received up until that point. Future editions would include only new information. For quite some time I would send multiple editions to those who joined us. Later Sandy Campbell took on that chore.

Now 10 years later it is still serving its purpose to reconnect.
Sherron Jones , Publisher, Moccasin Telegraph sherronjones@shaw.ca or
sherronjones@roadrunner.com

SOME GOOD MEMORIES

I especially enjoyed the last Moc Tel. It was fun to see some of the gang I used to hang out with at the Taku, where we would all gather after school to have pop and snacks. It brought back many fond memories. Scattered memories.... of escapades with my good friends Carol Clarke, Judy Lelievre and a group of others.... dances at the YPA jiving with my favourite dance partner Doug Steele.....a girls 's PJ party at Maureen Proctors where we all put on our coats, in the wee hours of the morning, and walked down town..... if I remember right, there wasn't a soul on the street....in later years a graduation party at Ear Lake. There were the Army and Airforce 'brats' with whom we became fast friends and then they were gone. I remember Don(nie) Murray well... he was a funny guy and we all liked him a lot. I'll have to drag out my old photo albums and refresh my fading memories.

Norma (Yardley) Waddington norma*southklondike.ca (In Carcross)

ARTIST AT WORK



Carcross, Yukon – Feb 2013

Daphne Mennell, a popular local artist, was out painting on a cool snowy day in Carcross preparing for her upcoming show, on March 1st, in Whitehorse. After app. an hour and a half both her fingers and her oil paints were getting fairly stiff.

Photo courtesy Norma Waddington norma*southklondike.ca (In Carcross)

Plementos

Wow...the Plementos name is a blast from the past for me! Mr. Plementos (Frank Sr. I believe) worked with my Dad (Ken) on the American pipeline at Mile 1026. I don't remember Frank Jr. being around much, I believe he was already in school in Whitehorse (?) but I do remember Frances ("Francie" as I recall) helping us build many a snow cave in the yard. There were 6 families in total that lived on the compound.

My Dad still tells stories about Mr. Plementos and their time working together!

Anne Baltimore Anne anne.baltimore*servus.ca (In Red Deer AB)

BALTIMORE, Anne anne.baltimore@servus.ca (Born in Whse), Destruction Bay (1955-60), Haines Jt (1960-70), Whse (1970-78) Red Deer

Klondike River Lodge Fire Deemed Not Suspicious

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

While the actual cause of the fire that destroyed the Klondike River Lodge on the morning of December 30 has not been determined, the official word is that the fire is no longer deemed to be suspicious in nature.

“The investigation that was concluded by the RCMP, the Yukon Fire Marshall’s office, the local fire departments, as well as the investigation carried out by the insurance company investigator, have concluded that (the fire) is not suspicious: however, the cause will go down as undetermined,” said Jim Regimbal, Dawson’s Fire Chief.

“It’s pointing towards electrical, but we can’t say 100%.”



This photo from the Lodge’s website shows the building that was destroyed.

Located 40 miles south of Dawson on the Klondike Highway.

Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Fire crews from both Dawson and the Klondike Valley responded to the fire after a call from a Dept. of Highways employee reached Regimbal that morning just after 8 o’clock. By the time volunteers from both detachments arrived at the scene all that could be done was to keep the blaze from spreading to other buildings.

The fire had been burning for hours by then. Pete Hart, a local trapper, reports that he saw the fire blazing at about 2:30 on Sunday morning, but had no way to report it. Hart further says that he’d

been seeing lights in the building on and off ever since it was shut down for the winter back in September.

Regimbal says that it was found the power had been on since the building was boarded up for the winter in order to maintain the telephone line. There were also some renovations going on sporadically inside the building and the power may have been on for that purpose as well.

Regimbal says there was some arcing in the electrical wiring inside the building, indicating very high temperatures, but the arcing took place as a result of the fire, rather than causing it.

The fire destroyed the main building, including the rooms, convenience store and restaurant.

The staff housing, tire garage, oil tanks and pumps were not damaged.



What was left of the main building after the fire.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Yukon Info.com shot – This image is from the Yukon Info.com online brochure.
Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Lodge burned. – This photo shows the Tire Garage to the south of the destroyed lodge, with the oil tanks behind it, as well as the gas pumps.

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



Betty Sutton, Sherron Jones & Paul Warner - Jan 29 2013 - Yuma

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

Paul and Betty stopped by for a visit at our little place in Yuma. We have been dealing on email and Facebook for many years but had never met. I thanked them for allowing me to live vicariously through the photos of their travels in NZ, Baja Mexico, Hawaii, Alaska, Yukon, Newfoundland and various other parts of Canada and the US.

Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca (In Yuma AZ)

Golden Age, Arctic Blonde Strippers

I am attaching three pictures from the Golden Age, Arctic Blonde Strippers. They are a quilting group. Arctic blonde is grey (hair) and the first quilt they made was made of strips. This group put together a New Zealand quilt strip roll.

Every second block is made of pieced strips of classic NZ motifs - sheep, ferns, flowers, Maori. My husband Dave and I bought this roll many years ago on a trip to NZ with Don and Marguerite Roberts.



Photo courtesy Irene Brekke brekkedi*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Photo courtesy Irene Brekke brekkei@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Photo courtesy Irene Brekke brekkei@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

The group is led by Bonnie Guy. The ladies spent many hours piecing together similar strips and sewing the blocks. Sharon Pitzel took the pieces home over Christmas and put it all together. It is a real treasure.

Members of the group are Sharon Pitzel, Colette Nadeau, Val Macleod, Dorothy Hobbis, Gail Rushton and Joyce Gilroy.

Irene Brekke brekkedi*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Gillian Campbell AKA Klondike Kate and Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate*shaw.ca (In Burnaby)

This was at the Mining Convention at the Bayshore last night [January 28, 2013]... we were packed in there like sardines.. No show....but we were the Host and Hostess for the Company that Mark and June Mather own. We were there with them.... they are such a nice couple and we do so enjoy their Company .

It was a wonderful evening and we bumped into the Premier and his wife.....feel FREE to do with whatever with this Photo.....he is a Fun chap and we chatted about Shanghai too we all agreed it was a great time had by all.....isn't life wonderful.
Hugs to you all Edward and Gillian..

Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)

Yes, Mark Mather is the one that books us to go to Dawson City. He owns the General Store up there.... This will be our third time up there...working for him...this time at Gerties...we fly on the 7th March drive to Dawson... do 2 Shows in Gerties 8th and 9th and then Drive to Whitehorse and fly home late afternoon.

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



Debra Ryan, Edward Thompson, Joe Sparling, Gillian Campbell and Joe Muff, Director of Commercial Operations at Air North.
We were attending the Yukon Night celebration at the Cordilleran Roundup.
At the Mining Convention at the Bayshore in Vancouver Jan 28, 2013.
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)

HAULING WATER FROM THE MAYO RIVER SPARKED RESPONSE

As you can see from the exchange below, my last MocTel bit about hauling water from the Mayo River – sparked a response from the son of my Dad’s boss back in the early 1950’s.

Interesting how one idea feeds off another...and so MocTel goes on, with memories, stories and anecdotes.

Stan’s account of lighting a fire under the truck to get it going in extreme cold, immediately brought to mind another Mayo memory from 1956 or so.

In the dog-days of winter, some pretty extreme measures were used to start a vehicle that had been left in the cold – even for only a few hours.....in those days’ police cars and taxis were simply left running 24/7 because it was just too difficult to get a vehicle started. One method was to leave an electric lamp or light burning under the oil pan and even a 100-watt bulb left on overnight would make a huge difference.

Horst Scheffen lived just outside the town of Mayo – on what had once been a farm. Horst had a big old Reo truck which he kept in the barn during winter. Being an innovative kind of guy, Horst discovered that a blowtorch made a transmission oil-pan functional again in pretty short order. Of course the trick was to know when enough was enough. Horst was one of those guys who always seemed to be plagued by varying degrees of bad luck. If something could go wrong Horst could usually find it.

One day the inevitable happened and things quickly went too far, too fast. In a spectacular fire that was the talk of the town, Horst lost his truck, his barn and a whole lot of the usual tools and implements. The truly remarkable thing about Horst was his reaction to what many would think was a huge tragedy – he didn’t. With a big smile of resignation, he’d tell his sad story but you knew nothing like this was going to stop him for very long.

He was what you might call a renaissance man, always willing to try something new – and sometime slightly outrageous. Like the plan he came up with a short time later – he’d get the farm up and running again, starting with raising chickens. Very quickly he had something like a couple of hundred birds in a large coop. This was no small achievement in a place like Mayo and people began to wonder if maybe he really could make this venture work. One dark night a wolf or a dog or a coyote – we were never quite sure – somehow got into the coop and in the morning there wasn’t a bird left alive. Once again Horst just had to shrug, smile bravely...and keep going. I suppose it was that same spirit that drove the early gold-seekers and then lived on in those who stayed in this harsh and often lonely land. None of us latecomers were particularly aware of it at the time – but even we can now look back, with full benefit of hindsight - and wonder how we survived some of the experiences and conditions. And not just survived – but prevailed.

Robert Service captured this very nicely and speaks for all of us (as perhaps only a poet can) when he wrote “... *it’s the cussedest land that I know...maybe, but there’s some as would trade it for no land on earth ---and I’m one*”.

Ted North tntnorth@telus.net (in Nanaimo, where the snowdrops and daffys are reaching to the sun – when we have some sun)

INSPIRED COMMENTS – NOW INSPIRATION

Hi Ted

Thanks for a great article in the last MocTel.

You do a good job of describing how cold it was, and the necessity (in Mayo) of getting water!

I had only one brief exposure to cold - had to deliver a tel. truck from Vancouver to Whitehorse around Jan1 1954, and take another one back to Vancouver. When I got to Dawson Creek, I had to build a fire on the road under the truck from Vancouver. - it wouldn't turn over, after sitting outside near the motel room overnight. It needed thin oil+kerosene in the pan before it would start, for the continuing drive from Dawson Creek to Whitehorse. Also needed to buy gloves - had been hoping to make the trip with none.

Hope you do another write-up of life in Mayo.

Stan Barker, Jr. sandlbarker@dccnet.com Madeira Park, BC

Dawson's School Council not Keen on Proposed School Calendar Changes

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

January 10, 2013

The Robert Service School Council is saying “not right now” to Department of Education demands that it give an immediate answer to the department's plans to unify the school year calendars throughout the territory.

The department is proposing to rectify what it sees as a shortcoming in the number of instructional days in the Yukon's schools. These currently range from 173 to 181, though each option actually includes 935 instructional hours.

The government proposes to increase the number of hours to 950 and spread them out over 185 days, with an additional six days reserved through the year for professional development activities. Half of these would be controlled by the department, and the other half by the local school council. For Dawsonites, the question does not revolve so much around these changes as it does around the proposed dates for ending the school year. Over 20 years ago RSS moved to a school year which begins the day after Discovery Day, has a slightly longer school day and ends as close to the end of May as can be arranged.

The school council of the day back in 1990-91 held extensive consultations with the community and picked this schedule for a variety of reasons which include climate, length of daylight hours, recreational opportunities and employment opportunities for students in junior and senior high school.

The present school council is unwilling to let that system go without a great deal more community consultation.

The department has presented the council, without providing this information to the school administration and staff, or the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, with seven possible alternative calendars and has asked it to pick one.

Option 1 would see students begin classes on August 21 and end on June 12.

Option 2 would start on August 21 but end on June 19.

Option 3 would begin on August 27 and end on June 18.

Option 4 would begin on August 27 and end on June 25.

Option 5 would begin on September 4 and end on June 25. Any school wanting a two-week March Break could look forward to having an end date in July.

Option 6 would begin on August 13 and end on June 5.

Option 7 would begin on August 13 and end on June 12.

Where the same starting date ends later, that is a proposal including a two week March Break. In all cases, teachers would report to work one day before the starting dates for students.

After a brief public consultation held at the Fry Arena on January 9 and the regular monthly meeting on January 10, council has decided, based on the input it has already received from parents, not to make a choice, but to require a public meeting with department officials or the minister to explain the urgency.

School council chair Sue Lancaster told the meeting that the emails, postings and letters she has received since this matter became public last week have been overwhelmingly against any change to the local calendar.

The objections raised by parents and council members at the meeting went beyond issues related to education to discuss how the school year fits into the needs of the community, including recreation, childcare, employment and labour force.

Clearly this discussion is far from over, at least in Dawson.



Hot topic – Proposed school calendar changes were presented by RSS Council as a “hot topic” information session on January 9.
Photos courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



School council – RSS Council debated the wisdom of the government’s proposal on January 10 and were not convinced.

Fulda Has its Ups and Downs in Dawson

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

January 16, 2013

Monday's Dawson events in the 2013 Fulda Challenge were a few hours behind schedule getting started, but considering that the entire convoy had to break trail from Eagle Plains Lodge to the Dempster Corner in order to get back to Dawson City, that wasn't unexpected.

"On the way down not one car was coming up," said event organizer Holger Bergold. "and we were breaking trail."

He wasn't complaining. Breaking trail was a good test for the tires, which are the centerpiece of this annual event, now in its 14th season, and the resulting footage will look great in the television coverage of this trip, **which will be used to sell tires all over Europe.**

"If you want to test winter tires, what better conditions could you ask for?"

The Dempster Highway was under a possible blizzard warning and was closed to regular traffic on Sunday, but Bergold says the road had been ploughed as far as the Arctic Circle so that the Fulda Challenge could hold its long distance run event there.

"They drove to the Arctic Circle so we could go in. It was really nice of the Highways Dept." The event at the Arctic Circle was a long distance run. Last year it had to be cancelled after they got there - due to extreme cold, but this year, with temperatures during the day rising to as much as zero where they were, there was no problem.

No traffic either.

"So they were running and there was no danger of running on the street because there were no trucks. It was great."

After that they spent the night at the Eagle Plains Lodge before heading south on Monday.

The 65 person entourage included athletes, support personnel, foreign journalists and international guests from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France. The media contingent alone numbered 30, including five camera teams.

Fulda had arrived in Dawson on Saturday evening, after three days of events, which began in Whitehorse on Thursday and included a buggy drive (Schwataka Lake), climbing (Mount Sima), dogsled racing from Muktuk Kennels (Takhini River), airplane pulling (Fish Lake), a blindfold obstacle race (Braeburn Lodge) and Ice Chopping (Pelly Crossing).

Saturday night they settled in at the Downtown Hotel and Aurora Inn, with a meal catered at the Oddfellows Hall ballroom.

That there was no Canadian team this year was something of a communication accident, according to Bergold. A French team had applied, and Fulda wanted to accommodate them, but had hoped to set it up as a French/French-Canadian duo. Somehow the two sets of possible athletes never connected, so they went with the French entry.

“Next year we are definitely having a Canadian team again.”

Susanne Knickel, the marketing manager for Goodyear-Dunlop (Fulda’s parent company) in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, sipped hot chocolate in the Moose Mountain Ski Lodge and opined that this year was “the best year ever” for the event.

The Yukon experience is just the best thing for them in terms of visuals and advertising impact, she said.

For the last three years Fulda’s arrival has seen temperatures plunge to anywhere from -35 to -50, causing the event planners to make last minute adjustments, as some things just couldn’t be done safely at those temperatures.

This year the group’s arrival coincided with 48 hours of heavy snowfall that had ploughs busy in Dawson for days. This year the town basked in single digit minus temperatures and, when it wasn’t snowing, clear skies through which a returning sun could be seen on the southern horizon. Up on Moose Mountain there was lots of snow for the planned event. Contestants had to run a marked course about halfway up the ski hill, slip into a lightweight kayak, and navigate a return course down the hill.

Running in soft snow is as hard as it looks, and several contestants were slowed to a trudge when they hit the steeper part of the slope.

After watching several others make the climb, one contestant turned to his mates and said good-bye. Knickel translated that he said he expected to die while making the run.

Coasting back down, the kayaks were hard to control and several contestants either flipped or lost their paddles during the attempt. They were chased by a camera crew on a snowmobile coming down and tracked by other cameras at the bottom of the slide.

Fulda’s days concluded with a press conference at the Downtown Hotel followed by the anticipated steak dinner catered by Dawson’s Fire Dept. Bergold, who has been the organizer of this event since it began, said this is always one of the highlights of the trip.



A runner starts up Moose Mountain.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



A kayaker flips on the way down.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Fulda vehicles from Driving Force parked outside the Downtown Hotel.
Photos courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Fulda Group



Holder Bergold

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



Kayaker followed by camera crew.jpg

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



A camera operator catches the finish of a kayak run. She lost her paddle.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Suzanne Knickel.

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

NATURAL MEDICINE

Honey is the only food on the planet that will not spoil or rot. What it will do is what some call 'turning to sugar'. In reality, honey is always honey. However, when left in a cool dark place for a long time it will "crystallize". When this happens loosen the lid, boil some water and sit the honey container in the hot water, but turn off the heat and let it ... liquefy naturally. It is then as good as it ever was. Never boil honey or put it in a microwave. This will kill the enzymes in the honey.

Cinnamon and Honey

But the drug companies won't like this one getting around. Facts on Honey and Cinnamon: It is found that a mixture of honey and Cinnamon cures most diseases. Honey is produced in most of the countries of the world. Scientists of today also accept honey as a 'Ram Ban' (very effective) medicine for all kinds of diseases. Honey can be used without side effects for any kind of diseases. Today's science says that even though honey is sweet, when it is taken in the right dosage as a medicine, it does not harm even diabetic patients. Researched by western scientists:

HEART DISEASES: Make a paste of honey and cinnamon powder, apply it on bread instead of jelly and jam and eat it regularly for breakfast. It reduces the cholesterol in the arteries and saves the patient from heart attack. Also, those who have already had an attack, when they do this process daily, they are kept miles away from the next attack. Regular use of the above process relieves loss of breath and strengthens the heart beat. In America and Canada, various nursing homes have treated patients successfully and have found that as one ages the arteries and veins lose their flexibility and get clogged; honey and cinnamon revitalize the arteries and the veins.

ARTHRITIS: Arthritis patients may take daily (morning and night) one cup of hot water with two tablespoons of honey and one small teaspoon of cinnamon powder. When taken regularly even chronic arthritis can be cured. In a recent research conducted at the Copenhagen University, it was found that when the doctors treated their patients with a mixture of one tablespoon Honey and half teaspoon Cinnamon powder before breakfast, they found that within a week (out of the 200 people so treated) practically 73 patients were totally relieved of pain -- and within a month, most all the patients who could not walk or move around because of arthritis now started walking without pain.

BLADDER INFECTIONS: Take two tablespoons of cinnamon powder and one teaspoon of honey in a glass of lukewarm water and drink it. It destroys the germs in the bladder.

CHOLESTEROL: Two tablespoons of honey and three teaspoons of Cinnamon Powder mixed in 16 ounces of tea water given to a cholesterol patient was found to reduce the level of cholesterol in the blood by 10 percent within two hours. As mentioned for arthritic patients, when taken three times a day, any chronic cholesterol is cured. According to information received in the said Journal, pure honey taken with food daily relieves complaints of cholesterol.

COLDS: Those suffering from common or severe colds should take one tablespoon lukewarm honey with 1/4 spoon cinnamon powder daily for three days. This process will cure most chronic cough, cold, and, clear the sinuses.

UPSET STOMACH: Honey taken with cinnamon powder cures stomach ache and also clears stomach ulcers from its root.

GAS: According to the studies done in India and Japan, it is revealed that when Honey is taken with cinnamon powder the stomach is relieved of gas.

IMMUNE SYSTEM: Daily use of honey and cinnamon powder strengthens the immune system and protects the body from bacterial and viral attacks. Scientists have found that honey has various vitamins and iron in large amounts. Constant use of Honey strengthens the white blood corpuscles (where DNA is contained) to fight bacterial and viral diseases.

INDIGESTION: Cinnamon powder sprinkled on two tablespoons of honey taken before food is eaten relieves acidity and digests the heaviest of meals

INFLUENZA: A scientist in Spain has proved that honey contains a natural 'Ingredient' which kills the influenza germs and saves the patient from flu.

LONGEVITY: Tea made with honey and cinnamon powder, when taken regularly, arrests the ravages of old age. Use four teaspoons of honey, one teaspoon of cinnamon powder, and three cups of boiling water to make a tea. Drink 1/4 cup, three to four times a day. It keeps the skin fresh and soft and arrests old age. Life spans increase and even a 100 year old will start performing the chores of a 20-year-old.

RASPY OR SORE THROAT: When throat has a tickle or is raspy, take one tablespoon of honey and sip until gone. Repeat every three hours until throat is without symptoms.

PIMPLES: Three tablespoons of honey and one teaspoon of cinnamon powder paste. Apply this paste on the pimples before sleeping and wash it off the next morning with warm water. When done daily for two weeks, it removes all pimples from the root.

SKIN INFECTIONS: Applying honey and cinnamon powder in equal parts on the affected parts cures eczema, ringworm and all types of skin Infections.

WEIGHT LOSS: Daily in the morning one half hour before breakfast and on an empty stomach, and at night before sleeping, drink honey and cinnamon powder boiled in one cup of water. When taken regularly, it reduces the weight of even the most obese person. Also, drinking this mixture regularly does not allow the fat to accumulate in the body even though the person may eat a high calorie diet.

CANCER: Recent research in Japan and Australia has revealed that advanced cancer of the stomach and bones have been cured successfully. Patients suffering from these kinds of cancer should daily take one tablespoon of honey with one teaspoon of cinnamon powder three times a day for one month.

FATIGUE: Recent studies have shown that the sugar content of honey is more helpful rather than being detrimental to the strength of the body. Senior citizens who take honey and cinnamon powder in equal parts are more alert and flexible. Dr. Milton, who has done research, says that a half tablespoon of honey taken in a glass of water and sprinkled with cinnamon powder, even when the vitality of the body starts to decrease, when taken daily after brushing and in the afternoon at about 3:00 P.M., the vitality of the body increases within a week.

BAD BREATH: People of South America, gargle with one teaspoon of honey and cinnamon powder mixed in hot water first thing in the morning so their breath stays fresh throughout the day.

HEARING LOSS: Daily morning and night honey and cinnamon powder, taken in equal parts restores hearing. Remember when we were kids? We had toast with real butter and cinnamon sprinkled on it!

DONATIONS FOR VANCOUVER YUKONERS BANQUET

If anyone would like to donate items for the Silent Auction, either goods or services, to contact Judy Leahy at jaleahy@telus.net or 604-560-3871.

Judy Leahy
Director
Vancouver Yukoners Association

OBIT



TAIT, Sheila Joanne (nee Cook)

September 20, 1929 - December 18, 2012

It is with great shock and sadness that we announce the passing of our cherished wife, mother, Nannie, aunt and friend Sheila Tait after a brave and spirited tussle with cancer. Sheila will be missed by the love of her life, her husband of 60 years, Tom; sister and brother-in-law Murill and Ray Forrester who were her best friends; her four children, Leslay (Ken), Kellay (Bob), Tom Jr. (Michele) and Megan (Kathy), the youngest of her treasures; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren Kylie (Dan), Ashley (Tyson), Beckham, Sara (Sean), Daniele (Mike), Violet, Ava, Josh (Brigitte), and Ayden; and many nieces and nephews. Sheila loved travelling the world with Tom, but there was no place more special to them than Sakinaw Lake. She lived her life with grace and style, and will be missed by the many she touched, including a number of salespeople around the Lower Mainland (she was a big fan of retail therapy). The family wishes to thank their loved ones for their unwavering support over the last few months, and wants to acknowledge the compassionate and tremendous care that Sheila received from the staff at Royal Columbian Hospital and Tri Cities Home Health. Sheila's recent journey was painful for her and those who loved her, but it reinforces the point that more research and education needs to be done so that others do not have to go through this same journey. In keeping with her courageous attitude, Sheila's last wish was for her remains to be donated to UBC to help further research. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to The BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities. A Celebration of Life will take place on Sunday, January 13 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Dogwood Pavilion in Coquitlam, 624 Poirier Street.

Published in Vancouver Sun and/or The Province from December 22 to December 23, 2012

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Gray hair is God's graffiti.
--- Bill Cosby

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

MUSHROOM TURNOVERS

1 lb mushrooms
2 eggs
2 tbspn butter
1 tblspn milk
1 tblspn chopped parsley
Pastry
Salt and pepper to taste

Fry mushrooms in butter, then thicken with beaten eggs and milk. Roll the pastry into oblong strips. Put the mixture on one-half and fold the other half over. Bake in a hot oven for 15 minutes.

Dorothy Campbell
The Star Cook Book
For the benefit of the War Work
Dawson YT 1942
Courtesy Bonnie Vars dvars@shaw.ca (In Calgary)

DATES TO REMEMBER

VANCOUVER YUKONERS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

February 21, 2013

11:30 am-2:00 pm

Croatian Cultural Centre Room C

3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver

Parking plentiful and free

Transit accessible – Handicap accessible

Bring a friend

Lunch \$10

RSVP vanyukoners@gmail.com



Vancouver Yukoners' Association 85th Annual Banquet



April 13, 2013

**River Rock Casino/Resort – Whistler Ballroom
8811 River Rd, Richmond BC
Free Parking in Casino Parkade**

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

Ask for *Vancouver Yukoners'* rate
Book by Jan 31, 2013 to get the “early bird” rate
Two Queen Room \$145.00 & 1 King Bed Room \$155.00
One Bedroom Suite \$179.00 & 2 Bedroom Suite \$229.00

Special rates extend 3 days pre- and post-banquet based on availability
IMPORTANT – Rates and Availability will change after Feb 1, 2013

**Banquet Reception: Ballroom Foyer No-Host Bar 5pm – 6pm
Welcome followed by Dinner: 6:15 pm**

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

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FOR TICKETS CONTACT VIVIAN STUART:

Email: lornellis@shaw.ca

Address: #217 – 3255 Cook St, Victoria BC V8X 1A4

Phone: 250-383-1349

**\$58.00 per person with cheque payable in advance to
*Vancouver Yukoners' Association***

(Maiden names too please – Helps to find friends of years ago)

IN WHITEHORSE CONTACT GOODY SPARLING: 867 668-3958

Cheques only please - payable to Vancouver Yukoners Association

**We encourage Yukon residents to fly Air North
and to contact them for any special discounts**

Check www.vancouver-yukoners.com for updates

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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