

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 399th Edition – November 14th, 2014

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Riding the River

Klondike Gold Rush - The Perilous Journey North

With the thaw in May 1898, about 7,000 boats of all types began the 500-mile Yukon River journey from the lakes to Dawson. This journey took about three weeks, but it was not an easy ride. Wild rapids tested stampedeers. The worst were Miles Canyon, White Horse, Five Fingers and the Rink. Stampedeers lost boats and outfits, and some drowned, but most arrived safely in Dawson by the summer of 1898.

THE WHITEHORSE RAPIDS

By Gus Barrett sourdoughs2@shaw.ca (In Port Alberni BC)

Have you seen the Whitehorse rapids in the days before the dam?

When the white caps leapt like horses, wild and free.

Where the river pounds in anger at the rugged, ageless rocks

On its never-ending journey to the sea.

The rapids where the legends tell of tragedy and fame,

In the golden days of Yukon and the rush.

Of the ribald shouts of victory as the bold stampedeers came,

And the sorrow as their puny boats were crushed.

Where the Mounties kept their vigil, as the multitude arrived,

Men and women filled with confidence and dreams.

Who fought the mighty rapids as doggedly they strived

To reach the Klondike and the nuggets in her streams.

Where we spent our evenings fishing in our youthful days of yore,
As the raging springtime freshets thundered by,
And we fought to hold our footing in the shallows by the shore,
When another fighting grayling takes the fly.

We were in awe of all its grandeur, and while standing there we strived
To understand its wild destructive forces.
Then the giant tractors rumbled in, construction crews arrived,
And they built the dam that tamed those raging horses.

Now the rapids are but a ripple, navigated without fear,
By Chechachos in their quest for Yukon lore.
But the sourdoughs remember those days of yesteryear,
And they see the rapids as they were before.

© 2005 Gus Barrett

COURTESY WHITEHORSE STAR – YUKON HISTORY SECTION -



Image by Whitehorse Star

Alex Gagoff

The Weekly Star

Whitehorse, Friday, Oct. 1, 1915

Three Are Killed, Fourth Is Dying

Alex Gagoff, Russian, Runs Amuck Yesterday and Wipes Out Railroad Section Crew - Most Terrible Tragedy in Local Annals Takes Place on Railroad Track Three Miles South of Whitehorse - Murderer Comes To Town, Tells What He Had Done and is Taken to Jail - Believed to Be Insane.

Dead - Pat Kinslow, George Lane and Tom Bokonich

Dying - Henry Cook

Whitehorse experienced the greatest shock of her existence yesterday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock when it became known that four men of the five comprising the section crew of the White Pass railroad at this place had been murdered on the railroad three miles east of town, the news of the tragedy being brought to town by the murderer himself, Alex Gagoff, a Russian.

After killing the men Gagoff took their handcar, and came to town, stopping at the home of F.E. Leslie, engine hostler half a mile south of town, where he greedily drank a pitcher of water and informed them that he had killed the section men.

Mr. Leslie at once telephoned the news to the depot and two minutes later Gagoff stopped the handcar near the Gobel residence and walked calmly down Front Street with his rifle, a 30-30 in his hands in which he also carried a number of cartridges.

R.B. Hyett who had been in the depot when the telephone message was received, intercepted Gagoff on the street and asked to see his gun, but the latter declined to part with it.

He then entered Macpherson's drug store and informed Mr. Macpherson that he had killed several men when the latter also requested that he hand over his gun which Gagoff did after some hesitancy.

In the meantime, Depot Agent Dickinson had gone for the police on the strength of Leslie's telephone message. But before the police arrived, Gagoff had left Macpherson's store and entered the White Pass Hotel where he asked Landlord Racine for his bill, he having been stopping there since his return from the outside three days before.

After paying his bill, Gagoff started to the post office with two letters but was intercepted and arrested by the police.

As soon as Gagoff left Leslie's on the handcar for town, Mr. Leslie started on foot up the track and was the first to reach the scene of the tragedy although Agent Dickinson, Don Muirhead and Dr. Clarke arrived on a handcar a few moments later.

Only Survivor's Story

Of the section crew of five men only one, Arthur Wilkins, escaped. In conversation with the editor of the Star last night Wilkins said:

"We had finished our lunch and some of us were sitting and others standing around the handcar where we had eaten. I heard someone say 'here comes Alex.' I looked around and Gagoff was coming down the hill from the opposite side of the track. He walked toward us and just as he stepped on the track he fired.

Realizing that he was shooting to kill, we all started to run and he continued shooting. I concealed myself in the brush below the track as quickly as possible and did not see the others fall. I do not think the first shot struck any one. I do not know how many shots were fired but there were several.

After a while I went back and found the men lying dead. I saw a man coming and went toward him with a club, thinking it was Gagoff coming back, but it was Leslie."

Coroners Jury Impanelled

A coroner's jury was impanelled composed of Isaac Taylor, W.C. Sime, P. Martin, E.A. Dixon, T.C. Richards and Geo. Wilson. The jury was taken to the scene of the crime by wagons and were there met by Inspector Bell who had gone to Carcross in the morning and was recalled by telegram. He assumed charge as coroner and the investigation began.

Later the train returned and the investigating court returned to town, bringing in the three bodies, that of Henry Cook having been brought down by Agent Dickinson, Muirhead and Dr. Clarke on the handcar, he being still alive when they reached him. He was taken to the hospital where examination revealed the fatal nature of his wound. The coroner's jury had not completed its investigations last night at 9 o'clock.

Where They Were Shot

Foreman Pat Kinslow was shot in the heart and death was probably instantaneous. He was a pioneer in Yukon and was in Dawson in '98. He was about 55 years of age. He was either a Canadian or American.

George Lane was first shot in the leg and had himself tied a handkerchief tightly around just above the wound. The murderer returned later and almost tore the top of his head off with another shot. Lane was 54 years old. He was an Englishman.

Tom Bokonich was an Austrian and was interned here a year ago but was allowed to work as he showed no disposition to leave the country. He was shot near one eye, the ball passing through this brain. He was 44.

Henry Cook the man still living when found was a German and was probably 60 years of age. He had been employed as a section hand on the road for many years, working for John Williams at Carcross for several seasons.

Murderer believed to be insane

Alex Gagoff, the murderer, is a Russian. He came north early last year with the Mischenko party of forty or more Russians who built a number of boats here in which they left for lower river points for the purpose of prospecting.

He returned from Dawson last summer, stayed around here all winter and worked under Pat Kinslow on the section for several weeks in the spring. In May he voluntarily quit his job and went to the outside. Less than a week ago he returned and said he had been in Vancouver and Seattle. He understood very little English and always appeared to be of a suspicious disposition.

While working on the section he always imagined the others were making sport of him. Last spring he was under police surveillance for a few days as his actions were such as to excite doubt as to his sanity.

He made no secret of his dislike to "Fighting Mike" Sinnet, but as the latter was not here, no attention was paid to Gagoff's threats. He freely admitted yesterday to Macpherson, Hyett and others that he had killed four men on the railroad. He is about 30 years old and is said to have been a Cossack.

Later - Henry Cook died at the hospital between 7 and 8 o'clock last night from the effects of his wounds.

The Weekly Star - Friday, Oct. 22, 1915

To Die March 10

Murder Alexander Gagoff Tried and Convicted

"You will be taken from here to the place from whence you came and kept there until Friday, the 10th day of March, 1916, when you will be taken to the place of execution and there hanged by the neck until you are dead; and may God have mercy on your soul."

The foregoing is the sentence passed by Mr. Justice Macaulay of the Territorial Court of Yukon, on Alexander Gagoff Wednesday afternoon at 3:50 o'clock and following his conviction of the murder of Henry Cook on the railroad about three miles south of Whitehorse at a few minutes before 1 o'clock on the afternoon of September, 30th, 1915, just twenty days previous to his trial and conviction.

The trial of Gagoff began at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning and was concluded a few minutes before 4 in the afternoon of the same day, the court being in session less than five hours.

Judge Macaulay and Court Stenographer George Craig arrived on the steamer Dawson from Dawson at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday. Sheriff George Brimstone preceded them by nearly a week to prepare and draw a jury venue and Crown Prosecutor J. P. Smith arrived on Sunday on the steamer Casca from Dawson.

The Weekly Star - March 10, 1916

Gagoff Hanged This Morning

To the extent that the taking of one life would atone for four others, the murder of the railroad section crew three miles south of town on the 30th of last September was expiated this morning when, promptly at 7 o'clock, **Murderer Alex Gagoff was launched into eternity**, being hanged by the neck until dead as the sentence of the court decreed he should be.

With firm, unflinching steps, marching between two stalwart members of the R.N.W.M.P., Gagoff mounted the steps of the scaffold and took his place on the trap door. Official Hangman Ellis, who came all the way from Ottawa to perform the work of less than a dozen seconds, adjusted the black cap.

Sheriff George Brimston then asked the man who stood on the threshold of death if he had anything to say. The question was repeated in the Russian language by Interpreter Zarnowsky. Gagoff answered in Russian, "No." In a clear voice Sheriff Brimston said, "May God have mercy on your soul".

Immediately Hangman Ellis sprung the trap and Alex Gagoff was launched to his death. The drop was 7 feet, 10 inches. His neck was broken and death was instantaneous. Dr. Clarke kept his hand on the pulse, which ceased to beat in 14 minutes. The body was then cut down and placed in a box.

Captain Bell, acting coroner, impanelled the following **jury: Wm. Drury, C.H. Johnston, S. Coulter, F.E. Harbottle, F. Langholz and Al Stewart**, who viewed the body, returning a verdict that the deceased came to his death by hanging in accordance with the decree of the court. The body was buried immediately beneath the scaffold.

Gagoff slept well through all of last night. He awoke at 5 this morning and later ate a breakfast consisting of two eggs, toast and a cup of coffee.

Those who had not seen Gagoff since his trial and conviction last fall were surprised at his appearance this morning, he having fallen off fully fifty pounds during his confinement.

In addition to those whose duty required their presence, the execution was witnessed by only a half dozen spectators. The temperature was 36 below zero.

The Weekly Star - Editorial

When Alex Gagoff goes to the scaffold this morning, and he will have made the trip where any but the earliest risers among the readers of this paper see this, he will expiate his crime of quadruple

murder, the most flagrant violation of God's command, "Thou shalt not kill," ever committed in the north and rarely equaled in the annals of crime.

Gagoff nurtured a fancied grievance until it bred a murderous spirit in his heart and in that mood he came upon four unarmed and harmless men and shot all of them to death, later gloating over his horrible act, convicting himself out of his own mouth.

So far as known he has never expressed regret for his wholesale slaughter; rather, he has persistently justified himself in the somewhat egotistic assertion, "Me show them Alex is a good man." While his poor victims will never know it, Alex will be a "good man" henceforth.

Never was an accused man given a fairer or more impartial trial than that accorded Gagoff. The law was more lenient to him than he was to himself.

He apparently reasoned that he had forfeited his right to live, but justified himself in that he had avenged fancied wrongs. In his opinion, the result justified the means employed to bring it about.

Far away from the land of his birth, the Russian Steppes, where he was reared, and where he served in that world-famous military organization, the Cossacks, Alex Gagoff, by the time this greets the readers eyes, will have answered to man for his crime against man. His arraignment by and his answer to God is another matter.

E. J. White, Editor

YUKON NUGGET

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

Courtesy Rolf & Marg Hougén marg*hougens.com (In Whitehorse)

Lloyd Ryder



Left to right: Howard Ryder, Lloyd Ryder, Gordon Ryder.

Lloyd Ryder

There's something about long time Yukon families that remind me of that pleasant old song from the late forties. It was called Dear Hearts and Gentle People.

The Ryder family of Whitehorse were dear hearts - important members of Yukon society who contributed much to the vibrant life people enjoy in the territory today.

Lloyd Ryder was such a man. Born into a family of three boys and one girl, he lived a good life in the Yukon. His father George served with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in Europe during the first world war where he managed to keep his sense of humour.

In a letter to his father sent from somewhere in France in February 1917, George Ryder wrote that he and his mates had been over the top of the trenches, through fields of frozen mud and into German trenches. George said they were quote - playing tag with Fritz with bayonets and bombs and - to quote George "we paid off a few debts we owed to Fritz."

In the same letter he thanked the ladies of the Yukon IODE for taking good care of the boys overseas with special parcels.

Back in the Yukon after the war, George started a family which included three sons - Lloyd, Howard and Gordon and a daughter Audrey. George also started an essential business called Ryder's Fuel Service. The fuel was cord wood cut in the bushes near town and delivered first by horse drawn wagon and then by truck to houses like ours on Strickland Street that relied on wood for winter warmth.

I recall with mixed emotions, the arrival of the Ryder's Wood truck. It meant the house would be warm, but it also meant I had a lot of chopping to do. Split cord wood was more expensive than uncut logs and money being tight - we bought logs.

George Ryder also served as Alderman on the first city council when Whitehorse became the capital of the Yukon in 1953. Meanwhile, his son Lloyd was making a name for himself in the flying business.

He began flying commercially in 1962 with Whitehorse Flying Service. It later became Yukon Flying Service, a bush plane operation which specialised in going places in the Yukon that were hard to get to.

Lloyd Ryder flew many a mining prospector to remote camps and made sure they were well supplied and safe in their isolated environment. You could count on Lloyd Ryder and his ski and float equipped aircraft.

US Senator Robert Kennedy counted on Lloyd Ryder to deliver him to the ten thousand foot level of a St. Elias Mountain he was about to climb. That was in March of 1965 when Lloyd made sure the world famous expedition to honour the late US President John F. Kennedy was safe and sound and had all the supplies they needed for the amazing mountain climbing feat.

He also took part in the miraculous air search for Ralph Flores and Helen Klaben who survived for 49 winter days after their plane crashed near Watson Lake in 1963.

In 2007, Lloyd was awarded the 'Order of Polaris' Aviation Award for his significant contribution to northern aviation.

Lloyd Ryder served as President and of the Yukon Order of Pioneers. He also spent a lot of time and energy in helping raise the standard of living for Yukon seniors. Lloyd Ryder passed away at the age of 87.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

Yukon Sports *an Illustrated Encyclopedia*

Yukon Sports *An Illustrated Encyclopedia* will be released in Whitehorse at the Sport Yukon Awards banquet at the Whitehorse Convention Center on Nov. 20, 2014. The book covers over 100 sport organizations, communities and events from 1882 (when the first recorded sporting event was held) to early 2014. Researched by Cathy Jones-Gates and written by John Firth. Published by Figure 1 from Vancouver, B.C.

Books will be available through Amazon and Chapters, Yukon bookstore, McBride Museum as well as from Sport Yukon directly.

A simple sport history quiz.

1. " I have the great pleasure to make the Yukon Sports Hall of Fame the legal receiver of stolen property."

Name the item

2. "We're never coming back here again. We had better do this right now because none of us...none of us are ever coming back here again. We'll never get another chance. This is our one chance."

Name the event

3. What sport claimed it could deliver the same satisfaction that one would get from lovemaking and pleasure seeking?

4. What Yukon-born radio personality (whose first sportscast was doing 'paw-by-paw' at the Yukon sourdough Rendezvous dog races) was instrumental in the formation of the National Hockey League's San Jose Sharks?

5. "Look at me. I get to hang around and hang onto good-looking, healthy girls in my sport and you guys get to pat each other on the bum." The guys were hockey players, what sport was the speaker involved in?

6. What was 'Creamers Coliseum' and who was Walter Creamer?
7. Until 1966 all sport in the Yukon relied almost exclusively on private sponsorship. What sport was the first to receive government funding and what was the event? (Clue: Not Canada Games or Arctic Winter Games)
8. What recreation complex was constructed on "half swamp, half buck brush and considered on the most undesirable piece of land."?
9. Who was the Yukon sport administrator named as one of the 20 most influential women in sport in Canada in 2006?
10. "Sometimes it was like fighting the Second World War all over again?" Which sport in which community?

All shall be revealed Nov. 20

Honour House Society

I am writing to my Yukon friends to ask for your assistance in "getting the word out" to the general public in Whitehorse, concerning the Nov 21st event described in the poster below. Perhaps you could circulate this information within your workplace, among your colleagues, and possibly engage the local media.

I, and my employer, BCIT, have had a long-standing relationship with Honour House Society over number of years. The work they have done on behalf of injured Canadian Forces members, and First Responders has been incredible, and they have a compelling story to tell.

Honour House Society recognized a major gap in the provision of a critical service to injured soldiers and First Responders, and engaged the private sector and general public to support the establishment of a facility which is available 24/7 to not only those who were injured in the line of duty, but also to their families who may not be residing in the Lower Mainland where the medical treatment is being provided. I should mention that this facility has been entirely funded, constructed and operated by the private sector and the general public.

Any help you can provide "to get the word out" would be most appreciated.

If you have any questions related to Honour House, by all means give me a call. My number, as always, is [\(604\) 816-4902](tel:6048164902).

Warmest regards,
Fred Mandl fmandl@shaw.ca (In Peachland BC)

Honour House provides free accommodation for our Armed Forces, Emergency Services Personnel, Veterans and their families as they recover from illness and injury. We've already helped several Whitehorse and Yukon residents and we'd like to help more.

Join us to hear how the story of one soldier's traumatic battlefield injury in Afghanistan and his miraculous recovery has led to the creation of a refuge for our heroes and their loved ones and how we hope to be able to build an Honour House in every Province in Canada.

**Sometimes Even
Heroes Need a Home**

**Friday November 21st, 2014
7:30 PM Whitehorse Firehall
305 Range Road, Whitehorse, Yukon
Refreshments will be served**

Richard Brandon my wife's Father

(several years ago I received an appeal for help in finding a Canadian/Yukon connection – this is an update – Sherron)

Dear Sherron,

I would like to update you with our search for the elusive Richard Brandon my wife's Father. You were so co-helpful and you took a personal approach when printing the article in the Moccasin Telegraph in 2010, on the information that we supplied.

We have at last found Richard Brandon after a cousin of Vicky's, Philip Smithers (retired in Dublin), somehow found a Marriage Certificate for Richard Brandon. We hired a Military Researcher again in England and after 7 months we had his Army Service Record and all the evidence needed to get the right match.

Vicky's mother gave some correct information but it was mixed with a smoke screen of misinformation too. Richard was English not Canadian as she led us to believe. The Canadian connection was there in the form of Richard's mother and Canadian husband sailing for Canada in 1946. It is a long story and I will give you a shortened version. Richard was born on the 2nd of December 1924 in Godalming, Surrey. His Mother was Ethel Gertrude Beddome 28 yr. Ethel lived with her parents and sister and brought up Richard as a Beddome.

Richard enlisted in the British Army under the surname of Brandon in 1942 and his mother's signature appears on the enlistment papers as his "Aunty", very sad indeed. In 09/1946 a new next of kin appears on Richards's service record after he was injured, it was in his hand writing, Mrs. E. G. Mitbourne, 43 South State Road, Nome, Alaska appears.

We traced Ethel Gertrude Beddome on Ancestry and found that she married Gaute Midtboen in 1944. Gaute was a Norwegian who had migrated to Canada in 1929 and served in the Canadian Army as a Sapper, in the Engineers regiment. The Mitbourne spelling was an Anglo version of the name. Gaute left England on the 20th of January 1946 as a passenger on the Queen Elizabeth arriving in New York on the 3rd of February. Gaute gave the address in Canada as, care of O. Mitboen, Low Bush, Ontario. We believe it was Olav, his brother who died in 1966. Gaute & Ethel were traced to Rocky Mountain House, Alberta in 1949 & 54 on the voters lists. Gaute died in 1954 but Ethel seems to disappear. Ethel had sailed from England to Halifax in May 1946 on the Lady Rodney to join Gaute.

My wife, Vicky is at peace at last, knowing that her father was real and wasn't a phantom character after all. The wash up of the story is that Richard married a German lady in 1960 and 2 years later they were in civilian life living in Surrey where Richard died in 1990. Richard's wife Hildegard signed his death Certificate, so we can interpret that they had a 30 year marriage and we hope a happy one too. We can't find any record of Hildegard.

We are continuing to search the records for more information and one day we may come up with further documents and maybe a photo or two. Richard served in the European Warfare and in Korea. He was entitled to 3 medals. I think we will have enough for a "Mill & Boon" novel very soon.

Vicky and I will always remember your help and we believe that we needed to reconnect with you and give you the updated story of our search.

Kindest Regards,
Paul & Vicky Chapman
(In Australia)

Liquor store shelf collapse in Whitehorse spills \$50K — mostly fine scotch

New shelving has since been approved by a structural engineer

[CBC News](#) Posted: Oct 30, 2014 8:09 AM CT Last Updated: Oct 30, 2014 12:14 PM CT

A shelf collapse at a Whitehorse liquor store last summer sent about a thousand bottles of liquor — mostly fine scotch — crashing to the floor, creating a pool of fine drink mixed with shards of glass.

Security footage of the event, obtained through Access to Information legislation, shows the sudden movement of a heavily laden shelf.

- On mobile? [Watch the video here](#)

An inventory of the damage shows the loss included 17 bottles of Talisker at a retail cost of over \$1,400, and eight bottles of Dalmore Cigar Malt Reserve that would have retailed for more than \$1,100.

Also among the damage: bottles by Macallan, Dalwhinnie, Lagavulin, Glenlivet and some Mackinlay's Shackleton Rare Old Highland Malt, a liquor that has received five-star reviews from connoisseurs and retails for \$180 a bottle.



A shelf collapse at a Whitehorse liquor store this summer sent about a thousand bottles of liquor — mostly fine scotch — crashing to the floor, creating a pool of fine drink mixed with shards of glass. (CBC)

A few months later, a new sturdier shelving unit is up, complete with the approval of a structural engineer called in to examine its sturdiness.

“It looks a lot better,” says Mark Hill, vice president of the Yukon Liquor Corp., “but it's also a lot more secure.”

Documents show that the total retail loss was \$50,873.05.

But the government claimed less than half of that in insurance, because the markup for liquor is more than double the wholesale price.

“Our intent is to destroy the bottles that were not actually broken as we will not be able to ensure the products are totally clear from glass shard contamination,” Geoff Dixon wrote in an email at the time. Dixon works in the purchasing and distribution section of the Yukon Liquor Corp.

According to Hill, the episode is now safely in the past.

“It’s not something we ever want to see happen again.”

He says shelving units across the territory have been checked to make sure no more scotch hits the floor.

Rolf and Margaret Hougen Collection



**Photos and home movies
1946–1978 by Rolf Hougen**

**Opening reception
Friday, November 7 5 – 7 p.m.**

Welcoming remarks by Premier Darrell Pasloski

Above: Red Bourassa in front of the Dennison house,
next to the Hougen's store, Main Street, Whitehorse, 1949.
Top: Baseball team, 4th Ave. and Lowe St., Whitehorse, ca. 1950
YA, Rolf and Margaret Hougen fonds, 2010/01 #32 and #473

NOVEMBER 7, 2014 – FEBRUARY 21, 2015

Come and see a fascinating selection of Rolf and Margaret Hougen photos and films that Yukon Archives acquired in 2010. They portray family celebrations, portraits, community events, local businesses, birthdays, weddings, Canadian Army and RCAF parties, as well as sporting activities such as tennis, boxing and hockey.



**Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Hougen Heritage Gallery
Arts Underground
305 Main Street, Whitehorse

Rolf Hougen filming in 1974.
Hougen personal collection, 16 mm film, digitized scan



Hougen photographs and films highlight work and play in Yukon's past

WHITEHORSE—Well-known Yukoner Rolf Hougen and Premier Darrell Pasloski recently opened an exhibition at the Hougen Heritage Gallery in Arts Underground.

The exhibition, *A Yukon Snapshot: Photos and home movies 1946 to 1978 by Rolf Hougen*, features selections from the thousands of images that Rolf and Margaret Hougen have donated to Yukon Archives.

“Rolf Hougen has created an incredible pictorial history of how Yukoners lived, worked and played in the mid-1900s,” Pasloski said. “This exhibition showcases Mr. Hougen’s talent as a photographer and demonstrates his commitment to documenting and preserving the history of our territory’s people, places and events.”

Additionally, the exhibition presents a selection of colour film clips compiled from 16-millimetre home movies that Hougen took while on business or vacation in Yukon, other parts of Canada and around the world.

“I am pleased that the Friends of Yukon Archives Society has chosen to exhibit selections from the Hougen collection,” Hougen said. “It has been a pleasure working with Yukon Archives. They deserve praise for the great work they do in preserving Yukon’s history.”

A Yukon Snapshot is the second exhibition of Rolf Hougen’s photographs hosted by the Friends of the Yukon Archives Society in the Hougen Heritage Gallery. The first exhibition, *Life in Whitehorse, 1946-1969*, is now on permanent display on the second floor of the Hougen Centre in downtown Whitehorse.

“Over the past 25 years Rolf Hougen has donated close to 5,000 photographs to the Yukon Archives,” Friends of the Yukon Archives Society president Diane Chisholm said. “They provide a fascinating documentation of activities in years gone by as well as an opportunity to see the many changes that have occurred since the images were taken.”

Examples of still and moving-image cameras Hougen used over the years will also be on display. *A Yukon Snapshot* is on exhibit until February 21, 2015.

Visit:

[Yukon Archives](#)

Backgrounder:

Rolf B. Hougen (b. 1928) is a long-time Whitehorse resident and prominent business owner. His parents emigrated from Norway to Canada and eventually settled in Whitehorse in 1944, where they opened a 600-square-foot store on Wood Street.

Hougen worked in the store before and after school, and took over its management in 1947 at the age of 19. Since then the store has grown into a 75,000-square-foot retail outlet, now situated on Main Street and known as the Hougen Centre, selling a variety of products.

The Hougen Group expanded further and has included a radio station, a cable TV company, a car dealership, real estate, sporting good outlets and more. Hougen is president of Hougen's Ltd. department stores and past chair of the Yukon Research and Development Institute and of the University of Canada North.

Hougen is an avid photographer. He began taking photographs at the age of 10 and has taken thousands of images documenting community events, sports, parades, weddings and daily life. In later years Hougen and his wife Margaret had a darkroom in their home. He took photographs for commercial clients and sold others in the family store.

In 2005 Hougen donated space in the Hougen Centre for use by the arts and heritage communities. Programming for Arts Underground and the Hougen Heritage Gallery is provided by the Yukon Arts Centre, the MacBride Museum of Yukon History and the Friends of the Yukon Archives Society.

News release #14-252



Rolf Hougen and Premier Pasloski

Photo courtesy Michael Mark, Communications and Event Coordinator, Official Photographer, Office of the Premier. *(material forwarded by Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse))*

Speaking Notes for Premier Pasloski
A Yukon Snapshot: photos and home movies 1946-1978 by Rolf Hougen
Friday, November 7, 2014.
Hougen Heritage Gallery at Arts Underground

Welcome and thank you all for coming. I am pleased to be here to celebrate the opening of “A Yukon Snapshot” which features the photographs and home movies of Rolf and Margaret Hougen. I am very pleased that Rolf is here to spend the evening with the family members, friends and others who share his passion for the territory’s history.

Unfortunately, Margaret is unable to attend the opening as she is in Vancouver. We all hope Marg will be back in Yukon soon.

As many of you know, Rolf Hougen moved to Yukon in his teenage years and has made Whitehorse his home ever since. A successful businessman and entrepreneur, Rolf has made significant contributions to the territory’s economic development.

But Rolf is not all business. He is also a person who recognizes the important role that the territory’s history, heritage and arts play in making Yukon a place where people want to live, work and play.

In 2005 Rolf and Marg decided to partner with the Yukon Art Society, the Yukon Arts Centre, the Friends of the Yukon Archives Society and the MacBride Museum of Yukon History to create Arts Underground and the Hougen Heritage Gallery.

This dynamic space is a hub for the arts and heritage in Yukon, providing opportunities for arts education and exhibition, and for interpretation of our unique archival collections held at Yukon Archives and at the MacBride Museum.

Rolf not only supports the arts and heritage communities through initiatives such as Arts Underground; he is also an artist in his own right.

With his cameras, Rolf documented Yukon during several decades of the last century. His photographs captured a way of life that defined Yukon’s post-World War II history.

A ‘Yukon Snapshot’ is a great title to describe an exhibition that provides captivating, often humorous glimpses into a past era.

The photographs and films are all unique and provide a wealth of information about life in Yukon from the 1940s to the 1970s.

At the same time the images document universal themes we can all relate to – family and friends, businesses and parties, baseball and hockey. The images we’re seeing tonight are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the wealth of the Rolf and Marg Hougen photographs and films.

For the last 25 years, Rolf and Marg have donated thousands of photographs to the Yukon Archives.

They are available for viewing at Yukon Archives, and the entire Hougen collection has been digitized.

I would like to acknowledge the Friends of the Yukon Archives Society for hosting the exhibition, as well as archives staff who work closely with the Hougens and the many other families, individuals and organizations who donate their records to the archives.



The great Yukon silver heist both memoir and crime story

Posted: Friday, November 7, 2014 3:00 am

The Daily Courier – Kelowna BC

By Don Plant



A Rock Fell on the Moon

A Rock Fell on the Moon

The book cover of *A Rock Fell on the Moon* features Alicia Priest, left, with her mom and sister in Elsa, The Yukon, in the early '60s. Top inset, her dad, Gerry Priest, holding a gun.

Fifty years ago, someone stole 70 tons of rock containing silver-rich ore from one of the biggest mining companies in Canada.

The great Yukon silver heist, as its known, would have netted \$2.3 million in today's dollars. The theft led to a long RCMP investigation and a series of expensive trials that ultimately convicted Gerry Priest, the mine's chief assayer, as the mastermind.

Despite serving hard time in prison, Priest never publicly admitted his guilt — not even to his two daughters. Alicia Priest, the younger of the two, was inspired to roll out her own investigation of what happened all those decades ago in the bucolic town of Elsa.

In *A Rock Fell on the Moon*, her first book, Priest weaves an engrossing yarn with a predictable ending. It doesn't matter because the ride is like sitting on the back of a single-ski Skidoo as it roars through the Yukon.

A lifetime of research and effort went into this labour of love, which reads both as a memoir and true-crime story.

A former reporter for the *Vancouver Sun*, Priest has the exacting eye of a seasoned journalist. She pays pointed attention to the way a silver mine operated in 1960s — at times too technical for a layman, but necessary to understand the full scope of her father's ambitious scheme.

It's apparent Priest took on this story as a sacred mission to make sense of her unusual childhood. Reading it becomes more compelling when you know she's now battling symptoms of ALS, a neuro-degenerative disease that has robbed her of speech.

While healthy, she tracked down an old Mountie who built the case against her dad, and mine employees who worked with him. She digs up assays of the stolen ore that helped convict him. She consults news articles, RCMP files and court documents. And she exposes the tortured letters her parents wrote each other after his arrest.

Priest writes with admiration and pity for her cardiac-challenged mother. She alternates between warm affection and thoughtful rants when describing her charismatic sociopath of a father.

The main players in the plot are painted with colour and depth. Their interactions — especially with the detectives and prosecutors — build suspense that keeps you turning the page.

Best of all, Priest uses the lenses of her childhood and adulthood to unmask her father as a clever narcissist who believes his own lies and deludes the ones he loves. With heart-breaking detachment, Priest documents the systematic punishment her incarcerated father inflicts on her once healthy, wholesome family.

A Rock Fell on the Moon is an intensely personal story that lays bare a little-known slice of the Canadian frontier. It's also a gripping read.

The book is available for purchase at [harbourpublishing.com- /titl/ARockFellontheMoon](http://harbourpublishing.com-/titl/ARockFellontheMoon).

Yukon born Actor

I was unaware, until chatting with a friend, that Whitehorse was the birthplace of an awesome SciFi star..... Yahmoh Penikett.

See bio at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tahmoh_Penikett

Chris Maylor chris@chrismaylor.org (In California)

OBIT



SMITH, Arthur Brian

March 24, 1952 – October 3, 2014

Brian was predeceased by parents Frank and Ruth (nee Stunden) Smith. He is survived by his son, Kenny Algona and by Kenny's mother, Alice Algona, brother Perry (Donna), sister Shelagh (Rod Russell) and brother Paul (Sylvie Cormier), nieces and nephews, aunts and cousins. **Brian was born in Dawson City, Yukon and as a boy moved with his family to live in Whitehorse, Ottawa and then Yellowknife. Following graduation from UBC, Brian worked in Whitehorse and then Vancouver.** He is remembered for his keen intellect, athleticism, and sense of adventure. He is now at peace. The family thanks the staff at The John Ruedy IDC at St Paul's Hospital and The Dr. Peter Centre, Vancouver, BC for their care and support. Donations in Brian's memory can be made to either organization. Memorial Service and interment at Elmwood Cemetery, Winnipeg, Manitoba summer, 2015.

See more at: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/vancouver/obituary.aspx?n=arthur-smith&pid=172925581&eid=sp_ommatch#sthash.1EjZQRs8.dpuf



McLAREN - DICKSON, Sheena

November 12th, 1936 - October 7th, 2014

On Tuesday, October 7th, 2014 the world lost an exceptional human being. Sheena McLaren was born in Inverness, Scotland and **immigrated to Whitehorse, Yukon with her family in 1963.** In 1972 the family relocated to North Vancouver. Soon after arriving, she embraced her passion for

all things Scottish and began working for Murphy's Scottish Imports. Her vision and desire to give of herself to the community led her to purchase the store and transform it into Gastown's iconic House of McLaren. For over 30 years Sheena touched customers near and far with her care and sincerity. Sheena was a loving mother to her three children Lesley, Derek (Mary-Ellen) and Alexandra (Tim) and was an exceptionally loving grandma to Iain, William, Cameron and Quinn. Predeceased by sister Kitty. Sheena is also survived by her long-time partner Leon, ex-husband Alex and sister Irene (Earl). She embodied an ambience of enthusiasm and was especially generous of spirit. She will be remembered, and her relationships cherished, by all that had the privilege of knowing her. Our family would like to express their heartfelt thanks for the exceptional care provided for our mother by Dr. Sugar and the staff of 7 West at Lions Gate Hospital .

See more at: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nsnews/obituary.aspx?n=sheena-mclaren&pid=172946193&eid=sp_ommatch#sthash.pwc2tU4h.dpuf



TWARDOCHLEB, Norbert (Tim)

Norbert (Tim) Twardochleb passed away, after a short battle with cancer, surrounded by family on October 19th, 2014 at the age of 73, in Whitehorse, Yukon. Tim will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 50 years, Audrey, son Trevor (Lareina) Twardochleb, daughter Tracey (Jason) Bilsky and five grandchildren, Jetta & Maren Bilsky, and Peyton, Ryder, and Emery Twardochleb. Tim was born in Southey, Saskatchewan on January 27th, 1941, a son of Titus and Eleanor Twardochleb, the fourth of four children, with three surviving sisters, Sally Kelly, Millie (Allan) Taylor, and Fran (Gerald) Schuster. Tim's love of sports was apparent from the start, and he enjoyed his years playing for the Raymore Rockets hockey team during high school, along with football, baseball, track- you name it. During this time he also met the love of his life, Audrey, beginning an enviable love affair that spanned 50+ years. After high school, Tim ventured to Weyburn, Saskatchewan where he graduated from the Psychiatric Nursing program in 1964 and worked in the hospital there, focusing on recreation therapy. Tim was naturally generous and giving, and he would go out of his way to make people feel valued. These gifts, along with the impact he saw recreation have on healing, began a life long career in sport and recreation. Tim and Audrey were married in Weyburn on June 5, 1965 and soon after moved to Nipawin, Saskatchewan after accepting the position of Recreation Director for the town. After welcoming their first child, son Trevor, they moved to Melville, Saskatchewan where Tim enjoyed his position as Recreation Director there. He was a lead in the local Kinsmen organization, where they fostered many lifelong friendships, and in 1969, Tim and Audrey welcomed their daughter Tracey. **In 1977, a call from the north led to the family's next adventure, with Tim accepting an offer to become the Recreation Director in a booming town called Faro in the Yukon Territory. Tim treasured his years in Faro. His passion was to foster a strong sense of community by bringing people together through sports, recreation and the arts. He created an environment**

in the recreation centre where citizens felt welcomed and active, and Tim was fondly referred to as Mr. T. The closure of Cyprus Anvil mine led the Twardochleb family back to Saskatchewan in 1984 where Tim became a Recreation Consultant for the Government of Saskatchewan. Although the family lived in Saskatoon, Tim's position required him to travel extensively. However, his positive attitude kept him going, and enabled the kids to attend University while living at home...another sacrifice that defines who Tim was. In **1998, Tim** and Audrey returned home to the Yukon. Tim finished his career with Crime Prevention Yukon, and was instrumental in the creation of Yukon's chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). However, his most important and fulfilling position started **in 2004** when he retired to take on the full time position of Super Grandpa. Tim made sure he supported each grandchild's sport, music, and educational ventures and if you looked up in the stands, Tim and Audrey would be there. Tim loved to golf with his buddies, putter in the yard, workout at the Canada Games Centre (visiting with people more than walking!) and camp in his beloved motorhome. Tim and Audrey enjoyed 10 years of visiting Hawaii each winter to warm their bones and spend time with long-time friends. Tim was a loving, happy man who went out of his way to connect with people. His warm and loving spirit was infectious and he took pleasure in chatting with everyone he met, to find out their story (and tell a few of his own!). We will miss his humour, his laugh, and his love, and will hold him in our hearts forever and ever. Tim's Celebration of Life will be held in Sacred Heart Cathedral in Whitehorse, Yukon, on Thursday, November 6th at 2 p.m. A reception will follow in the CYO Hall after the service. Everyone is welcome. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Yukoner's Cancer Care Fund through the Yukon Hospital Foundation at: <http://www.yhf.cagiving>

Published in The Regina Leader-Post on Nov. 1, 2014

Robert Francis (Bob) Pearce



Passed away peacefully at Sunnyside Home in Kitchener on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at the age of 67 after a long and courageous struggle with Huntington's disease. He was born in Calgary, Alberta on July 10, 1947. Bob was a loving husband of 42 years to Dorothy (nee Gerber) and a cherished dad of Tim and Christina. He leaves a sister, Kaye (Garth) Baumann, and her children, Lynn Siegrist (Tony Galindo), Karen Kamps and David (Shandel) Pearce. He is also survived by sisters-in-law Elsie Gerber and Alice (Paul) Yantzi and nieces Heidi (John) Bailey and Heather Yantzi. He was predeceased by his parents, Frank and Kay Pearce, as well as Dorothy's parents, Dan and Laura Gerber, and his brother-in-law, Norm Gerber. Bob's childhood was spent in Ottawa with a **posting to the RCAF base in Whitehorse, Yukon from 1954 - 1957**. Bob shared many stories over the years of the time spent in the Yukon and, in particular, playing in the snow during the dark daylight hours. While attending Algonquin College, **the far north called again when Bob spent four summers working as a member of a survey crew during the construction of the Dempster Highway across the Arctic Circle from Dawson City to Inuvik**. He had a great passion for aviation and at one time was a member of the Ottawa Flying Club. Bob spent his entire work career with the Department of National Defence at the Defence Research Establishment Ottawa (now Defence Research and Development Canada). He spent his first years working with his technical supervisor to set up the new Defence Electronics Section which involved

building and testing electronic equipment. Then he switched to the Electronic Warfare group working with computer-controlled equipment. During those years, Bob and his colleagues made numerous trips to Halifax and Esquimalt to install and test equipment on navy destroyers in preparation for field trials. Bob finished his career in Radar Countermeasures working in the anechoic chamber setting up and testing experimental antenna configurations. Bob loved the work that he did but his priority was always his family. He loved us and cared for us with great devotion. We will never forget the stories he would tell us and his quirky sense of humour. Bob's family will receive relatives and friends at the Henry Walsler Funeral Home, 507 Frederick Street, Kitchener, 519-749-8467 on Friday, November 7 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. The Funeral Service will be held in the chapel of the funeral home on Saturday, November 8 at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Shirley Ruller officiating. Reception to follow. Interment in Woodland Cemetery, Kitchener following the Reception. All are welcome at the Graveside Service. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Huntington Society of Canada or charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family (cards available at the funeral home). Visit www.henrywalsler.com to view Bob's memorial.

Published in The Ottawa Citizen on Nov. 5, 2014

Jack (John A. L.) FOSTER



FOSTER, Jack (John A. L.) With saddened hearts and much love we say farewell to Jack who passed away peacefully at the age of 85 on October 26, 2014 in Nanaimo, BC. Jack is predeceased by his loving wife Mary and is survived and will be dearly missed by his two sons Terry (Susan) Foster and Russ (Cindy) Foster, his daughter Carla (Army) Montrose, his nine grandchildren Mark, Neil, Colleen, Kyle, Taylor, Brady, Brett, Blake, Cameron, his sister Vaughn and his beloved dog Jamie. Jack is predeceased by his four brothers Doug, Harold, Bill, and Bart. Jack was born in Edmonton, Alberta in 1929. In 1948 he began his training in the RCMP and shortly after met and married Mary, his wife of 48 years. Over the course of his RCMP career Jack and Mary and the family lived in a number of places in Saskatchewan including Glaslyn, Meadow Lake, Yorkton, Regina, North Battleford and Prince Albert. Jack had a very successful 25 year career with the RCMP during which he made many friendships that have lasted a lifetime. In 1972 he left the RCMP and the family moved to Tsawwassen, BC where he continued **working in the Public Service with a brief stint in Whitehorse, Yukon.** In 2001 Jack and Mary retired to Nanaimo, BC where Jack enjoyed swimming, playing a good game of crib and being an avid Roughrider fan. He had a passion for dogs and could be found many days at the park walking his dog and visiting with friends. For many years Jack and Mary enjoyed attending the Annual RCMP reunions and reconnecting with the many friends they had made while he was a member. Jack was a devoted husband and father, a great friend to many, a fun person to be around and will always be remembered as "one of the good guys". A Memorial Service and Celebration of Jack's Life will take place at 1:00 pm on November 10 at Sands Funeral Chapel, 1 Newcastle Ave, Nanaimo, BC. Family and friends will be welcome to speak about their memories of Jack. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Sands ~ Nanaimo



Published in Nanaimo Daily News from Nov. 6 to Nov. 7, 2014

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Forgiveness is not the removal of your memory but the removal of your pain.
– *Rev Run Quotes*

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

The Eastern Star Cookbook
For the benefit of War Work – Dawson 1942

Carrot Delight

2 cups diced potatoes
1 cup sliced onions
2 cups diced carrots
¼ cup butter
1 tsp salt

Arrange vegetable in layers. Dot each layer with butter and sprinkle with salt.
Cover and cook in oven until tender.

Clara May

DATES TO REMEMBER

VANCOUVER YUKONERS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

AND CHRISTMAS LUNCH

December 4, 2014

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 k29j32@gmail.com

604 819-7630



**Vancouver Yukoners' Association
87th Annual Reunion
April 10-12, 2015**



Banquet - Saturday, April 11, 2015

**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
1 King Bed or 2 Queen Bed Standard Room \$152.00 & 1 Bedroom Suite \$182.00
2 Bedroom Resort Suite \$232.00**

Special rates extend 3 days pre- and post-banquet based on availability
BOOK EARLY – AVAILABILITY & RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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

For group seating reservations, please follow directions on website at
www.vancouver-yukoners.com

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

.....
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)

We encourage Yukon residents to fly Air North
Contact them for any special discounts they may offer

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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