

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 431st Edition – Dec. 4th, 2016

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



Merry Christmas to all, from Gillian & Edward.

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

Watched “9 Lives of Christmas” (2014) on Showcase Channel twice so far this season and Gillian and Edward were on the side of the sidewalk rings bells with a Christmas kettle twice during the movie. They are dressed much like in this photo. – Sherron

After sending Ione a copy of her mothers’ letter and Moccasin Telegraph 430, I received this note. Ione Christensen is the daughter of the late Martha and G. I. Cameron.

- Sherron Jones

Thanks for this Sherron, enjoyed the piece in the paper [MocTel] on Mom and Dad.

Here is a poem I wrote while Dad was still alive and I was able to check with him.

It is about the shooting of 'Sulfur Creek Sam'.

I read it the other night at the MacBride Museum.

It should be noted 'Sam' was not his name.

I wrote this poem in 1996 for a CBC Parody on Robert Service Competition.

This is a true story about my Dad, it happened just after he was posted to Dawson City in 1924. - Ione

Sulfur Creek Sam

By Ione Christensen pepper*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

IT WAS 60 BELOW IN THE LAND OF SNOW WHEN
THE DETACHMENT DOOR SWUNG WIDE.
THROUGH THE BILLOWING AIR, WITH A BEARD LIKE A BEAR,
CONSTABLE BILL CAME INSIDE.

NOW FOR CAM AND JOE THE NIGHT HAD BEEN SLOW,
AND THE CELLS WERE ALL EMPTY AND CLEAN.
THIS SUDDEN INTRUSION CAUSED GENERAL CONFUSION,
AND THEY WANTED TO KNOW WHERE HE'D BEEN.

“GO GET YOUR COATS, THERE’S NO TIME FOR JOKES;
WE’RE ALL NEEDED UP ON THE CREEKS.
OLD SAM HAS GONE PLUMB MAD, IT REALLY LOOKED BAD
HE HADN’T BEEN SEEN FOR WEEKS.

SO THIS MORNING AT DAWN WE SENT CORPORAL RON
TO SEE IF SAM WAS STILL A TICK’EN.
HE JUST GOT TO THE DOOR, WHEN A GOD-AWFUL ROAR
MADE US THINK THE CORPORAL WAS STRICKEN.

RON DOVE IN THE SNOW, AND OLD SAM LET US KNOW
IN TERMS WHICH COULD NOT BE MISTAKEN.
HE WAS MAD AT US ALL; HAD BEEN SINCE FALL.

THE SHOOTING OF SULFUR CREEK SAM
AND WE KNEW THE OLD BOY WEREN’T FAKIN’.

SO WITH HORSE AND SLEIGH THEY GOT UNDER WAY
AND DROVE WITH GREAT SPEED UP THE TRAIL.
AT GRANVILLE THEY WAITED AND EACH CONTEMPLATED,
FOR THEY KNEW THERE WAS NO ROOM TO FAIL.

“WELL BOYS,” SAID RON, “WE CAN’T WAIT HERE TILL DAWN
IT’S TIME WE GOT THE JOB DONE.

CAM AND JOE, TAKE THE WEST; BILL, COVER THE REST
I'LL TAKE THE FRONT DOOR ON THE RUN."

THEY SPREAD OUT 'ROUND THE YARD, BUT THE FRONT DOOR WAS
BARRED, THEN SAM FIRED A ROUND AND RON WAS DUCKING FOR COVER.
SAM FIRED MORE ROUNDS AND IN THREE MIGHTY BOUNDS
OLD RON WAS HUGGING A TREE LIKE A LOVER.

AS CAM CROUCHED IN THE NIGHT, SAM LINED UP HIS SIGHT.
THERE'LL BE ONE DEAD MOUNTIE BY DAWN.
A BLINDING FLASH, THEN SAM MADE A DASH
BACK INTO THE CABIN AND WAS GONE.

WAS CAMERON DEAD? WAS HIS HEART FULL OF LEAD?
HIS COMRADE CRAWLED FORWARD WITH FEAR.
JOE'S HAND FOUND AN ARM, WHICH HE SHOOK WITH ALARM.
"CAM! CAM! YOUR BUDDIES, WE'RE HERE!"

"IT'S OKAY, JOE. I REALLY DON'T KNOW BUT I'M SOUND
BOTH OF LIFE AND OF LIMB.
HIS GUN JUST EXPLODED, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS LOADED.
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ME, NOT HIM!"

THERE LAY THE GUN SAM DROPPED WHEN HE'D RUN,
IT'S BARREL PLUGGED WITH SNOW SPLIT ASUNDER.
CAM LOOKING WHITE, THANKED HEAVEN THAT NIGHT,
AND ALL SHOOK THEIR HEADS IN WONDER.

THEY KEPT GUARD ALL NIGHT, BY A SILVER MOON BRIGHT
WHILE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS DANCED IN A BAND.
OLD SAM WAS STILL THERE, LIKE A WOLF IN HIS LAIR,
AND THEY WAITED WHILE FATE PLAYED HER HAND

IN THE PALE MORNING LIGHT, THE SUN CAME IN SIGHT
THEN THEY CALLED AND SHOUTED HIS NAME.
"IT'S TIME FOR A TALK; COME OUT AND LET'S WALK;
THERE'S COFFEE AND NO ONE'S TO BLAME."

THE FOG WAS A SHROUD, WHEN SAM'S SHOTS RANG OUT LOUD
AND THEY KNEW THE DIE HAD BEEN CAST.
THEN EACH MAN DREW HIS RIFLE, IT WAS NO TIME TO TRIFLE
AND THE BULLETS FLEW THICK AND FAST.

THEN AIR WAS STILL THROUGH VALLEY AND HILL WHEN THEY
PUSHED OPENED THE SHATTERED PLANK DOOR.
OLD SAM WAS DEAD, PUMPED FULL OF LEAD, AND HE LAY

ON THE FROSTED DIRT FLOOR.

SULFUR CREEK RAN DEEP UNDER THE ICE TO SEEP,
THROUGH THE MUCK IN THIS LAND OF GOLD.
THE COLD AND SNOW WILL ONLY KNOW
FOR SAM'S STORY WILL NEVER BE TOLD.

THEY BURIED HIM DEEP IN THE LAND TO SLEEP,
AND THEY ALL STOOD AROUND IN A RING.
EACH MAN BOWED HIS HEAD AS THE LAST PRAYER WAS SAID,
AND THE HUSKIES STARTED TO SING.

Ione Christensen 1996

MocTel 430

Sherron, another wonderful product!

GI Cameron, his wife and daughter were wonderful folk. Think it was 1992 we were visiting in the Yukon after transferring out in 1964. There was "GI" driving old folk, much younger than himself around Whitehorse. I believe he was in his nineties then. The epitome of what a gentleman should be.

With so many incidents reported of police responding badly to incidents requiring patience, common sense and humanity perhaps police training courses should present a profile of "GI" and Martha. No question, proliferation of drugs, guns and gangs confronting police today present a different scenario to policing. Nonetheless, the courteous approach which these two grand folk afforded everyone they dealt with would gain respect and lower the level and incidence of violent reaction in confrontations.

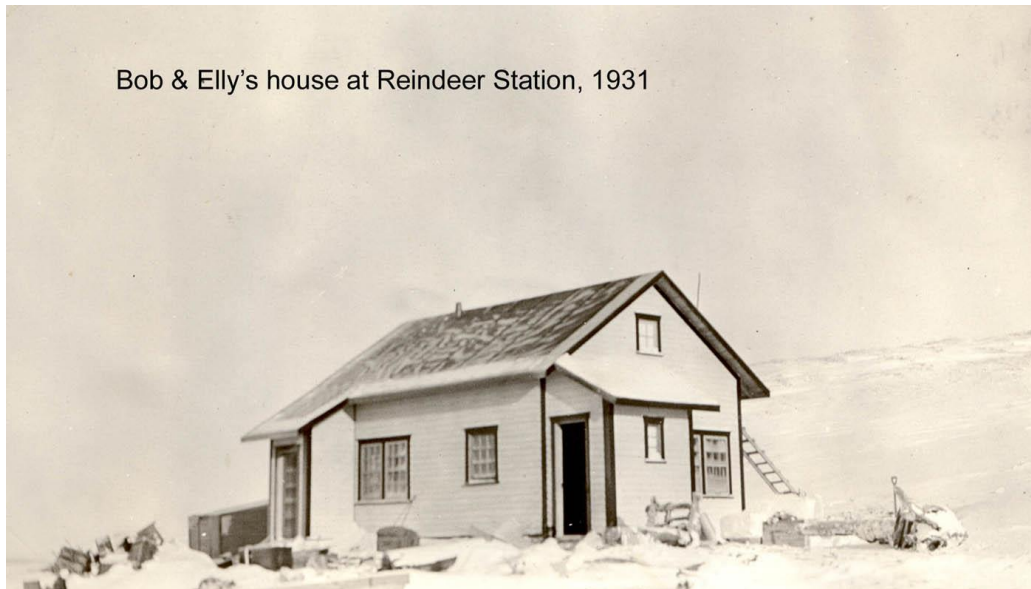
So pleased you published their story.

Bill Dawson (retired RCMP) yhuree@sympatico.ca (In Burlington ON)

The following article about the reindeer in the NWT today prompted me to go back to Aksel Porsild's 2005 story below and share it once more. Take a look at the article at this link; I am unable to copy it. Lots of beautiful photos and in part it reads: IT'S A HISTORIC HERD Domesticated reindeer have been herded in the Mackenzie Delta for more than 80 years. It all started back in 1935, when they were brought to the area from Alaska to help relieve a local shortage of caribou.

– Sherron Jones

http://spectacularnwt.com/story/santas-reindeer-are-real-and-they-live-northwest-territories?utm_source=social&utm_medium=facebook&utm_content=santas_reindeer_northwestterritories



The Arctic Reindeer Caper – 1927-35

By Aksel Porsild (2005)

A Royal Commission was established in 1919 to investigate why the caribou herds of the western NWT had changed their migration patterns. The result of these changes were adversely affecting the indigenous Native peoples' livelihood in terms of food, clothing and other benefits which the caribou supplied in one form or another. In addition to being their staple food, caribou furnished skins for clothes and boots, sleeping robes, sinew for sewing clothing, and bones for various tools and implements. A disaster was in the making since the animals were not only scarce, but non-existent in some areas, forcing long travel to obtain alternate food supplies.

The upshot of the Commission was that for unknown reasons, the migratory caribou herds simply could not be depended on to be available to the people who needed them, and that an alternate food supply of some sort, be arranged for. It was noted that a similar situation had occurred in western Alaska and to combat this, 1200 reindeer, which are simply domesticated caribou, had been imported from Soviet Russia in 1892; they had grown into a huge herd, and were thriving wonderfully. It was decided that a like solution be tried in the Mackenzie Delta region with reindeer imported from Alaska.

Before such an undertaking could take place, however, it had to be determined that the food supply for these animals was appropriate in the region they were to be established in, as well as forage along the trek eastward since it had been proposed that a herd of these reindeer be driven from the Seward Peninsula to the Mackenzie Delta. The Federal

Department responsible, Interior, under the direction of O. S. Finnie, hired two Arctic biologists, Dr A. E. Porsild, of Ottawa, and his brother Bob, who was also in Canada at the time, to do a survey of the route of importation of a proposed herd. These brothers had been raised in Greenland, where their father, Dr M. P. Porsild had established a scientific station for Arctic study on Disko Island, off Greenland's west coast. They were trained and well versed in the botany of the Arctic regions.

Erling and Bob were to do the feasibility study survey during the years of 1926-28 and the brothers embarked on a two year odyssey taking them some 24,000 kilometres in Alaska, Yukon and the northwestern NWT, as far east as Paulatuk, and south to Great Bear Lake, using as their means of travel canoe, motorboat, dog team and on foot. Firstly, they were to determine the sustainability of feed for permanent year round nutritional needs of a large herd of reindeer. Then they made a dog team journey across the northern coasts of NWT, Yukon and Alaska to the Nome-Kotzebue area and observed the existing herds there, as well as the environment the animals were living in. Then they mushed back along the proposed route, in the middle of winter, with numerous side trips to determine the extent and quality of graze for the animals, and were back in the Delta by Christmas, with thousands of botanical specimens of grasses, vascular plants and mosses.

A herd of 3,000 animals was purchased from Loman Brothers, owners of the Alaska reindeer herd, in the fall of 1929 on the recommendations of the Porsild brothers' surveys; Erling in fact represented the Canadian Government in the herd selection in Nome and stayed in the area until the beginning of the drive of some 1500 miles which got under way on Dec 26, 1929. A Lap herder, Andrew Bahr, was "trail boss" with a crew of other Lapps and some Native Inuit from Alaska.

While Erling was negotiating with the Americans for a "seed herd" of reindeer to begin a reindeer husbandry industry, Bob remained in the Delta area to prepare an area for the animals. He built corrals, herder accommodations and fences in a reserve of 17,000 square kilometres which had been set aside on the east side of the Delta. Much work was done on the east side of East Channel as well as a summering area on Richards Island in the northern Delta, where predators were less likely to be prevalent.

As an aside; Bob Porsild, while at Aklavik completing his labours for the Government, imported a bride from their native Denmark. Elly Rothe-Hansen made an odyssey almost as long as her future husband had just done, with several means of transport: steamship from Copenhagen to Montreal, train to Edmonton, thence to Waterways (Ft Mc Murray) then steamboat down the Athabasca and Mackenzie Rivers to Aklavik arriving in September of 1930. They were wed there on Sept 18 of that year; she was the first white woman married in the Delta area. (But this is another story!)

Bob set up his headquarters for the herd's reception at Reindeer Station, on a high bank above East Channel, some 90 kilometres south of present-day Tuktoyaktuk and lived there for a couple of years before leaving the employ of the Government, his herd preparation work done.

Meantime, the herd made poor time moving through mountain passes and across the tundra. Blizzards, carnivore depredation and intense cold slowed progress, and some stampeding also took place. Distraction of some parts of the herd with migrating groups of native caribou also happened and several times the herd had broken up, necessitating round-ups and searches for strays. But the animals did make progress and they arrived at the Yukon-NWT boundary in late 1933, about a year behind the anticipated schedule, but the herders were not able to get it across the Delta for almost two years, and it didn't arrive on the eastern side until Spring of 1935. Three thousand animals started the drive and 2370 were delivered, but only 600 were of the original group, the rest born along the trail.

However the reindeer thrived in the Delta area and by 1936 the herd had exceeded the original size and growing to almost six thousand animals at one point. Management of the herd was done by the Federal and NWT governments with Native herders for many years and the animals did what they were designed to do: give local Inuit not only an industry but to feed them as well.

In the event, however, it proved very difficult to herd these animals in the traditional way. It was hard work, and for little pay, Inuit herders moved with the animals in all kinds of weather, all seasons, often away from families for long stretches at a time. The herds often intermingled with native barren-ground caribou herds, interbreeding in many cases. In the late sixties the herd, now several smaller herds, were slated for sale to Inuit herders, and in 1974 the remaining animals were sold to Bill Nasogaluak and Silas Kanagegana, who established Canadian Reindeer Ltd., eventually becoming a million dollar industry. The Nasogaluak family still owns and manages them in the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula.

After the completion of the reindeer project, Erling Porsild returned to Ottawa, where he established a permanent home and became chief botanist for the National Museum. He led botanical and multi-discipline excursions throughout the Arctic and the Canadian Rockies, has represented the National Museum in international scientific congresses in such far flung locales as Norway and the Soviet Union, and was Canadian Consul in Greenland during World War II. He was awarded the Massey Medal in 1966, joining such other scientists and explorers as Henry Larsen, of St. Roch fame, Hugh Bostock, who mapped most of the Yukon with Geological Survey of Canada, and Captain T. C. Pullen, arctic navigator extraordinaire.

His brother Robert, eschewing the scientific life, moved first to Vancouver, where the mild climate disagreed with him, then to the Yukon, where he remained until his death in 1979. He and Elly tried their hand at trapping (in the Sixtymile River area) gold panning (Stewart River) and as dredge carpenter at Bear Creek. In between they raised four children, two of whom are still in the Whitehorse area, and established Johnson's Crossing Lodge in 1947, which they operated for almost 18 years, then sold it to daughter Ellen and her husband Phil Davignon in 1965. After retirement, Bob and Elly travelled three summers in northern Yukon, collecting plants and grasses along the

Dempster Highway for Erling and the National Museum. They lived quietly in Whitehorse until Bob's passing, Elly following her beloved "Bubi" in 2004.

Of course, Bob and Elly were my parents, Erling my uncle. I am quite proud of all three of them!

Further reading: Arctic Exodus, by Dick North, Macmillan of Canada, 1991
Also; CBC and NFB did a film in 1999, titled "The Herd", which chronicles the trek; it was written by Peter Lynch and Nicholas McKinney.

Is Santa really a prospector ?

Meet the Yukon's prospector of the year
Pierre Chauvin Wednesday November 23, 2016

Joel Krahn/Yukon News



Eugene Curley won the 2016 Prospector of the Year award.

The 2016 Yukon prospector of the year is a calm, towering, middle-aged man with a Santa Claus-like beard.

He is also a man of few words.

On Monday, when Eugene Curley accepted the award at the Yukon Geoscience Forum banquet, he told the crowd he'd like to thank everybody — and immediately stepped off the stage.

“It’s a great honour,” he told the News last week.

As a child, Curley heard about the Klondike and legendary stories from the gold rush. And unlike most of us, he stuck to his childhood dream.

He started working in mines in the Northwest Territories in the 1970s before moving to the Yukon in 1978.

A couple of years later he tried his hand at placer mining before turning his attention to prospecting for hard rock minerals — including gold.

He prospected around Dawson, Faro and Ross River, and even did some stints abroad in Australia and South America.

“I’ve had some success,” Curley said. “I found some placer gold when I was mining.”

Less encumbered by modesty, the Yukon Prospectors Association proudly highlighted five of his discoveries that were sold to mining companies.

“Eugene is one of those remarkable Yukoners that have earned much of his living solely through prospecting and vending of his mineral properties and through placer mining,” the association said in a release.

“The trait of self-reliance through the peaks and especially the deep lows of Yukon’s mining and exploration history speaks to his tenacity and persistence.”

While placer mining can offer good returns when price of gold is high, it requires taking a lot of risks and working long hours.

“I used to work from seven (a.m.) until midnight,” Curley said.

So why would anybody do that?

“It’s a challenge,” Curley said. “It’s something you get to really like: the outdoors, the thought you could just find something around the next rocks, it keeps you interested.”

Placer mining is a competitive industry, he says, but that doesn’t mean miners don’t have each other’s backs.

“In times of crisis or something like that, you could count on them to assist you,” Curley said.



Curley receives the award at the Yukon Geoscience Forum banquet Monday night.

Friends and colleagues praise Curley as one of the last “old-school” prospectors.

“I can say that prospectors can be divided into two groups, the more modern explorationists, often guys, gals with a geology degree, (who) use science to prospect,” said Ron Berdahl, president of the Yukon Prospectors Association.

“The others are the ones you might see portrayed in old films, these are the guys (who) see prospecting as an art, there is an intuitive feel, an unexplained connection between the mind and the minerals.”

And that’s who Curley is, he said: “an artist in his own right.”

“It is more and more difficult for the artist prospector to get the strictly science-based companies to understand this dying art form,” Berdahl said. “But Eugene has, by fits and starts, made it work over the decades.”

He even found one property — Dows Gold, later sold to a mining company — through dowsing.

But from his years looking for the yellow stuff, Curley also remembers fondly the people he got to meet, especially helicopter pilots.

“There were some exceptional pilots I’ve run into over the years,” he said, citing one Bryan Parsons of TransNorth Helicopters. “He took me off a mountain in a snowstorm once and probably saved my life.”

It’s clear Curley misses the old days when he was on his own looking for gold. He still keeps tabs on the price of gold — and even looks at soil samples when he’s out in the bush.

“(But) it’s a young man’s occupation,” he said, laughing.

Contact Pierre Chauvin at pierre.chauvin@yukon-news.com

Retired RCMP member, George Leoppky in Richmond BC has shared a 20 page set of “Reports and Papers relating to the “Lost Patrol.” Inspector Fitzgerald & Party – 1911 Fort McPherson to Dawson Patrol.”

Although there is some duplication of text in repeated messages sent out it tells the complete story as it occurred. Spelling has been left the way it was in the documents. It will take a few editions to cover the complete set of reports and papers.

- Sherron

**Reports and Papers relating to the “Lost Patrol”
Inspector Fitzgerald & Party – 1911
Fort McPherson to Dawson Patrol
(Part 1)**

Royal Northwest Mounted Police
Yukon Territory
“B” Division Office
Dawson. Y.T., February 28, 1911

Sir – As we had been notified that a patrol would be made this season from McPherson, by Inspector Fitzgerald, about the end of January, we commenced looking for and making enquiries concerning it from Indians who came over the route which the patrol would probably follow.

As time passed and the patrol did not arrive, we began to be somewhat anxious and the on the 20th instant a party of Indians arrived in Dawson from the Peel River district, one of whom had been with the Police patrol for some days.

From information received from this Indian, I wired you on the 20th as follows:

Fort McPherson Indians arrived here today. One of the party was with Fitzgerald to head of Mountain Creek, where he was discharged on New Years Day. Indians state Mountain Creek twenty days from Dawson, easy travelling. Another band from Hart River Divide, where patrol should pass, saw nothing of them. Latter Indians nine days from that point to Dawson.

The Indian from whom I obtained the above information stated that the party of Police had missed the trail and had arrived at the Indians camping ground, some distance up a river, and that he had been employed to set them on a right trail, and on January 1st, as he was apparently no longer required, he was discharged.

Anticipating instruction from you, I immediately commenced preparing stores, men, etc., for a patrol, bringing in Corporal Dempster, who has been over this route several times. Unfortunately, the telegraph wire belonging to the government was down, on account of severe heavy winds, and I had to telegram to you sent via Eagle, Valdez, and wireless. The American went down and we were completely isolated. I did not wish to start the patrol out as it was possible you might have some special instructions concerning it, but on the receipt of your telegram of the 21st and 24th, which only reached me on the 27th, I was prepared to send the patrol, and this date I wired you as follows:

Patrol leaves for McPherson to-day.

The Indians also reported that previous to leaving McPherson for Dawson, Inspector Fitzgerald had made a patrol to Herschel, and that his dogs were not in the best of condition.

The patrol which left here today consisted of the following:

Reg. No. 3193, Cpl. Dempster, W.J.D. (in charge)

Reg. No. 4937, Cst. Fyfe, J.F.

Ex. Cst. Turner, F.

Indian Charles Stewart

Dempster, Fyfe and Turner were members of the patrol last year, and Stewart has made several trips to McPherson. They are taking three dog teams of five dogs each, but the heavier loads are being freighted to the head of the Twelve Mile by horse team, a distance of 60 miles.

I have instructed Cpl. Dempster that if he obtains any important information, to send it in at once, even if he has to employ a courier to do so; and any information received will be forwarded at once to you.

I have the honour to be, sir
Your obedient servant
(Sd) A. E. SNYDER, Supt.
Commanding "B" Division

Royal Northwest Mounted Police
Yukon Territory
"B" Division Office
Dawson. Y.T., April 18, 1911

The Commissioner
R.N.W.M. Police
Regina, Sask.

McPherson – Dawson Patrol

Sir – On the 20th February, in consequence of an interview I had with an Indian named Esau, arriving here from the vicinity of Fort McPherson, I wired you as follows –

Fort McPherson Indians arrived here today. One of the party was with Fitzgerald to the head of Mountain Creek where he was discharged on New Years day. Indians state Mountain Creek twenty days from Dawson, easy travelling. Another band from Hart River Divide where patrol should pass saw nothing of them., Latter Indian nine days from that point to Dawson.

At the same time I proceeded to assemble a party which I deemed would be necessary to send out to investigate.. I therefore on the same day wired Reg. 3193 Cpl. Dempster, W.J.D. to come from Forty Mile to Dawson with his dogs.

Unfortunately at this moment the wire went down, and although I endeavored to get in touch with you over the American lines, it was not until the 27th February that I received your definite instructions. The party being in readiness left the same day. I attach hereto a copy of instructions given to Cpl. Dempster. The party consisted of Reg. No. 3193 Cpl. Dempster, W.J.D., in charge. Reg. No. 4937 Cost. Fyfe, J.F., ex-Cst Turner and a half-breed named Charles Stewart.

I need not go into particulars of the sad discoveries made by the patrol, as that is being fully dealt with by Cpl. Dempster in his report, which I forwarded herewith.

Appended also is a statement of monies and property handed over to me by Cpl. Dempster. Drafts in your favour are enclosed as follows: -
One envelope containing 1 letter addressed Commissioner of Customs, draft for \$353.: cheque signed Geo. F. Kinney for \$100.25; cheque signed F.S.R. Selig for \$300.00.
One envelope containing 1 cheque signed A.N. Blake for \$100.2?
One cheque signed by J. Somers for \$50.25.
One envelope containing draft for \$660., cheque signed by F.S.R. Wissenden for \$100.25.

One envelope containing draft for \$100.25.

With respect to the last mentioned envelope, you will note that it is marked "contingent money". I do not know how much money Insp. Fitzgerald had when leaving McPherson, but I do know of one expenditure of \$24. He made to Indian Esau, for 8 days at \$3 per diem, as guide.

Under separate cover I am sending you a small tin box containing a will found on Insp. Fitzgerald, also his diary which was found under the bodies of Constables Taylor and Kinney. All heave matter will be assembled in one parcel and forwarded by express.

In conclusion I would draw to your attention the really remarkable work done by this patrol. Cpl. Dempster and all members of his party are deserving of the highest praise. Not only did they make this patrol in record time, which was all the more remarkable as they had to search the rivers while travelling, which necessarily took them longer, but they travelled at a time when travelling is much more difficult on account of soft snow, high winds, blinding snowstorms, etc.

I also enclose and extract from a letter from a letter of Rev. C.E. Whittaker Missionary at McPherson, to Bishop I.O. Stringer of Dawson.

I have the honour to be, sir
Your obedient servant
(Sgd) A.E. Snyder, Supt.
Dawson, February 27, 1911

Cpl. Dempster – You will leave tomorrow morning for a patrol, over the Fort McPherson trail, to locate the whereabouts of Insp. Fitzgerald's party.

Indians from McPherson reported him on New Years Day at Mountain Creek. Fair travelling from Mountain Creek about 20 days to Dawson.

I understand that at Hart River Divide no matter what route he took he would have to cross this divide. I think it would be advisable to make for this point and take up his trail from there. I cannot give you any specific instructions, you will have to be guided by circumstances and your own judgement, bearing in mind that nothing is to stand in the way until you have got into touch with the party.

Keep me posted when opportunity occurs of your movement, even to the extent of sending a courier in when one is procurable that is, provided you have anything of importance to report.

(Sgd) A.E. Snyder, Supt.
Commanding "B" Division, N.W.M. Police

(to be continued)

Permission to share the following story received from “**What’s up Yukon**” editor Megan Deuling and Harvey Burian. This article was written for their Hidden History Stories section.

Harvey Burian: Growing up Multicultural on the Stewart River

by [Linda Johnson](#)

November 23, 2016



Issue: 2016-11-23, PHOTO: Courtesy of Harvey Burian

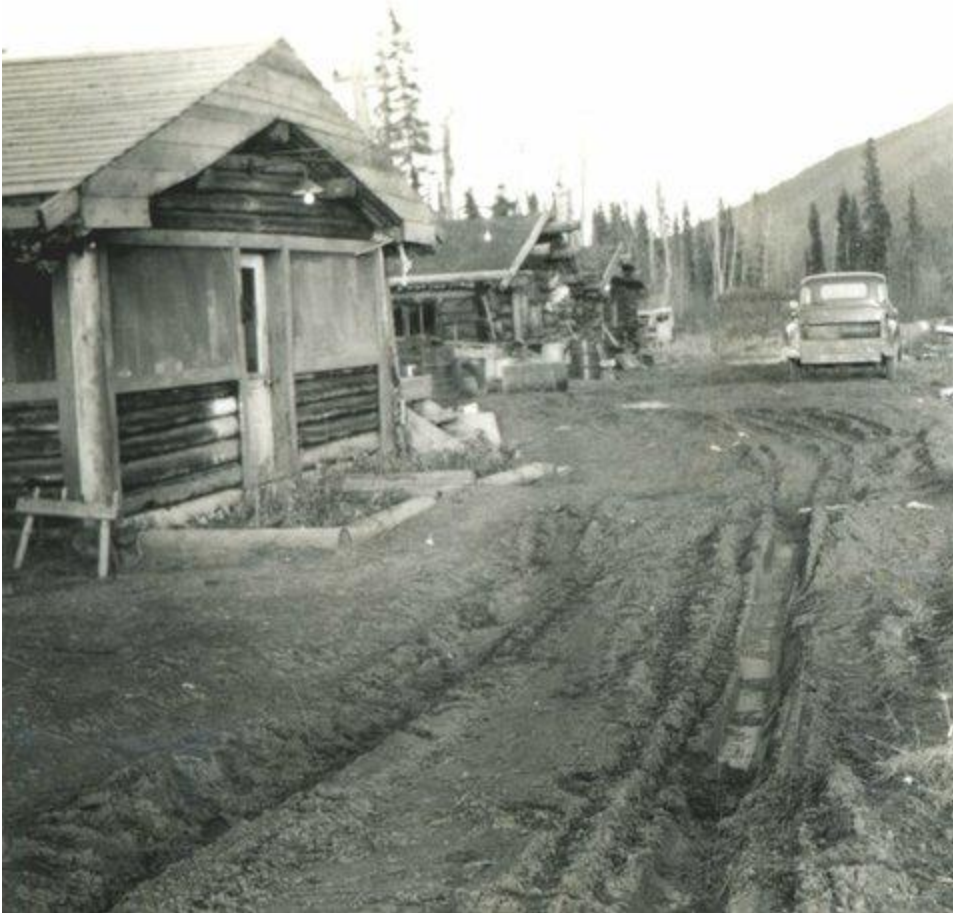
This is the Burian family in 1953. The family moved from 26 Mile to Mayo when roads began to replace rivers as the main modes of transportation, after WWII.

Harvey Burian was born at St. Mary’s Hospital in Dawson City in December 1944. His parents were Mayo residents Mary (Miyo) Yoshida and Renny Burian. They had been operating a wood camp at 26 Mile on the Stewart River until wartime shortages shut down the Keno silver mines and the steamboats that transported the ore.

The couple happily moved back to their modest log house on the river after the war, so Harvey spent his early years as an only child exploring a wilderness playground. He recalls their home was “...16 by 20...maybe a little larger...divided into two

portions...Dad had built ceiling-high cabinets and a passageway through. So, the front of the house was the kitchen, living room...and then the back part was...two little rooms...we had a large...45-gallon drum...that was our heat, woodstove...my mother of course...was quite handy and had it fixed up quite nicely....”

Hidden History Society Yukon New Horizons for Seniors Program Harvey Burian
Interview February 10 and 2015



Issue: 2016-11-23, PHOTO: Courtesy of Harvey Burian

26 mile house: This is the “modest log home” the Burians lived in when they lived at 26 Mile, on the Stewart River. Life on the river was isolated, especially in the winter when the steamships stopped running.

Sometimes visitors did stop in to catch up on the news. Harvey remembers: “We had radios...and we got mostly Alaskan stations...KFRB in Fairbanks...[and] in the last few years...we had a Ham radio...and the RCMP office in Mayo had one and they would call...weekly or periodically at agreed times, to check and make sure we were alright.”

Mary supervised his correspondence lessons, which came from Victoria. As roads replaced steamboats the Burians moved to Mayo in 1953 where Renny worked as a mechanic, Mary cooked and Harvey started school.

Harvey's parents were both raised in immigrant families, where the first language was not English. Born in Germany, Renny came to Canada as a child, moving to the Yukon in his twenties to work as a woodcutter during the Depression. Mary was born in Vancouver after her parents emigrated from Japan. She came to Mayo in her teens to help her sister Ruth (Chiyo) and husband George (Otoyemon) Nagano run the GN Café. When Renny and Mary married, English was their common language, so that was what Harvey learned at home.

Although his mother was technically classified as an "enemy alien" and his father was of German descent, during the Second World War Harvey remembers they were well liked and accepted in Mayo society, though Mary was required to carry an identity card during the war. Her parents and other relatives in B.C. were less fortunate, losing their homes and farms during the enforced evacuation of Japanese people from coastal areas.

Harvey grew up oblivious to any difference between himself and other children in town: "It wasn't until...probably...14, 15...I really realized that my mother was Japanese....I knew she was Japanese in a sense, but I never thought of her being Japanese...because to me, obviously, she was my mother, but...in town, from the time I could remember, she was just one of the townspeople. And, she never talked about any kind of feelings that she had that...people didn't accept her or anything. It seemed that in the smaller communities, back in those days...there may have been some people who shunned Asian people...but certainly if that were the case, my mother never spoke of that. And I never in the time that I was growing up, until...I got older...I really didn't sense anything. The only thing I had in school...some of the kids who probably thought I was Chinese...would call me a Chink...I just thought, 'Ok, that's a nickname that they're giving me', and I accepted it."

Harvey went from small town life on the Stewart River to a big city university after graduating high school in Mayo. "It was an interesting transition being from a very small school where there were about a hundred...to UBC, which at that time had about 16,000 students."

He credits his secure family life and lessons learned in early years for his later successes: "...the benefits were that I learned...to work a lot by myself because...there were only two teachers covering ...multiple courses...so you learn to basically work on your own and that probably was a benefit when I got to university...."

While he was at university Harvey also started learning more about his Japanese heritage from his aunts and uncles in Vancouver: "...it was second year university... [in] a sociology course...I went and talked to my uncle and...he gave me some pictures and...information...about my grandparents...and I found out things that I hadn't known before then. "

He learned about their relatives in Japan, the move to Canada and the family's wartime experiences. Despite many hardships his family remained positive about life in Canada.

Harvey continued to pursue more understandings of his heritage on both sides of his family, and today maintains an active interest in tracing genealogical sources and other information in order to ensure his children have a solid knowledge of their rich multicultural roots.

The Stewart River is a long way from Germany and Japan – and Harvey’s grandparents left much behind when they moved to Canada to secure brighter futures for their children. In the midst of wartime, Harvey’s parents found love, peace and a good life in their small community, with neighbours who accepted them for who they were, their hard work and all that they contributed to their community. In Harvey’s words: “...there’s a community spirit that exists...in a smaller community...like Mayo...” and along with his parents’ love, it certainly provided a positive foundation for his life.

Harvey says, “I believe that I am fortunate to have grown up with parents from two different cultures as this has helped me to appreciate the diversity that exists in Canada today. When people ask about my background I am happy to tell them that I am a person of Eurasian heritage who had the opportunity to grow up in the wide open spaces of the Yukon and I feel wonderfully blessed to have the privilege of living in such a rich, diverse country as ours. Harvey Burian email to Linda Johnson October 20, 2016”

- See more at: <http://whatsupyukon.com/Yukon-Lifestyle/history/harvey-burian-growing-up-multicultural-on-the-stewart-river/#sthash.bYFwwIfU.HtKmurKr.dpuf>



Membership Benefits

The **Vancouver Yukoners' Association**, established in 1928, was founded so that Yukoners 'outside' for the winter, or had moved to Vancouver could keep in touch with each other. Many years later, we continue to thrive for the same reason - to stay in contact with friends and relatives from the North. We have members from the Yukon, BC, rest of Canada and the United States (including Alaska). For our members who have never lived in the north, they may have strong family ties, like a relative who was active in the Yukon.

Perhaps the main reason for becoming a member are the social gatherings. The popular Annual Reunion Weekend and General Meeting Luncheons

attract friends and family who wish to reconnect and catch up. We hope you will consider joining our unique association.

Membership assures the continued success of the Vancouver Yukoners' Association and we are pleased to offer you the following benefits....

☺ Ability to re-connect and catch up with friends and relatives from the Yukon & North, both past and present.

☺ Free Membership Newsletter sent 5 times per year, either by regular mail or email. The newsletter contains articles about what's happening in the Yukon, updates on our Members, information on upcoming events, Sunshine Lady's report (birthdays, milestones, achievements), Gone Down The Trail (Members who have recently passed & their contributions to the Yukon), minutes from the General Meetings, and ongoing updates for our Annual Reunion Weekend in April.

☺ Invitation to attend our General Meetings at the Croatian Cultural Centre (Burnaby) held 5 times per year in Feb, Apr, June, Oct & Dec. Lunch is provided for a nominal fee.

☺ And a free Vancouver Yukoners' Association lapel pin

Memberships are offered at 2 levels...

Regular - \$15.00 per year (may be purchased for 1 to 5 years at a time)

Lifetime - \$300.00 one time fee (for the rest of your life)

Note - for Annual Membership, the fee is due by December 31st each year

To become a Member, please contact either...

Vivian Stuart Tel 250.383.1349 Email lornellis@shaw.ca

Doug Stuart Tel 250.391.1493 Email hospitality@telus.net

Please visit our website..... www.vancouver-yukoners.com

Message from Vancouver Yukoners' Association

We are very pleased to let everyone know that we are now accepting e-transfers for payment of dues and also Reunion Tickets.

For those of you that use on-line banking, use the feature e-transfer and the email address is lornellis@shaw.ca Then kindly forward me an email with your password if it is something I would not necessarily know. If you are paying for Reunion Tickets also list the people that you are purchasing tickets for. Your payments will be acknowledged.

For those travelling Air North – when making your reservation indicate the Code YUKONR17. They have again very generously offered a discount/saving on your travel plans.

Thank you so much,

Vivian Stuart, Treasurer
#217 – 3255 Cook St
Victoria BC V8X 1A4
250 383-1349

NEW ADDITIONS

Douglas Stuart in Victoria, BC
hospitality@telus.net
250 391-1493

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Hi Sherron,
Our email address has been changed to: fredread33@hotmail.com
2360 Mendocino Ave., Suite A2-400,
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Thanks,
Fred & Shirley Read

OBIT



Edward Samuel McKay passed away peacefully November 21, 2016 at the age of 80 years. He is survived by his loving wife Jane, children Rayanne (Mark) of Nelson, BC, grandchild Chloe, siblings Doug (Joyce) of Vancouver, BC and Margaret of Whitehorse, YT; and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by brother Donald.

Ed was born in Whitehorse, YT to Margaret and Frank McKay in 1936. He spent many years there as a helicopter engineer for Klondike Helicopters and then Trans North Turbo Air. He also spent time in Watson Lake, YT for Frontier Helicopters and Mayo, YT for Mayo Helicopters. He met his wife Jane in Whitehorse in 1963 and they were married 1966 in England. His beloved daughter Rayanne was born in Mayo in 1970. He was thrilled when Rayaane and her husband gave him grandchild Chloe. They spent many happy times together. In 1979 Ed and Jane moved to Sorrento, BC where they operated the local grocery store for 12 years. They then moved to Peachland and then Summerland to spend their retirement. He volunteered many hours at the Peachland Wellness Centre. TaiChi was his passion and he was heavily involved in teaching and practicing his craft. Ed was a kind, loving man and will be greatly missed by family and many friends. A Celebration of Life will be held in Spring of 2017 in Summerland, BC.

*That man is a success who leaves the world better than he found it;
who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it;
who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had.*

Condolences may be directed to the family through providencefuneralhomes.com 250-494-7752

Nichol, Gail Maureen

Monday, 14 Nov 2016

It is with heartfelt sadness that we announce the passing of Gail Maureen Nichol on November 14th, 2016 in Vernon, BC. **Gail was born on October 31st, 1951 in Whitehorse, Yukon.** She attended the University of Saskatchewan and was a long-time

member of the peer support and mood disorders group. Gail was a gentle soul, always ready to offer a kind word, warm scarf or homemade cookies. She is survived by her husband Ron Nichol, daughters Kelly Anne Creelman and Debra Jean Creelman, brothers Leonard Delaney and Kent Delaney, sister Teresa Thompson, sister-in-law Luqi Delaney, brother-in-law Greg Thompson, niece Kylee Delaney, nephews Cole Thompson, Wyatt Thompson, Wade Thompson. **Gail is predeceased by her parents William and Shirley Delaney.** There will be a Celebration of Life held for Gail at 2:00pm on Thursday, November 17th, 2016 at Knox Presbyterian Church (3701 32nd Ave, Vernon, BC). In lieu of flowers, those wishing to do so may make a donation in Gail's memory to Care Canada (Donation Processing Centre, PO Box 2359 Station Main, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4A6).

You are invited to leave a personal message of condolence at the family's on-line obituary. Vernon Morning Star Vernon
ALTERNATIVES FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES ® Vernon 250-558-0866
& Armstrong 250-546-7237



Merson Darby (1926 - 2014)

A former long-time resident of North Vancouver, B.C., Merson passed away peacefully at the age of 87 in Nanaimo, B.C, his home for the past 12 years. Born in the rugged north of Whitehorse, Yukon, Merson moved with his parents to Basingstoke, England at the age of three. After serving in the British Army at the end of the Second World War, he began his apprenticeship as a telephone installer with GPO Engineering and later Royal Signals in England. His love of traveling and adventure led him back to Canada and a 30 year career with BC Telephone until his retirement in 1987. Merson will be fondly remembered for his remarkable carving skills, along with a love of sailing and fishing, and the ability to build or fix anything. Predeceased by his wife of 40 years, Diana (1999), and parents Frank and Maude Darby, Merson will be greatly missed by sons Howard (Whitney), Barry (Darlene), grandsons Connor and Ryan, granddaughters Erin and Kaitlyn and brother Norman (Janet) as well as other family and friends. Merson's family would like to thank the staff of Astoria at Origin, Nanaimo for their care and kindness, as well as the support and friendship provided by the staff and residents at

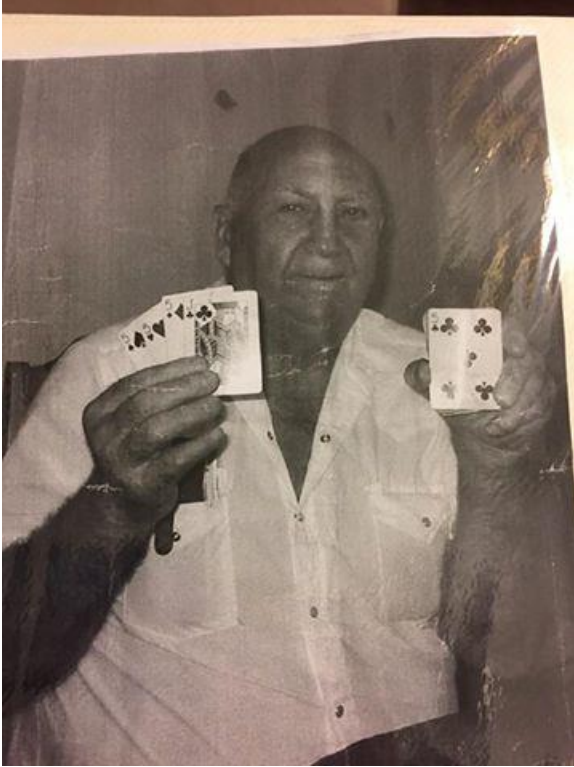
Berwick on the Lake where he had previously resided. At Merson's request his ashes will be returned to North Vancouver to be with those of his wife, Diana, in a small family memorial.



Gregory William DISCH
1945 - 2016

Age 71 of Kaleden, B.C., Canada Died October 18, 2016 Greg passed away on Oct. 18 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's. Born March 12, 1945 in Mpls., he grew up in the Midway area of St. Paul and lived there into the 1980's. Then his spirit of adventure took him to the Yukon, where he worked for several years as a crane operator. He spent several months in Antarctica also, putting up research bldgs. for the Canadian gov't. Wherever he worked Greg was known for his on-the-job skills and his great sense of humor. Greg met Marion Woodward in Whitehorse, Yukon in the 80's and they were a pair from then on. They lived on Vancouver Island for several years and then for the last dozen years in the country near Penticton, B.C., where Greg owned a franchise selling and installing docks. They loved spending time at their remote cabin, fishing in the summer and x-c skiing in the winter. A lifelong outdoorsman, Greg was always ready to head north. In addition to his devoted partner Marion, Greg leaves behind his daughter Carolyn (Stephanie) and granddaughters Emma and Annabelle; his son Eric (Melissa) and grandsons Kasey and Kelvin; former wife and mother of his children Linda Stancer (Ron); brothers Jeff (Charlotte) and Gary (Marie) and sister Nancy. He was preceded in death by his second wife Francine and his brother Tom. A family memorial is planned for the spring of 2017 in St. Paul.

Published in Pioneer Press on Nov. 20, 2016



[Dell Ann Perkin](#) added [2 new photos.](#)
[November 23 at 7:22pm](#) ·

Got the worst news ever on Tuesday. The man I worshiped, loved, cherished has left this world to be with his soul mate who has been waiting for him for 24 years. I feel blessed to have had this man in my life not only was he my granddad but in my eyes a "dad". Taught me right from wrong was always in my life raised me as his own plus we shared the same birthday. If I can only be half the person you were Granddad. When I sat at the table this morning it was missing my card partner. The past 3 weeks have been something I never wish on anyone. Losing two great men in my life has been hard but I have climbed back on that horse. Granddad I love you and will miss you deeply but I know you're so happy now and you deserve it.



Sept 2, 1927 - Nov 21, 2016

Al passed away peacefully on November 21, 2016. He is survived by his children, Sharon Sowden of Moose Jaw, SK, Wes (Valerie) Sowden of Keremeos, BC, and Brian (Rita) Sowden of Port Alberni, BC, four grandchildren; Dell Ann (Craig), Hillary, Christopher and Curtis, three great-grandchildren; Kayla Mary, Brant, and Tyrell, great-great-granddaughter Sophia, and sister Ruth Bedell of Niagara Falls, ON. He was sadly predeceased by his wife Dellmary. Al enjoyed hunting and fishing, hockey and curling, and playing pool and cards. No formal service as per Al's request.

Sowden, Allen Westley

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from your own actions.
- Dalai Lama

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

From The Star Cook Book, The Women of Yukon Chapter No 1 order of Eastern Star, Dawson, Yukon Territory, for the Benefit of the War Work 1942.

Ham Loaf

3 cups cold rice
2 cups ham
½ cup cream sauce
½ cup bread crumbs
1 tablespoon parsley
1 tablespoon onion juice
¼ teaspoon white pepper
Dash of paprika
1 egg

Put ham through food chopper; add rice to ham and add cream sauce, bread crumbs, parsley, onion juice and pepper. Then add the egg which has been beaten light. Mix well together and shape in bake pan brushed with drippings. Bake for 45 minutes.

May be served hot with cream sauce or sliced cold. Very good.

Anna T. Jeckell

COMING EVENTS

Vancouver Yukoners' Association **89th Annual Reunion** **April 07-09, 2017**



Banquet - Saturday, April 08, 2017

Day Room: Open Friday from 4 pm and Saturday from noon
Sunday, April 9 – No Host Breakfast in Buffet

Theme – RCMP [Contact Joann Robertson 604 877-1871 joannr6@shaw.ca](mailto:joannr6@shaw.ca)

[Any pictures, mementos you wish to share for display would be appreciated](#)

**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 \$155.00 & 1 Bedroom Suite \$185.00
2 Bedroom Resort Suite \$235.00**

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

Banquet Reception: Whistler 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 or Phone Mike Rawlinson 604 565-7581

Check the website for updates and a list of those attending

**REGISTER BEFORE FEB 28/17 FOR DRAW OF FREE 1-Bedroom SUITE FOR 2
NIGHTS AT RIVER ROCK
Book early as ticket sales could be limited**

**Donations to Silent Auction contact Doug Stuart 250 391-1493
hospitality@telus.net**

THE CANUCKS AND HANK KARR TO PERFORM FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT
.....

FOR TICKETS CONTACT VIVIAN STUART:

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

Phone: 250-383-1349 email: lornellis@shaw.ca

\$68.00 per person with cheque payable in advance to

Vancouver Yukoners' Association

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

Note: Pick up tickets in Hospitality Room

Yukon Residents may contact **Penny Sippel at 867 667-4094**

303A Hanson St. Whitehorse YT Y1A 1Y5

**We encourage Yukon residents to fly Air North. Contact them for any
special discounts**

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 your 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

Sherron Jones
483 – 5707 East 32nd Street
Yuma, Arizona 85365