

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 433rd Edition – Jan 29th, 2017

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50 Years Entertaining in the Yukon....where did the time GO. - E & G xox

**Reports and Papers relating to the “Lost Patrol”
Inspector Fitzgerald & Party – 1911
Fort McPherson to Dawson Patrol
(Part 3)**

On the body of Inspr. Fitzgerald I discovered a gold watch in a little sack suspended around his neck. On Carter’s body I found a Department of Fisheries and Marine cheque for \$50. And \$7. in cash. His toes appeared to have been frozen and his fingers were bandaged. The bodies of all four were in a terribly emaciated condition, the stomach of

each was flattened almost to the back bone, the lower ribs and hip bones showing very prominently. After the clothing had been cut off, I do not think either of them weighted a hundred pounds.

Cst. Kinney's feet were swollen to almost twice their natural size; Inspr. Fitzgerald's feet were also very much swollen.

The flesh of each man was very much discoloured, being a reddish-black, and the skin was peeling off. They had put on all the clothing they had with them, each had on two suits of underwear and the usual outer clothing.

We covered the bodies of Inspr. Fitzgerald and Carter with brush, and proceeded on to McPherson where we arrived on the night of March 22nd about six o'clock, and gave the Police there the first intimation they had of any accident.

The following morning, March 23rd, Cpl. Somers and Cst. Blake rustled three dog teams, as the Police Dogs were gone, and at noon Cpl. Somers with two Indians left for the scene of the tragedy, returning on March 25th with the four bodies which were laid out in the Church in McPherson. On Monday the 27th, Cpl. Somers started making coffins and this work was completed on the 28th. I assisted him in covering them with black cloth, and the funeral of all four was held in the afternoon of the same date, i.e. March 28th, the four being buried in one grave, side by side. The funeral service was read by Rev. C. E. Whittaker, Church of England Missionary at that point. A firing party of five men fired the usual volley over the remains of our departed comrades, and even though the funeral was held in the most Northern part of the Empire away in the Arctic Circle, hundreds of miles from civilization, I am glad to be able to assure you that everything was done in connection with the last sad rites that could possibly be done under the circumstances, and I am sure that the relatives and friends of each deceased will be glad to know that it was possible to have Christian burial services read by an ordained Minister of the Gospel over the remains of their loved ones.

The grave was left open, and Cpl. Somers is to obtain a copper kettle and cut out the names of each man and attach it to the coffin so that each can be identified.

The money, valuables, etc., found on the men I turned over to Cpl. Somers, but the dispatch bag, mail, watches, money in Despatch bag, returns, etc., I brought to Dawson with me and turned same over to the Officer Commanding.

The object of the relief patrol having been successfully accomplished, my party left McPherson on our return trip to Dawson on March 30, arriving at the Power Plant on Twelve Mile on the morning of April 16, and I tried to get the Dawson office of the Yukon Gold Company but was unable to do so, but I left word with the man in charge that if he could get Dawson to send word to the Officer Commanding as to the result of the patrol.

I arrived in Dawson on the morning of the 17th, a team and sleigh having been sent down river to meet me. The balance of the patrol arrived on the afternoon of the same date all in good health, and the dogs in very good condition. The eyes of each men of my party were quite sore from the effects of the sun and snow, and several of the dogs had sore feet. Nothing of special note occurred on the return trip.

In conclusion I feel called upon to make the following remarks, I saw the list of provisions at McPherson which the ill-fated party took with them, and was much surprised at the small quantities taken, in fact, I feel certain that the party must have been short on rations long before they turned back.

Under the best possible conditions, without any delay of any kind, I do not think the party had sufficient rations to last them from McPherson to Dawson, but if they had kept on the right trail they would have got through all right, as they would have met with several bands of Indians from whom they could have purchased ample supplies of dried fish, etc.

As to their dogs I can say nothing, as all the information I could gather at McPherson was that they were in fair condition. The Indian Esau, employed by Inspector Fitzgerald, was only employed to guide them over the Big Portage, and was then discharged.

At McPherson, a will was found on Inspector Fitzgerald's body which had evidently been written with a burnt stick of wood a very short time before death. Cpl. Somers will collect and pack up the effects of each of the unfortunate men, and have same in readiness to send to Regina when the steamer calls on the opening of navigation.

The following is a copy of my diary:-

Feb 28 – Left at 1 pm; arrived Twelve Mile at 5:30 PM; weather warm, trail good.

March 1 – Left Twelve Mile roadhouse at 8 AM; arrived at Power House at 3:30 PM and loaded toboggans ready for early morning start. Ex-Cst. Turner froze both feet on March 2; 15 below, warm in the afternoon. Left Power House at 8 AM; from here to the Tombstone the river was badly flooded. We all got wet and stopped at 10:30 AM to change our foot wear, as our moccasins were frozen stiff. In PM we encountered little water, lower glacier was dry and for a little over a mile the ice was like glass; it was a slight upgrade and we could make very little headway as the dogs could hardly stand up on the ice.

We had great difficulty in getting over it, and had to cut footholds in the ice with an axe. It was here that Turner froze his feet, and the frost bites caused him considerable trouble for some ten days, as it caused him a good deal of pain.

March 3 – Left camp at 7:45 AM; was troubled with very little water today, trails very good. The big glacier was very slippery and we had same difficulty as yesterday. Camped in the last timber on the Twelve Mile at 4:30 PM.

March 4 – Zero, light snow fall, cold wind on the Blackstone, cleared up in PM. Left camp at 7:30 AM. The glacier in the Pass was dry; this was about a mile long and a steep upgrade. We had considerable difficulty in getting up, and this was also the case on the two glaciers on the Blackstone, very hard on both men and dogs, could not get footing and we lost a lot of time. Made lunch at Michel's cabin, and camped in the willows, about four miles above Blackstone cache, at 6:15 PM. Very little snow along here; moss and grass showing up all along.

March 5 – 10 below, windy, and snowing. Started at 7:40 AM; lost about an hour getting up the hill, had to cut and shovel out snow and then double up dog teams. It was a hard pull going over the hills to Christmas cache, where we arrived at 12:25. Made dinner and started up Christmas Creek at 1 PM and made Michel summit at 4:00 PM; trail drifted and very heavy and hard to find. Made first timber on Michel Creek, and camped about five miles down creek at 7PM; trail down this creek very bad, drifted full of snow, head of creek very narrow and the snow blown in off the hills. Men and dogs very tired tonight; the wind was blowing a gale down the creek; no dry wood along here.

March 6 – Zero. Strong wind all last night and this morning Trail down to the big glacier very bad, had to walk alongside the toboggans to keep them on trail, snow was crusted and very heavy walking. It was the same on all the portages. About 3:30 we got into water about a foot deep and we all got wet, mocassins frozen and we could not wear snowshoes, so we camped at 4:15 PM.

March 7 – 15 below, strong wind and snow. Started at 7:45AM; trails fairly good, making good time for about an hour and a half, when we struck a lot of water which delayed us for about two hours. Got the sleds in about 18 inches deep. Stopped for lunch at 11:35 and changed foot-wear. Got over divide between Michel Creek and Little Hart River, and camped in Martin's cabin on the Big Hart at 4:35 PM. Gale blowing from North, snow drifting badly, trail over divide full and heavy.

March 8 – 62 below, cold, clear. Started 7:45AM. Trail for the greater part of the way to Canyon and Wolf Creek was very heavy. On the first glacier above the canyon we got into water about a foot deep and lost about half an hour. Camped about 4:30 PM on the upper end of the second glacier.

(to be continued)



JAMES SMITH HONORED

On January 3, 2017, Right Worshipful Brother James Smith was honoured by being presented with a Jewel and Certificate from the Grand Lodge of British Columbia & Yukon, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons on the occasion of the celebration of his 75 years as a member of Atlinto Lodge No. 42, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons. The presentation was made by his son Very Worshipful Brother Eric Smith, a distinguished member of Norwoods Lodge No. 90, at Edmonton, Alberta.

Rt. W. Bro. Jim Smith was born at New Westminster, B.C. on December 31, 1919 of parents from Glasgow, Scotland. He took his schooling at Edmonds Street Elementary, South Burnaby High at Burnaby, B.C. and at the Banff School of Advanced Management took a Supplementary Business Course. After leaving high school he worked as a butcher apprentice and moved to Atlin, B.C. in 1940 to continue this trade.

It was here that he met and married Dorothy Matson. They had two children, Eric and Marilyn and now there are three grandsons Alex, Michael and Mathew.

After seven years at Atlin, employed by the pioneer firm of Louis Schulz, they moved to Whitehorse with Jim as general manager of Tourists Services Ltd., a firm involved in the food business as well as motel and hotel operations.

In November 1966 after almost 20 years in the same position, he was approached by Arthur Laing, Minister of Indian and Northern Development, and was appointed Commissioner of the Yukon. In March 1975 he was appointed chairman of Northern Canada Power Commission by Judd Buchanan, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. In 1976 he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada and was invested in that Order. He retired as Commissioner of Yukon in June of 1976. He retired as chairman of Northern Canada Power Commission in June of 1986.

During his lifetime his Community Service consisted of serving as President of the Atlin Board of Trade 1946-47, President of the Whitehorse Board of Trade 1952-53, Alderman for the City of Whitehorse 1954-56 and Councillor for the Yukon Territorial Council 1958-61.

He joined Atlinto Lodge No. 42 in June 1941, was Worshipful Master in 1946 and District Deputy Grand Master in 1990. He joined the Royal Arch Masons in 1968. He is also a member of the Yukon Order of Pioneers, and an Honorary member of the Whitehorse Rotary Club. He is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church.

At this writing R. W. Bro. James Smith has reached the age of 97 years (December 31st, 2016) and has been married to Dorothy for 74 years. The honor of being a 75 year Mason is a first for the Yukon and is rare in our B.C. and Yukon jurisdiction under which we operate.

Submitted by Tom Mickey tmickey@northwestel.net Whitehorse, Yukon

YUKON NUGGET

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

Pelly River

There are many features of the Yukon's impressive landscape which are named for an early day governor of the Hudson Bay company.

John Henry Pelly was born in England in 1777. As governor of the Hudson Bay Company in the 1800s, he ran a fur empire stretching over the new land later to become Canada. Known as Rupert's Land, it was an empire controlled in all its aspects by the Bay.

In what was later to be known as the Yukon, Robert Campbell - a Scotsman employed by the Bay - explored the rivers and lakes leading into the Yukon River. In July of 1840, Campbell arrived at some high banks after travelling a long river. He named both the impressive banks and the river the Pelly, in honour of the company's governor. He also named two lakes at the headwaters of the river the Pelly Lakes.

Campbell also named a long range of mountains lying south almost the entire length of the river the Pelly Mountains after Sir John. But it was Canadian government surveyor George Dawson who confirmed on behalf of Canada, Pelly as the official name of the river.

In 1846, Robert Campbell built a trading post at the mouth of the Pelly River where it enters the Yukon. The post was never successful and it burned down in 1849. It was never reopened by the Hudson Bay Company, but some traders operated here for many years after 1900. Over the years, gold was mined in the gravel bars of the Pelly River.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

COURTESY WHITEHORSE STAR – YUKON HISTORY SECTION –



Photo by Photo Submitted

Left: Constable Mike Buday and his dog Trooper. Photo courtesy of the book “Descent into Madness”. Right: Mug-shot of Michael Oros at the Terrace RCMP detachment. Photo courtesy of the book “Descent into Madness”.

RCMP Dog handler suspect die in shoot-out

A reclusive bush man shot an RCMP dog handler dead yesterday before being killed himself by another officer in a brief shoot-out in the remote southern end of Teslin Lake in northern British Columbia.

By **Whitehorse Star** on **March 20, 1985**

Const. Michael J. Buday, 27, was part of a fully-equipped RCMP assault team that flew into the area yesterday to arrest the hermit-like trapper, Michael Oros, known variously as “Crazy Mike” or “Sheslay Free Mike” after a reported cabin break-in.

Described as deranged and violent, Oros, 33, had been living by his wits in the wilderness for several years. An immigrant from the U.S., Oros was known locally to be paranoid, believing the world and especially police were out to get him. (See separate story).

Oros, known as a crack shot, opened fire as team members moved in, hitting Buday before being gunned down by another member of the rifle-equipped team.

Oros' latest, and final, run-in with the law began Monday morning.

A Whitehorse family went by snowmobile to check the cabin at the southwest tip of the lake, said Cpl. Al Mathews of the Whitehorse RCMP. They hadn't been there since last fall. “They discovered it had been lived in.” Possessions were missing and some damage had been done to a total estimated value of \$7,000.

They also saw Oros in the area.

“They saw him walking up a trail, through binoculars. They recognized him and chose not to stay around.”

The family returned to Teslin to report to police.

Monday afternoon, Teslin RCMP flew down the lake in a chartered plane to look at the cabin. They spotted Oros walking along the lake ice and flew in for a close look.

Oros shot at the aircraft, a Maule flown by Dennis Dennison of Coyote Air Service of Teslin. Oros was known for disliking aircraft and has reportedly shot at others before, so it's unlikely he shot at the plane knowing it carried police officers. He did not hit the aircraft.

The plane returned to Teslin and reinforcements were called in. A warrant for Oros' arrest, on suspicion of break and enter, was obtained. Because the cabin and the aircraft shooting were in B.C. it technically did not come under the jurisdiction of Yukon RCMP. So a 13-member emergency response team was flown in from the Prince Rupert subdivision.

They flew to Whitehorse Monday night, and flew to Atlin and then Teslin yesterday morning just after 7 a.m. Those flights were all on board the Yukon RCMP's Twin Otter.

RCMP Supt. Robert Currie, commander of the Prince Rupert subdivision, said Oros was “well known to us, with a history of violence and instability.”

“The extra police (were) a precautionary step in light of the suspect's previous history of violence and instability and because of the isolation and snowbound nature of territory involved,” said Mathews.

“He would hunt meat, steal from cabins, things of that sort. He had lived there for half a dozen years at least, mostly out in the open. We believed he sort of borrowed cabins sometimes. He was pretty tough. You’d have to be tough.”

Two Bell 206-helicopters carried six members of the team and the police dog down the lake, said Matt Conant of Trans North Air, who piloted one of the helicopters. The other belonged to Capital Helicopters of Atlin. Meanwhile, Dennison’s Maule was also along with Inspector Harry Wallace on board running the operation by radio from the air.

Oros was apparently spotted again on the lake. The team appears to have arrived in the area around noon. So far, few details have been made public.

“There wasn’t much in the way of any cover or anything like that,” said Mathews. “It was just open snow.”

Conant said the two helicopters were directed to land around a point from where Oros was spotted, about 50 kilometres south of the Yukon border. The aircraft landed and the team began to move in on Oros.

“We didn’t put down in sight of him. We put down around the point. He’s crazy. I wasn’t getting too close with the helicopter... I didn’t,” Conant said.

But Oros had certainly heard the helicopters, Conant said. Conant took off again and neither saw nor heard the shooting. The other helicopter returned to Teslin to pick up more of the team.

The shooting of Buday occurred at about 1 p.m., RCMP say.

Mathews said that because the incident happened in an unconfined area, the team was broken down into smaller groups.

Conant said that from the description of team members, the scene was off the edge of the lake in bush and Oros appears the have managed to ambush the groups with Buday.

“I think they were together and I think Crazy Mike came up behind them somehow and caught them by surprise. He shot first.”

Mathews said another member of the group with Buday quickly returned fire, killing Oros, who was armed with two rifles.

“It was almost right away. Another one of the members returned fire right away.”

The team was equipped with weapons including rifles with high-powered sniper scopes, megaphones, and a weapon that appeared to be a tear gas gun.

Bob Bruneau, manager of the Yukon Motel visited a cabin last year near Teslin Lake where Oros frequently stayed and found it littered with books and bizarre notes about Albert Johnson, the Mad Trapper of Rat River, who killed two RCMP officers in 1932 and was eventually tracked and killed by police.

Buday has been with the RCMP for eight years, and had special training in dog-handling and in emergency response tactics. He was based in Terrace, B.C.

A native of Brooks, Alta., he was single and is survived by his parents, two older brothers and a 15-year-old sister.

“When Michael was in Grade 11 a Mountie came to the high school and gave a talk to the students about careers with the RCMP,” his mother, Margaret, said by telephone Tuesday night.

“From that day on he was determined to be in the RCMP.”

He completed the force’s dog-handling course - graduating with his dog, Trooper, his constant companion - and was slated to return soon to the Prince George, B.C., detachment, where he had served earlier in his career.

When most of the response team returned to Whitehorse late last night, Trooper was taken away by the RCMP’s Yukon dog handler, Brian Boleen.

Buday was the second RCMP member killed this year, Const. Allen Giesbrecht, 32, died Jan. 13 in an incident at a house in Vegreville, Alta. Nine police officers were killed in Canada in 1984.

Mathews said the bodies have been flown to Prince George for autopsy and an inquest will be held into the shootings. Insp. Wallace returned to Teslin today to head up an investigation of the incident. Several members of the team had remained in Teslin last night.

By Massey Padgham, Staff Reporter

From: J Roberts

Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 7:11 PM

Subject: Florence Roberts

My brother Lloyd and I would like to advise that on Tuesday January 10th at 6:15 am, our mother Florence Roberts passed away in peace at Whitehorse General Hospital.

From diagnosis to her last breath, we shared 3 1/2 beautiful weeks with her. True to who she was, over that time she sat folks down in front of her hospital bed and provided direction on those things she wanted to fight for the betterment of all of us. Mom, you have worked so hard and don't have to fight anymore, those many special people who have crossed your path will continue that for you.

Our sincere thanks to those who have expressed their condolences and provided support to the family.

We have yet to sort out the details on a celebration of life and other matters for mom. With support from so many, my sister and I are taking things one day at a time.

Former Whitehorse councillor Florence Roberts remembered as 'pragmatic, honest'

'If she thought something wasn't right, she set out to make sure some things got changed'

CBC NewsPosted: Jan 11, 2017 9:00 AM CT Last Updated: Jan 11, 2017 9:00 AM CT



Former Whitehorse city councillor Florence Roberts. (Florence Roberts/Facebook)

Flags were at half mast on Whitehorse city buildings on Tuesday to honour former city politician Florence Roberts.

The two-term councillor died Tuesday morning in Whitehorse. She was 73.

"I always found her to be one of the most pragmatic, honest individuals that I ever met," said Doug Graham, who served on council with Roberts, a decade ago.

"You know, she would tell you exactly what she was thinking and why she felt that way... she is really going to be a loss to the community."

Roberts was first elected to council in 2006, and re-elected in 2009.

Besides her work on council, former mayor Bev Buckway says Roberts "volunteered for just about everything... that's why she was so well known.

"She championed a lot of causes, she was always willing to listen to people, and if she thought something wasn't right, she set out to make sure some things got changed," Buckway said.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been announced.



[City of Whitehorse @city_whitehorse](http://city.whitehorse.ca)

Flags at City facilities to be flown at half-mast until further notice, in recognition of the passing of Former Councillor Florence Roberts.

[10:45 AM - 10 Jan 2017](#)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Hello Sherron & Bill

Finally time to check in and let you know Jeri & I are alive and still kicking
A long story ... After a difficult year Med stuff and other stuff we moved back to Whitehorse Nov 1st....now that was an adventure! At our age...save that for a later story, We are just about fully settled in to a nice condo with a great view over the River looking down stream.

We are close to daughter Nikki and son David. We are getting to meet old friends and getting adapted to the winter weather again.

Bill & Jeri Weigand
32 Waterfront Place
Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 6V1
bweigand*northwestel.net

Love
Bill & Jeri

I forgot to mention that I've switched from Shaw to Telus for my email

Madeleine Wakefield mwakefield*telus.net

OBITS

Isabelle Kathleen Carlyle (Kellsey)

April 17th, 1928 - January 18th, 2017

Red Deer, AB

The family of Isabelle Kathleen Carlyle, sadly announce her passing in Red Deer on Wednesday, January 18 2017, at the age of 88 years. She was at peace in her final days as she was surrounded by a loving family...."We can no longer see her with our eyes or touch her with our hands but we will feel her in our hearts forever".

Isabelle was born into a family of 10 in Hillsgreen, Manitoba on April 17, 1928. Isabelle and Stephen raised their family in Whitehorse, Yukon and then moved to Diamond Valley area in Alberta in 1975 where they started PMU farming. Isabelle and Stephen had a love for the Yukon where they developed many long-term friendships and where they enjoyed the colors of the Northern Lights.

She had an incredible talent for journaling and wrote many personal memoirs, letters and a bound book of our heritage that she left to her family as well as her scrapbooking and coin collections. Her favorite pastimes were her FAMILY, knitting, camping, playing cards, and she enjoyed videotaping the grandkids and horses with their foals, while her favorite country music played in the back ground.

Isabelle's legacy would be the family that her, and her husband Stephen Theodore Carlyle created - their sons - Randy of Benalto, Alberta, Greg (Mary) of Red Deer, Alberta, Guy (Janice) of Red Deer, Alberta and their daughter - Cheryl (Tony) Thorsteinson of Red Deer, Alberta. Isabelle will be FOREVER loved and remembered by her 7 grandchildren; as well as her 3 great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister - Alice Mills of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

We would like to thank the staff of the Red Deer Hospital for all their amazing care and to everyone for all the wonderful prayers and condolences to our family.

Cremation is entrusted to Parkland Funeral Home and Crematorium, Red Deer, Alberta. Condolences may be sent or viewed at www.parklandfuneralhome.com. Arrangements in care of Parkland Funeral Home and Crematorium, 6287 – 67 A Street (Taylor Drive), Red Deer. 403.340.4040.

Julia Evelyn Trueman (Julie)

March 30 2943 – January 15, 2017

It is with great sorrow that the family of Julia Trueman announces her death at home in Qualicum Beach, following a lengthy illness.

Julie was born in Brighton England, spent her first years in northern British Columbia with her parents before the family moved to the Yukon. After a few years in the 50's in Dawson City Julie graduated from high school in Whitehorse in 1962. She graduated with a Bachelor of Education from the University of Victoria. Later she received her Masters degree in the US.

Julia was a long-time resident of Qualicum Beach having taught school on the Island for over 30 years. Her teaching career began in Victoria before it took her to Australia and New Zealand. She returned to Qualicum Beach where she taught until her retirement.

In Australia, her love of the then, recently discovered, Aboriginal Tribes close to Alice Springs stayed strong. Upon her retirement she returned to Australia for several months and renewed ties with some of her students and their descendants. Over the years she will be remembered by fellow teachers, students, neighbours and her many friends.

Julie was predeceased by her parents, Howard and Rhoda Trueman.

She will be lovingly remembered by her sisters, Elizabeth, Jesse and Susan; her brother in-in-law Eric; nieces and nephews plus her extended family Ben, Jan, Lexi and Will.

Julie requested, there will be a private family funeral. Because springtime was her favourite season we will announce and hold a Celebration of Life for Julie then.

Phyllis Simpson

Mary Phyllis Yvonne Simpson (LePage) of Whitehorse, Yukon passed away on December 13, 2016 at Copper Ridge Place at 86 years of age.

Phyllis was born July 1, 1930 at Yukon Crossing to parents Aime "Happy" and Pauline LePage.

Phyllis was a long-time pioneer and advocate of the Yukon. She and her younger sister Amy, grew up along the banks of the Yukon River as their parents owned and operated a network of wood camps that supplied cordwood for the steamboats. She had a rich history in the Yukon that included her being on three steamboats accidents, one of which was the sinking of the Klondike I just below Hootalinqua.

After finishing high school in Whitehorse, Phyllis attended Business College in Calgary. Upon her return to Whitehorse to work, she met and married RCMP Corporal James

“Jim” Robert Simpson in 1953. Over the next eight years their family began to grow with the births of their three daughters.

Phyllis and Jim continued their life of adventures as they were transferred to various postings across Canada before returning to settle and eventually retire in their beloved Yukon. However, as Phyllis held memories of a time long past, in 2006 she was given the opportunity to return to the work force at the Whitehorse Visitor Information Centre where she was employed until the time of her passing. Her work at the Centre during the winter months gave her great pleasure and enjoyment as she wove her magical tales of adventure to spellbound visitors and locals alike.

Phyllis will be forever remembered by her family of three daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Shannon (Dale); Heather (Cameron)-grandchildren: Robert (Christy); Melanie (Andrew) – great-grandchildren: Bryanna, Lucas, Kaylie, and youngest daughter Cheryl (Lennox) – grandchildren: Christopher (Angela) – great-grandchildren: Olivia, Hunter; Nicholas (Eileen) – and great grandchild Aren.

Over the years Phyllis also developed an extended family that was special to her. Phyllis’ family by blood and her family by heart brought her great joy over the years.

Phyllis was predeceased by her parents, Happy (1974) and her husband Jim Simpson (1992).

Phyllis’ family would like to thank her friends , her doctors and the staff at Whitehorse General Hospital, Macauley Lodge, Copper Ridge Place and Hospice Yukon for their love, care and support given to her over the past few months prior to her passing.

A Celebration of Life will take place near Phyllis’ Place of birth in July 2017. Details to follow.



Raymond Eric Magnuson
March 4, 1937 - December 12, 2016

Ray passed away peacefully at Copper Ridge Place in Whitehorse, Yukon with his family by his side.

Ray was born to parents Manne and Anna Magnuson in Atlin, BC. As a young man, Ray worked alongside his dad at the family sawmill, hauling supplies to and from Carcross. He also placer mined on several gold rich creeks in the Atlin area.

Ray met Roberta (Bobbie) in Atlin and they married on May 22, 1956. They went on to have four children.

Ray's transportation legacy began in 1960 when he started working on the Yukon highway system as a heavy equipment operator in Swift River. He went on to become the highway road foreman in Teslin, and later Haines Junction, a highway superintendent and by 1981 Ray assumed the role of Director of Highway Maintenance with the Yukon government, a position he held until retirement in 1990.

Ray was inducted into the Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame in 2005 for his accomplishments on the Yukon highway system.

In addition to mining and highways, Ray was passionate about the north and his community. A community member of Marsh Lake for several years, he was also a dedicated member of the Yukon Order of Pioneers for over 25 years. In his retirement, Ray filled his time woodworking – building many pieces of furniture for his friends and family. He also avidly enjoyed curling, fishing, hunting and boating.

Ray is survived by his wife of 60 years, Bobbie; sons Robert (Sandy), Patrick (Deanna), Eric (Jennifer), daughter Sherry (Cary); sister Ingrid Dick; grandchildren, Jennifer, Melanie, Raymond, Bradley, Cory, Staci, Savannah, Chance, Jesse; great-grandchildren, Bradi, Peyton, Harper and Cody. He also left behind many nieces, nephews and extended family members. Ray was a loving father, husband, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend to all.

A special thank-you to the staff at Copper Ridge Place for their loving care and support. A celebration of life will be held at Mt McIntyre Recreation Centre at 11:00 am on December 18, 2016 In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Parkinson Canada Foundation.



John Harach Sr.

August 6, 1932 - January 13, 2016

Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather

Dad was born in Redberry, Saskatchewan on August 6th, 1932. He was one of 20 children who grew up in a very crowded one room home.

Born during the Great Depression, his family had to work extremely hard to make ends meet. When he left home, at the age of 18, he began working for the CN railroad. He worked his way over to the B.C. coast, and fell in love with the mountains and wilderness along the way.

He married our mom, Berta in 1956, and they quickly made their way up to the Yukon. Dad and two of his brothers, Harry and Bill, built a beautiful three-story house that eventually became known as “home” to seven children.

Dad worked in construction. He helped build the old hospital, the original F.H. Collins School, and Selkirk Street School. He worked on many other buildings throughout the Yukon. When he started to contract on his own, he helped demolish the original buildings at Canyon City. He wanted to save the lumber but it was too difficult to pull the nails out of the old wood. He quickly put his blasting skills to work and used dynamite to free the boards, and salvage ninety percent of the old lumber.

Dad worked hard to support his large family over the years. He owned a large trap line which he loved spending time on, and was very proud of the beautiful lynx and wolverine he caught. He loved hunting and fishing with his children as well as taking them out on his trap line.

Dad could pretty much do anything, carpentry, plumbing, welding, mechanics, metal working, hunting, fishing, gardening, sewing, and cooking. Anything you could think of, he could do it, or he would figure out how to. He was constantly dreaming up wondrous ideas from a very young age, until the day he passed.

He always enjoyed the opportunity to teach others, and share his knowledge. He loved helping his grandchildren whenever he could, teaching them about cars, construction, gardening, and pretty much everything else in between.

Dad always had a very strong relationship with God. The hardships that he faced throughout his life only reinforced his faith. He taught us a lot about the Church, and really encouraged forgiveness, especially in his later years.

Predeceased by his eldest son, Nick, in 1976, and his wife Berta, in 1998, Dad is survived by his second wife, Mary Anne, eight siblings, six children and their spouses, one stepson, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

John will be greatly missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

Matthew 6:14

“For if you forgive men their offences, your heavenly Father will also forgive your offences,”.

Margaret Wheeler

WHEELER, Margaret Grace June 3rd, 1931 - December 22nd, 2016 In Loving Memory Born in Ilford, Essex, England on June 3rd, 1931, daughter to William and Mabel Surry, Margaret grew up in London, much of it during the war, where nightly air raids were common place. Margaret was 14 when the war ended, and in 1946 her family sold up and moved to Guernsey in the Channel Islands. There they lived in a large house known as Himalaya, where William ran a nursery growing tomatoes, and grapes while Mabel



took in boarders, including the composer John Longmire, with whom the family enjoyed many good times, and his friend John Ireland. It was also during this period that Margaret worked in a wool shop selling, among other things, the beautiful embroidered linens made by her mum. She also spent spare time with her sister, Betty, picking violets on the hedgerows which were bundled up and exported, along with her father's produce, back to London. After a number of fondly remembered years on Guernsey, much of the family, along with Margaret, emigrated to Canada. The family settled in Toronto and were eventually joined by Denis Wheeler, who stayed for a short time before moving west to work in southern Alberta. During their time together, Denis and Margaret had formed a friendship, encouraged by Mabel, and they were eventually married on December 27th, 1962 in North York, Ontario, before immediately heading west to begin a marriage that was destined to last until Denis passed away 45 years later in 2007. Over the years, Margaret and Denis lived in, or near, such diverse communities as Canmore, Cardston, and Calgary, Alberta, Alert Bay, Port Alberni, and Victoria, B.C., Kenora, Ontario and Whitehorse, Yukon. While in Alert Bay, Margaret operated the

island's only flower shop earning respect for her truly beautiful flower arrangements. Margaret was especially fond of Whitehorse, where she and Denis lived for a decade raising their children Christopher (Joanne), Ceri (Michael) and Ian (Janette) before finally retiring to Victoria. Margaret enjoyed a happy retirement in Victoria where she lived until her death on December 22nd, 2016. Margaret is predeceased by Denis (2007), along with her older brothers, John (1994) and Arthur (2006). She is fondly remembered as a selfless, gentle, caring and happy person by all her children, their spouses, and her younger sister and brother, Betty (Ron) and David (Jean), cousins, nieces and nephews around the world. She is greatly missed by her grandchildren, Adrian, Emily-Ann, Aidan, Rowan, Eamonn, Chloe and Ryan, and by everyone who knew this remarkable woman. A private Celebration of Life will be held for Margaret in the spring of 2017. In lieu of flowers, please donate to The Heights at Mt. View Baptist Housing Benevolent Fund - contact: saara@baptisthousing.org Condolences may be offered to the family at www.mccallgardens.com



In Memory of
Bob LaForce
1925 - 2016

Obituary of Bob LaForce

Robert "Bob" Gerald Laforce passed away at the Maidstone Hospital, Maidstone, Saskatchewan on Friday, December 30, 2016 at the age of 91 years.

Bob was born on June 25, 1925, in Renfrew, Ontario, to John and Elizabeth LaForce, a sibling to ten brothers and sisters. Bob joined the Armed Forces at age 18 and had several postings. When he was stationed in **Whitehorse, Yukon**, he met Joyce Imhoff and they married in St. Walburg, Saskatchewan, on July 28, 1958. They lived in Whitehorse where Sharon and Louise were born and then were transferred to Edmonton where Laurie and Brian were born. They later moved to Dundurn Military Base and Loraine was born while there. When Bob retired from the military in May of 1970, they moved to acreage at Lashburn, Saskatchewan, where they resided for over 43 years. The years were filled with many wonderful memories of times spent with family and friends and tending to their beautiful yard and garden. Bob worked in Lloydminster before purchasing Wilford

Agencies in Lashburn in March of 1976 which became LaForce Agencies Ltd. He was also very active in the community as Manager of Tighnduin Home, Treasurer of the Lashburn Legion and Catholic Church, and a member of the hospital board. He was always ready to volunteer and had a strong commitment to the community. An avid family man, he enjoyed camping, fishing, golfing, skiing, bowling, curling and a good game of cribbage.

Bob leaves to mourn his passing, his loving wife Joyce, daughters Sharon (Gordon) Lorenz, Louise LaForce-Fertig, Laurie (Bruce) Dirk and Loraine LaForce, son Brian (Tracey) LaForce, 12 grandchildren, two great grandchildren, sisters Betty (Bob) Pomeroy and Mae Schizkoske, brothers-in-law Bert (Phyllis) Imhoff, Ken Imhoff, sisters-in-law Dorothy (Blake) Baxter and Joan LaForce and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents John and Elizabeth, and his siblings Charles, Thomas, John, Joseph, Jean, Bill, Olivia and Mary-Ellen.

Prayer Service for Bob will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 7:00 PM at McCaw Funeral Chapel, Lloydminster, Alberta.

The Funeral Service for Bob will be held on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 2:00 PM at the Lashburn Community Hall, Lashburn, Saskatchewan.

Donations may be made in memory of Bob to the Parkinsons Society, Lashburn Veterans Gallery or Charity of Choice.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.” —J.K. Rowling

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.

Meat Loaf

1 lb. ground ham
1 lb. ground veal
1 lb. ground beef
1 cup tinned Pacific milk
2 cups bread crumbs, browned
Ground bay leaf, marjoram and sage

Salt and pepper
2 eggs, well beaten

Mix all ingredients into loaf and bake in loaf pan for 60 minutes in 325 degree F. oven. When served hot, loaf is delicious with tomato sauce made from strained tinned tomatoes seasoned well with pepper, salt and Worcestershire sauce. Just before serving, pour over finely diced fried bacon.

Mrs. George Black

COMING EVENT



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



Banquet - Saturday, April 08, 2017

Hospitality 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
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**

**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 are 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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