



DAWSON CITY, YUKON

VOLUME I, NUMBER 4

50 CENTS

DISCOVERY DAYS!

by Kathy Jones-Gates

Celebrating the 1896 Klondike Gold Discovery has been a Dawson tradition since 1905. At the first celebration, the Yukon Order of Pioneers held a dignified "smoker" for all sourdoughs who were north of the 60th parallel or in the Yukon watershed prior to January 1, 1899. They enjoyed spinning yarns and reminiscing. Eighty-four years later, the celebration is now focussed on activities for the entire family.

Kicking off the weekend on Friday evening, August 18 were Mayor Peter Jenkins and Commissioner Ken McKinnon, at the wiener roast by the Front Street Gazebo. All weekend long, regular visitor attractions were augmented by sporting events, the annual parade, food concessions, musical entertainment and the traditional special activities around Dawson.

Sporting enthusiasts cheered the men's and women's fastball teams in Minto Park, participated in the second Run Dawson 5-km and 10-km road races, the Eldorado Canoe Race on the Yukon River and water polo and triathlon events. Twenty-five entrants made up the annual Klondike River Raft Race, sponsored by Molsons.

The featured Discovery Days parade managed to dodge the threatened rain all the way to Minto Park, so pundits could claim that it did not rain on the parade! It was led by the skirling bagpipes of Bill Jackson and Tom Naughton beating time on his Irish drum. There was a smart, full-force-showing of the RCMP in their red serge, with Dawsonite Gina Nagano standing out as she proudly walked in stride. The YOOP marched in step, their numbers increased with the participation of Commissioner McKinnon and 90-year-old Alaskan Harrie Hughes, who claims to have only missed one parade since 1960!

The special entertainment featured two groups from Alaska and the infamous Snow Shoe Can-Can Dancers from Whitehorse, who seemed to have a limitless supply of red lipstick, judging by the number of male... and female faces emblazoned by 'lip power' around town! (cont. on Page 2)

**Front Page Challenge in Dawson!
No mystery about this guest**

by Dan Davidson

Front Page Challenge will be taping three shows at the Palace Grand Theatre on September 15. Panelists Pierre Berton, Betty Kennedy, Alan Fotheringham and Jack Webster will be here with moderator Fred Davis following a September 13 taping in Whitehorse.

Tickets for the evening are available through the Klondike Visitors Association and will cost \$10 (floor) and \$15 (balcony). Proceeds will be donated to the Dawson City Firefighters' Association to help in the purchase of a set of the "Jaws of Life", a device used to extract accident victims from mangled vehicles.

Though all 27 yearly episodes of *Front Page Challenge* are taped on the road, this is the show's first trip to the Yukon in its 33-year history. The six, half-hour programs being taped in the Territory will start the 1989 fall season, which begins on September 21.

The show is based on a quiz format in which the four panelists attempt to guess the identity of a set of mystery guests. The guests are either famous in their own right or connected to some sort of significant historic or current event. Generally, some of the stories have some connection to the place where the show is being taped. Suggestions for the show can be mailed to *Front Page Challenge*, Box 500, Station "A", Toronto, Ontario M5W 1E6. The programs pay \$25 for any items that it uses.



ARCTIC AIR TOUR VISITS DAWSON CITY

by Dawne Mitchell

Thirty-eight private planes from the Alberta Aviation Council, commemorating Alexander MacKenzie's exploration, touched down in Dawson for a few days.

The planes came from Edmonton and followed a route through Hay River, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, Inuvik, Tuk, Aklavik, Dawson, Whitehorse, Fort Liard, Fort Nelson and Grand Prairie.

The group called themselves the Arctic Air Tour. The council's purpose is to promote aviation in small communities and advise government on improving airports in rural prairie towns. The northern tour was part promotion, part fun for all the council members who could participate. Dawson's airport looked like a busy one down south, with all the various makes and models of small planes lined up next to each other on one side of the runway.

Gold mining affects the whole community

by Dawne Mitchell

Placer mining has always been a precarious business. Boom and bust cycles are reported throughout its history. Nineteen eighty-eight was one of the best for gold production in the Klondike since the turn of the century. Seventy million dollars' worth of gold was officially reported to be mined in this area. This year, according to the Mining Engineer's office in Dawson, the figure for gold produced is half that of the previous year.

As early as 1898, *The Midnight Sun* newspaper wrote, "Bonanza showing up poor in a few places - Hunker, Bear and the other creeks will yield less than \$2 million". Gold was \$17 per ounce then, and the article goes on to say, "There are men on Eldorado who are not obtaining as much from their dumps as expected and these estimate the total yield of the creek much lower."

This summer, gold hovered around \$400 (Canadian) per ounce - a low price for today's expensive mining techniques. Some companies, like Queenstake Resources, were lucky and sold this year's gold on speculation last year, at a much higher price. Other mining operations that were making money marginally last year are not making it this year. Still others stripped ground this summer, but did not sluice, waiting for a better gold exchange next year. Lack of water due to dry weather conditions also caused sluicing problems.

The low price of gold affects the whole community. Most citizens living in Dawson are not aware of or are not directly influenced by mining.

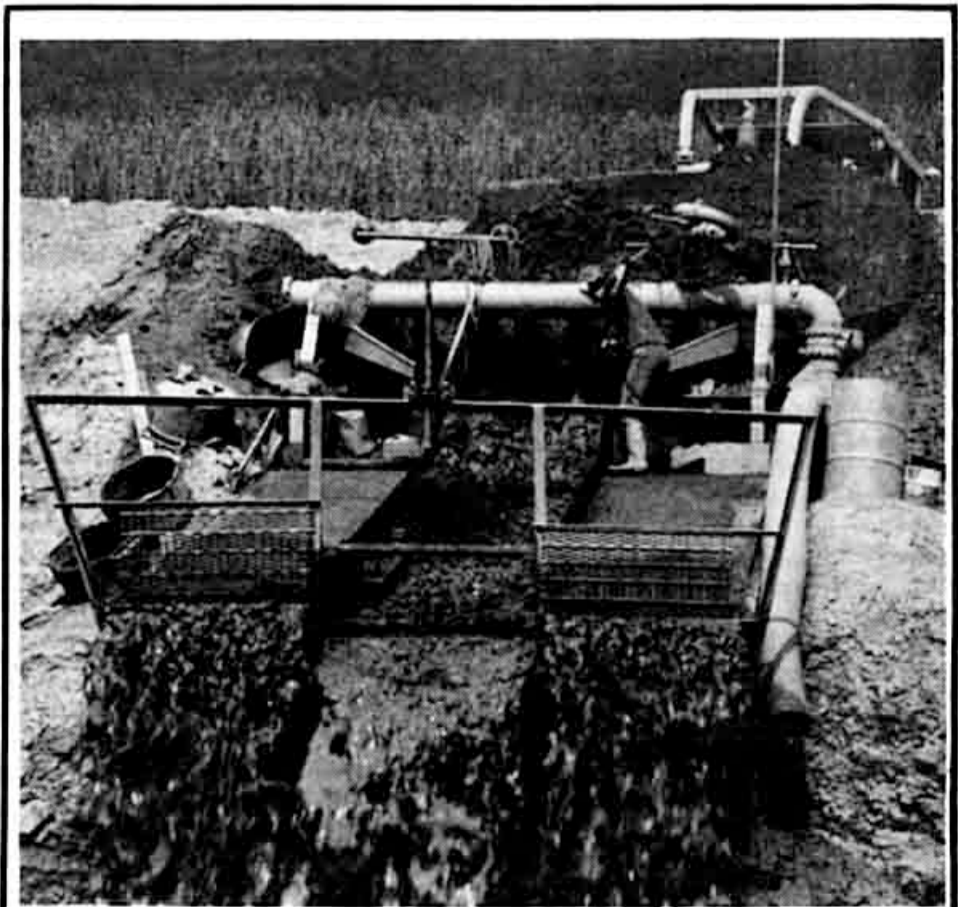
Many have secure government positions or jobs that are related to the heavily subsidized tourism industry. They are, however, indirectly affected by the gold mining industry when services like grocery stores, hotels, gas stations and other private enterprises raise their prices to compensate for the slow trade in "goldmining dollars". According to the Mining Recorder's office, there are about 100 mining operations in the Klondike

region - down significantly from last year's number. A direct influence to the community is the loss of jobs for a number of men and women working for established mining operations or mining related business. When these people are making good wages, they are known as "big spenders" in such places as Gertie's, the hotels, bars and restaurants and gift shops. Several year-round residents of Dawson work for placer miners.

Some service industries have not yet been affected by the slow mining season and report a good year in sales, similar to 1988. Others, like McCully Transport, say business is down 50 percent from last year. One machinist says his summer has been good because miners are getting old parts repaired instead of buying new ones, while one welding business says miners are doing welding repairs themselves, instead of calling in a professional. Mining related businesses have the great risk of not being paid if a miner has a poor season. For a small business, a debt of a few thousand dollars from one or two mining operations can be disastrous. Some larger businesses have been owed hundreds of thousands of dollars by mining companies. It's a risk that is part of the gold trade.

Although the future for placer mining looks dim, most miners and related businesses agree they are powerless to do anything about it. As Gerry McCully, owner of a trucking company that services the gold fields, says, "The world market dictates the price of gold and we have to take the bad times with the good."

Some pin their future hopes on the hard rock mining industry. Large companies - Hughes-Lange and United Keno Hill Mines - are actively exploring the Klondike region for hard rock deposits. Many Dawsonites feel the future of their town is in tourism. Others understand the importance that gold mining has on the local economy. Everyone with an eye on the price of gold hopes for another boom cycle.



GOLD MINING WITH A ROSS BOX ON MILLER CREEK.

PHOTO: MICHAEL GATES

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Dawson City News.....3
- Letters.....4
- Editorial Page.....4
- Discovery Day
- Photographs.....11
- Klondike Life.....13
- Inside/Outside.....17
- KNHS Schedules.....19
- Bookends.....22
- Museum Notes.....23
- Discovery Day.....25
- Sports.....25, 26
- Classified Ads.....27



Yukon Order Of Pioneers Centennial 1994

...AND LOTS MORE!

(cont. from Page 1)

From Alaska, Dawson welcomed back the Karavan Dancers, from Anchorage, who perform Russian and Ukrainian dances - decked out in traditional costumes. Dance director Glenn Thompson indicated that Anchorage is steeped in Russian history and folk dance enthusiasts there met by mutual consent to form the non-profit company. They bring in teachers from the Lower 48 on a regular basis, and meet weekly to rehearse and learn new dances. Glenn has been folk dancing for 38 years and still enjoys his hobby, even though his own roots are not Russian. The Karavan Dancers add a professional touch to the weekend's entertainment. In addition to the dancers, we were entertained by the Elmandorf Air Command Brass Quintet, this being their first visit - definitely a crowd pleaser.

Long John Baldry topped the bill at the weekend dances, with Saturday night a sell-out. Known and respected worldwide for his blues, Baldry started his second set solo, on acoustic guitar, causing some to shout for "more rock and roll". Baldry's suitable - if inelegant - response to that allowed him to conclude, and then the crowd really got to "boogie" some more.

Rounding out the weekend, entrants could test their talents at log sawing, whip sawing, nail driving and tug-o-war contests, a claim-staking stampede and the ever-popular horseshoe tournament.

The Discovery Day Committee are to be commended for their organization this year, with special kudos to Len Millar, who said, "I am only the Treasurer...", but managed to Emcee the parade awards, locate lists of events winners for the paper, and even re-supply the Rec Centre Ladies' Washroom with toilet paper at the Saturday night dance. Now that is dedication!

Klondike Valley planning

The Klondike Valley is put to so many uses - recreational, agricultural, mining, industrial, garbage disposal, wildlife, residential, historic preservation. The valley is so necessary to the town of Dawson because from the waters of the valley we get our town's water supply.

The Klondike Valley Steering Committee was formed to formulate ideas for the preservation of and getting the best use out of the valley. The committee, with only a few minor differences, agreed on what would be a workable solution. (The representatives on the committee were miners, trappers, tourism, farmers, City of Dawson, rural communities, Indian Band, as well as the director of Northern Land Use Planning and representatives of the Territorial Land Department.)

But now, 12 months later, there is still a shortage of lots, and lack of planning in the development of the valley.

The recommendation that all staking in the valley be frozen was not implemented, with one result being that land which was to be used for industrial lots is now staked.

If the Territorial government had acted sooner on this report, would the federal government feel that perhaps there are guidelines other than their own to follow? One federal government department, following their own guidelines, allows mining in a sensitive lynx area. This is why Stephen Rudniski of Dawson City worries about what will happen to his trapline when mining interests are allowed to tear into his trapping area. He may be interested from the point of view of his winter livelihood, but one worries about the habitat of the lynx being wiped out.

When the one federal government department has two separate policies for land use, with how much difficulty will a Territorial government department, such as Renewable Resources, debate a question of policy for the same area (this federal government department being the Department of Indian and Northern Development)? One section of this department can say no to a Yukoner wanting a wood lot, but another section of the same department can say yes to a miner to go ahead and clear this land for a road in the same area.

This road would most likely lead to further development of this area. Development seems to mean destroying what nature has provided. With environmental concerns rising so high on the list of people's priorities, we should not only look to what is happening in the Amazon jungle, but also realize that we, too, have an environment to preserve.

With the valley, we have our environment to preserve, our history to preserve, our livelihood to preserve, and our clean water supply to preserve. We also hope the valley will provide lots for industrial or residential use.

There is so much happening in the valley that affects all of us in Dawson.

With some federal departments showing lack of foresight, we do appreciate the difficulties the Territorial government is going to run into in implementing the Klondike Valley Land Use Plan. We can only hope that they will soon get to work on it, as time is running out.

AUTHORS VISIT DAWSON CITY

Exciting and talented young Canadians Shona Rossel and Cheryl Kehoe of Vancouver and Calgary spent two days in Dawson City recently, adding to their documentary photographic art book on Canadian women, reflecting the women of Canada. The book is about "passion, history and life-styles".

To date, Shona has produced over 300 photographic portraits/stories right across the country. Chief Angie Joseph and Sourdough Sue Ward were chosen and made time for lengthy interviews and photo sessions. Angie arranged for the young women to visit Moosehide.

The team continued to Mayo for further character studies.

Shona works in Canada, England and the U.S., making films and shooting portraits about people and their lives. Cheryl is the perfect back-up partner, so necessary to such a creative endeavour.

Plans are made to publish the book in the spring of 1990.

DAWSON TOURISM Numbers steady, but dollars down

by Dan Davidson

While overall tourism figures for the Territory are reported as being down by as much as 5 percent, figures for the Klondike National Historical Sites show that Dawson City is holding its own or improving slightly over previous years.

Most of the six sites on the survey list show increased in the number of visitors to the end of July. The Robert Service Cabin has had an additional 391 visitors this year, with Tom Byrne seeing as many as 248 visitors on one single day in July. The biggest jump is in the number of visitors to Dredge No. 4, out on Bonanza Creek. Numbers there are up 27 percent, 3,540 more than last year. The Harrington's Store exhibit is up 14 percent and visits to the Old Post Office are up 20 percent. Tours at the Palace Grand Theatre are up 8 percent, although numbers for the Follies shows have declined by 4 percent.

The biggest loss is at the Sternwheeler Keno, down 90 percent. Linda Bierlmeier, in charge of interpretive services at KNHS, feels that the shut-down of the tour on the boat has caused the decline. Walking tours have also been holding their own.

If these figures are at odds with some rumblings about reduced tourist business this summer, they are nevertheless in accord with the statistics at the Dawson City Museum, which also registers a slight increase over last year. Museum director Val Baggaley says she expects the income from the summer will be down slightly, however.

This leads both women to speculate that the people are here, but they aren't spending as much money as usual, a thought echoed by one of the campground operators, Brenda Caley, of Guggieville. The site figures from KNHS seem to show people taking in activities that don't cost a lot of money. Klondike Visitors Association manager Chuck Holloway confirms this observation based on what he has seen and what he is being told by businesses around the town.

When evaluating Dawson's performance as a tourist destination, it helps to remember that 1987 was an exceptional year, and 1988 was artificially boosted by the closure of the Alaska Highway west of Haines Junction by July mudslides, which diverted traffic up the Klondike Highway.



W H I T E H O R S E	9 00	Lv	WHITEHORSE, YT.....	Ar	11 15	D A W S O N C I T Y
	9 30		Braburn			
	11 00	Ar	Carmacks	Lv	9 15	
	11 15	Lv	Carmacks	Ar	9 00	
	12 15		Pelly Crossing		8 00	
	1 20	Ar	Stewart Crossing	Lv	6 30	
	2 00	Lv	Stewart Crossing	Ar	6 30	
	1 30	Lv	(Mayo Connections)	Ar		
	3 30	Ar	Dempster Hwy. Jct.	Lv	4 30	
	4 00	Ar	DAWSON CITY, YT	Lv	4 00	

Summer Schedule - Monday, Wednesday and Friday only
 between June 1 and Sept. 1.
 RETURN FARE IS DOUBLE ONE-WAY FARE
 FARE DAWSON-WHSE ONE WAY \$66.00
 Mayo Taxi Service To/From Stewart Crossing

THE YUKON MINER'S DIRECTORY

- a compendium of information for the Yukon's mineral exploration and mining industry
- a good sourcing document for doing business in the Yukon

Connecting Yukon Businesses

K-L Services
 (403) 668-5076
 58 Kluane Cres.
 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3G7

Thank you!

The Grade Two class, 1988 - Mrs. Coxford's class - went to Whitehorse in June for the Story Telling Festival. The class would like to thank the following organizations for helping us raise the money.

Thanks to the Rec Board/Tagish Charlie Fund for loaning us the money to pay for the bus until we could raise it ourselves. Special thanks to Joan Bilton for all the anxiety she saved me! Thanks to Mr. Montgomery, Shirley Pennell and the Department of Education for the grant. Thanks to Gloria and the parents who chaperoned the trip.

Thanks to all the parents who helped out on the fundraisers... the hot dog day at the primary field day, the Canada Day concession, the bottle drive, and the parents who couldn't help who donated the cash as their contributions.

Thanks to Holly K., to Richard McMaster for loaning us his garage to sort all those bottles, to the Farmer's Market, the Dawson General Store and Len Merrick for your help with the food and drink. If I missed anyone, I'm sorry - it was a long and stretched-out fundraising experience.

Thanks from the kids.

- Pauline Scott



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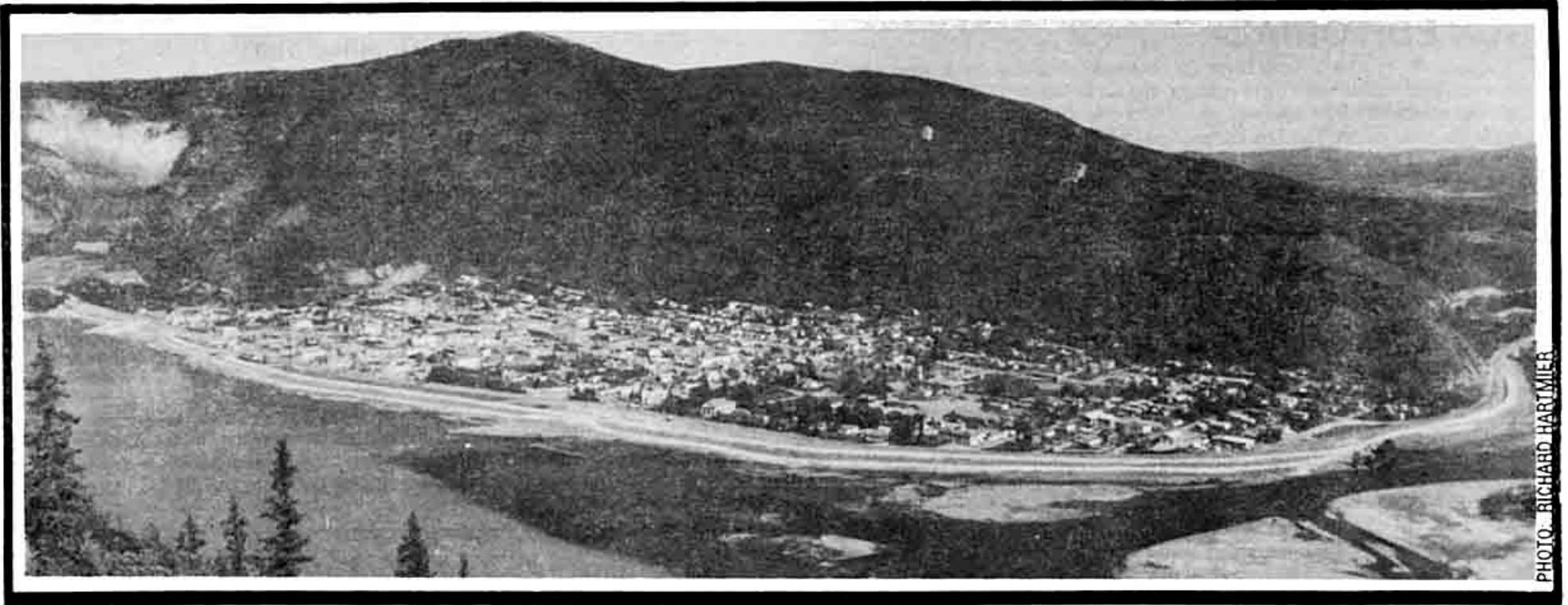


PHOTO: RICHARD HARMIER

City's subdivision lots open in September

by Dan Davidson

Dawsonites anxious to acquire ownership of lots in the planned Dome Subdivision will have to wait until the middle of September before the land lottery will take place. City manager Alannah Tunnicliffe gives two reasons why the original date of mid-June could not be met.

The most important reason is the discovery that a long-defunct mining outfit, the Yukon Gold Company, still has a registered easement on part of the land where the 12 one- to three-acre lots are to be situated. This was discovered while title searches and surveying were going on. This is a federal matter and relief must be sought at that level. Tunnicliffe reported that Dawson's lawyers expect it to take a month or more to clear up the paperwork on this, though it should be a simple matter to resolve.

The second, and less important, delay was caused by the fact that the municipal administration only received its access permit and authorization to survey on August 2, which puts the project somewhat behind.

IN BY ACCLAMATION Freed joins Council

by Dan Davidson

Dawson City Council is up to full strength again. The vacancy left by the resignation of Axel Speer has been filled by Diane Freed, who was elected by acclamation when the nomination period closed on July 24.

Freed, who ran against Mayor Peter Jenkins in the 1988 municipal elections, seems to have a habit of stepping onto council in mid-term. This is her second term on the Dawson council, where she joins Lynn Mackenzie, Lambert Curzon and Herb Watt.

Freed, who works as the part-time manager of the Dawson City Housing Association (the local arm of the Yukon Housing Corporation), has a particular interest in social and cultural concerns, as evidenced by her work with the Dawson Shelter and the Dawson Drama Club over the last eight years. In an interview held just after she returned from her recent honeymoon, she indicated that her primary interest on council will be in social planning.

She feels it may be time to survey the community to find out what direction people want it to move in.

"There maybe should be a referendum on some issues," she said, citing taxes, bylaw enforcement and housing as areas people have been talking to her about.

Two extra mail days for Dawson this summer

by Dan Davidson

There have been two extra mail days in Dawson City during most of this summer, according to postmaster Lambert Curzon. First class and priority post mail has been arriving on the scheduled bus run from Whitehorse on Wednesday and Friday evenings. It is sorted and ready to be picked up on Thursday and Saturday.

The normal mail runs to Dawson by truck allow for mail to be picked up on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, so Tuesday is now the only day of the week when there is no mail arriving.

Curzon says that this new schedule is very dependent on the bus run and he does not know if it will be continued when the bus line goes to its winter schedule.

"It does show Canada Post trying to give more consideration to service in rural areas," he said. He noted that greater consistency of delivery in Dawson was achieved some years ago when the mail run was switched from air freight to trucking. Due to the difficulties with winter weather and with the inadequate Dawson Airport, it was often impossible for planes to land for days on end, but trucks generally manage to make it here no matter what the weather.

The city cleans up

by Dan Davidson

Dawson's City Council has decided to make a serious effort to clean up the town and to take a harder line with those who make that difficult by violating municipal bylaws. The most immediate effect of this decision will be a lot of grass cutting. The dike and the City-owned properties along the sides of the community's streets between the road and homeowners' property lines are due for a trim this month and council has discussed budgeting the item for next year.

Part of this is in response to oral and written complaints that have been received at City offices about the general appearance of the community, that it looks a bit seedy and unkempt. Since peoples' yards and how they keep them can be part of that problem, the City administration has, during the past year, been giving it some attention.

Offences include the use of unsuitable buildings as living accommodation, the keeping of old vehicles and junk in the yard and non-conforming use of zoned property (i.e. operating a visible business in a residential zone). While there are various bylaws that might be applied to this sort of problem, City manager Allanah Tunnicliffe says that the main one she has been using is the building bylaw.

"Wherever possible," she says, "we do try to work it out with the property owner before issuing a ticket." But 14 such cases have gone to the summary conviction ticket stage over the last year and 14 guilty verdicts have been obtained in court. Since fines under the Territorial ordinance governing such things can go up to \$500 and/or six months in jail, non-compliance with City requests to clean up could bear a heavy penalty.

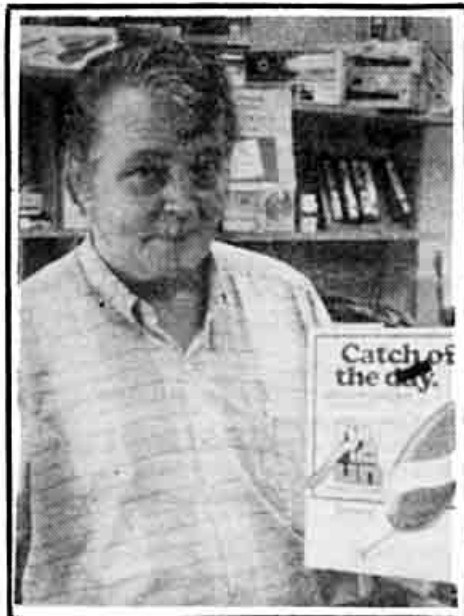


PHOTO: DAWNE MITCHELL

Fred Berger, owner of Arctic Drugs in Dawson City, has seen a few lucky people win on "scratch-and-win" lottery tickets in his store over the past year. Some of that good luck must have rubbed off - Mr. Berger invested one dollar recently and wound up winning \$10,000!

CITY NEWS PAGE

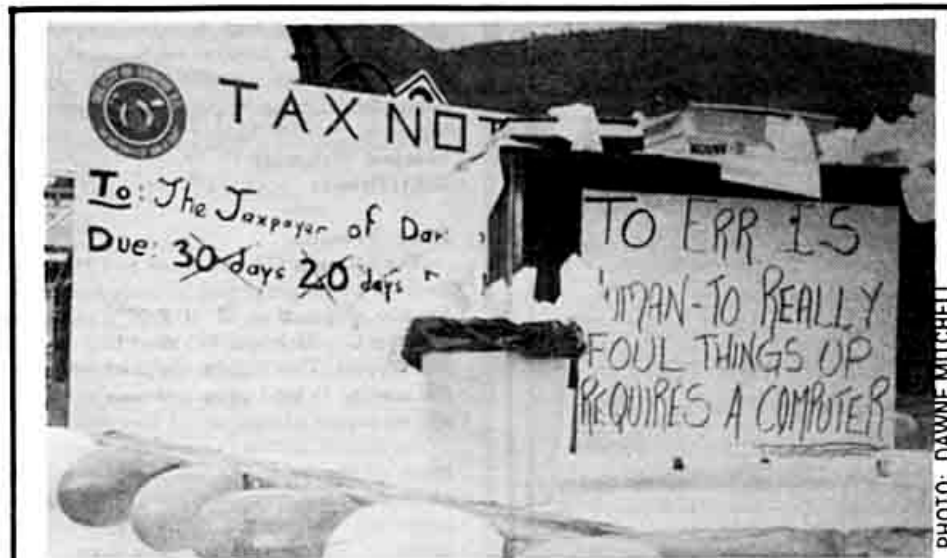


PHOTO: DAWNE MITCHELL

"TO ERR IS HUMAN"... THE CITY OF DAWSON'S FLOAT IN THE DISCOVERY DAYS PARADE ALLUDES TO THE RECENT TECHNOLOGICAL MIX-UP CONCERNING DAWSON'S TAX NOTICES - PROVING THE ADMINISTRATION IS CAPABLE OF LAUGHING AT ITS OWN FOIBLES.



RAVEN SAYS: CLEAN DAWSON UP!

SUN EDITORIAL

A recent visit to Alaska drove home the invaluable necessity for good advertising and communications about what there is to see and do in Dawson City. Fairbanks residents appeared reasonably well informed about Dawson, with many mentioning advertising seen in the local media. The Tok information Centre was as reliable as ever, and so too, were many of the visitor facilities we stayed at along the way. However, rubbing shoulders with R.V. people at campgrounds, swimming pools and restaurants, we were dismayed to hear all the 'disinformation' that was being passed along as accurate!

Five different couples indicated that either they were hesitant to visit Dawson, or had bypassed the Klondike Highway because of other travellers informing them that "as a result of ore trucks on the Klondike Highway, it was badly broken up the entire route". One couple insisted that this same information had been obtained at the Whitehorse Information Centre, but in reflection, could not swear that the clerk had meant the entire highway! Still, it was enough to keep their R.V.s chugging right along to Alaska.

A good many visitors indicated that although their destination was Alaska, they enjoyed stop-overs and might have spent more time in Whitehorse, if they could have found the Information Centre! They had picked up a Dawson brochure at the Watson Lake Info Centre, but were concerned about inevitable road conditions! One negative factor was the KVA sign at the intersection of the Klondike and Alaska highways, north of Whitehorse. Used to gambling in the Lower 48, many felt that if that was all Dawson had to offer, they were not interested in making the 330-mile detour. Others had heard from fellow travellers about the 'grubbiness' of Dawson. When asked for specifics, they passed along remarks about the 'messy yards, unkempt property lots... empty spaces in the downtown core, littered with trash'. When pressed, though, all agreed that they were not sure just what they had envisioned Dawson to be, what they compared it to.

We recognize that for all these negative comments, many thousands more enjoy Dawson! The city is making an effort to tidy City property, and the majority of residents maintain their homes, with much effort put into gardens, flower beds, etc. Little can be done to get absentee property-owners to do something about neglected properties, unless a structure on-site is deemed unsafe, in which case the city can use its bylaws to improve conditions.

It might also be time for a new sign to be designed to encourage visitors to turn off the Alaska Highway onto the Klondike Highway... or a series of signs promoting many of Dawson's special features. The pleasures of a drive on the Top of the World Highway are many on a sunny day. On a wet day, even we seasoned Yukon highway drivers were not impressed by the "muddy soup" road surface we encountered the last 20 miles to the border, despite the reconstruction work we know had been done to the Yukon side.

In all fairness, however, we had the same conditions on the Alaska side until we arrived at Tetlin Junction - and pavement!

The Klondike Sun

Published by the Klondike Literary Society. Printed monthly on the fourth Thursday at the offices of the *The Yukon News*.

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Layout	Diverse Hands		

The *Klondike Sun's* offices are located in the back rooms of the Golden Age Club's Drop-in Centre, corner of Fifth and Church in Dawson City. Mailing address is Bag 6040, Dawson City, Yukon Y0B 1G0; telephone number (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday): 403-993-6318.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear *Klondike Sun*:

Rushed - more tourists than last year. My new book is out: *Bonnet Plume's Gold* - \$14.50 + \$1.00 postage, in case you know of anyone interested.

We will be closing down soon and will return to my isolated cabin. Do you want me to find another outlet for the *Klondike Sun*? The tourists sure like it - it's a great paper. I loved your story about "Rags".

Best always,
Dolores Brown
Mayo

We hope you will be able to contribute to our 1989 auction. If you have any questions, please contact the Museum at 993-5291. Your donation is tax-deductible and an official receipt will be issued. As well, your name will be used on our promotional material and auction programs.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.
Sincerely,
Renee Mayes, President
Dawson City Museum
and Historical Society
Dawson City

To the Editors and Staff:

Hi there. Just a short note to say "hi" to all my family in Dawson City - keep your spirit high, as I am.

Well, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you people for putting together a wonderful, new newspaper for the city of Dawson. The name, the *Klondike Sun*, is the true spirit for Klondike, like a raven spirit. Raven birds are true survivors; the *Klondike Sun* has a raven spirit. The *Klondike Sun* will survive. It will become well known over all of North America, for its purposes.

Thanks for sending me the two past issues. It was very professionally written, but I would like to see much more needed pictures put into it - I felt very lonesome after reading it. Guess that's reality.

I'm enclosing a cheque for \$12 for a year's subscription.

Thank you. 'Bye for now.
Lionel Blanchard
Agassiz, British Columbia

Dear Editor:

In regard to the article on the Klondike Visitors' Association, we would like to clarify the funding of the Alaska co-operation marketing program.

The funding comes from CYTSA, and is on the basis of the government share being 90 percent federal and 10 percent Territorial. The article only referred to YTG contributing to the program, as well as the KVA. Of the total 1989 program, KVA is contributing 50 percent, the federal government 45 percent and the Territorial government 5 percent.

Sincerely,
C.F. Holloway, General Manager
Klondike Visitors' Association
Dawson City, Yukon

Dear *Klondike Sun*:

Ever since our visit in 1969 to Dawson City and seeing Sue Ward on the *Keno*, then the theatre, we have been hooked.

Here's wishing the *Klondike Sun* a long and happy life - do miss the "Nuts", though.

Sincerely,
Roberta Colman
Clearlake, California
(Ed. Note: So do we. Where are they, anyway?)

Dear Editors:

Congratulations on a job well done! I really enjoy the new paper.

Enclosed is a cheque for \$12 for a one-year subscription.

Good luck, and thanks for keeping me in touch.

Yours truly,
Shelley (Bliton) Varga
Campbell River, British Columbia

Hello!

Enclosed is my cheque to cover a subscription to your paper. We Yukoners living "outside" want to keep in touch with what is happening in the old home town.

All the best.
Sincerely,
Pretoria Butterworth
Vancouver, British Columbia



To Adam from Barb

YES!

I'D LIKE A SUBSCRIPTION TO
THE KLONDIKE SUN,
BAG 6040, DAWSON CITY, YUKON Y0B 1G0

NAME

ADDRESS

TOWN POSTAL CODE

CHEQUE FOR \$12 ENCLOSED (12 ISSUES)

WEBSTER'S WORDS

Art Webster, MLA for the Klondike

It's a good feeling to be part of a growing community with a vibrant economy and evidence of home construction/renovation everywhere. However, for those without land who are anxious to build, it can be a frustrating experience. Lately, questions about the availability of land and considerations in building/renovating a house have been asked of me repeatedly.

With respect to availability, there is currently little residential land for sale. The City of Dawson is offering seven lots in the north end of town, and some country residential land at Henderson Corner, which is looking more attractive now that the area is serviced with electrical power, is also available. Next month, the City of Dawson will release 12 lots in the Dawson Dome country residential subdivision. Later this fall, the Lands Branch intends to sell four to six homestead lots in West Dawson. More homestead and country residential lots will be put on the market next year.

On the other matter, my advice to those planning on building a new house or making renovations is to think first of themselves, but to design and construct with a high resale value in mind. As you are building the house for yourself, design the layout to match your lifestyle, the needs of your family, and finish it to suit your tastes. Assuming it is well constructed, the home will give you years of enjoyment, and will be attractive to buyers if the time comes to move on.

I am quick to caution people that one should not build a personal residence in rural Yukon with financial investment in mind. As a general rule, one is doing well if a home sells for an amount equal to the

cost of building it. And I know of several examples where the selling price may fall short of matching the amount "invested" in the house.

A case in point is our house on 8th Avenue, which we recently had appraised. According to a professional appraiser with many years experience working throughout the Territory, "the fair market value as of June 9, 1989 was \$100,000" for our property. It is interesting to note that despite a cost approach valuation which indicated the land worth \$27,000, buildings \$98,632 and "extras" \$8,500, for a total of \$134,132, and comments that "current market conditions in Dawson City appear to be good", the appraiser, using a market data approach, estimates the selling price of the property to be fully one-quarter less than what it is worth.

It has often been said that the most important investment one will make in life is a home. Do not, especially in rural Yukon, regard this truism in the context of equity. Rather, think of your home in terms of a sense of achievement, a source of pride and an investment in a future of comfort and contentment.



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W.F. Macaroni & Cheese Dinner - 225 g	3/1.19	FROZEN	
Kraft Cheese Pizza Mix - 450 g	2.29	Minute Maid Orange Juice - 355 ml	2.19
Kellogg's Froot Loops Cereal - 425 g	3.19	Farmers Market is closed Sunday, September 3 Open on Monday, September 4	
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A HOMAGE TO ROBERT SERVICE

by Dan Davidson

Thunder rolls across the hills as Tom Byrne recites the closing lines of *The Spell of the Yukon*. Someone in the crowd of 75 congratulates him on the sound effects and he laughs.

"Perfect timing," he calls out, before returning to his subject.

It has been a strange sort of afternoon. The rain began lightly midway through the presentation. A few of the listeners hurried off when it got harder. Others crowded under the trees and bushes. Some on the benches at the front of the yard pulled up the plastic sheeting used to keep the morning dew off the seats. Byrne continued on through *The Cremation of Sam McGee* and *The Shooting of Dan McGrew* anyway, delivering Service's verses in his soft Irish tones.

The Quitter is a perfect choice for this afternoon, for it is during this poem that the rain reaches its peak and does actually drive a half a dozen or so away. Some just retreat to campers for raincoats and umbrellas, returning as Byrne delivers the comic *Bessie's Boil* and then, in deference to the rain, adjourns from his old rocker on the lawn to the porch of the cabin for his final remarks.

Byrne makes no pretense at actually being Robert Service. After nearly a decade of doing homage to the bard at this site, he seems still as taken with his subject as he ever was, enthusiastically answering whatever questions he can. He was first exposed to Service as a lad in Dublin by his father, and the virus took hold early.

In *Good-bye, Little Cabin*, Robert Service said that his ghost would return to visit. Though he did not do so in life, it may have later... we'll never know. What's certain is that the spirit of his work haunts the place each summer, and Tom Byrne helps it linger.

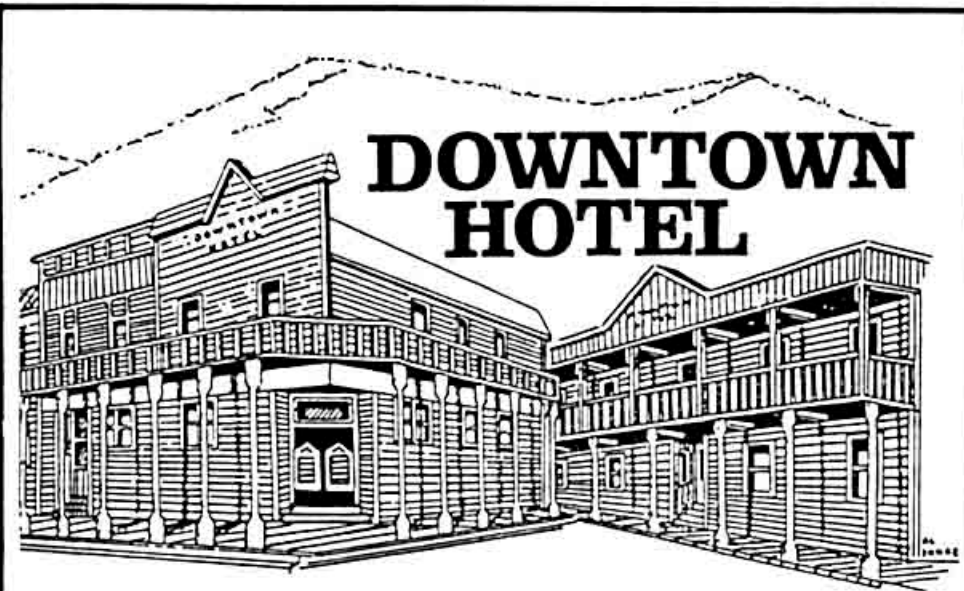
During his four-year sojourn in Dawson City, Service consolidated the literary career he had already begun to nurture in Whitehorse from 1904 to 1908. *Songs of a Sourdough* was already selling briskly, much to his surprise, when he was transferred to Dawson in 1908. Two more collections (*Ballads of a Cheechako*, *Rhymes of a Rolling Stone*) and a lesser known novel (*The Trail of Ninety-Eight*) about the Gold Rush rolled out of his little typewriter before he moved on to cover the Balkan Wars as a correspondent in 1912.

The cabin itself is thought to have been built during the 1897-98 period. A Parks Canada brochure describes it as "typical of the time - logs well chinked with moss to keep out the sub-Arctic cold, a double door, with front porch". It consists of a front room, where Service lived and wrote, and a small bedroom in the back.

The site has been promoted as a tourist attraction by one means or another since 1917, first by the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, later by the City of Dawson and presently by the Klondike National Historic Sites branch of Environment Canada, Parks.



Overall winners in the Horticultural Display, sponsored by Y.O.O.P.:
 First - Bonnie Kearns (8 firsts, 7 seconds, 2 thirds and 4 specials);
 Second - Helen Dewell (4 firsts, 2 seconds, 3 thirds and 4 specials);
 Third - Mrs. Mary Hanulik (4 firsts, 4 seconds, 3 thirds and 1 special)
 and Fourth place - Anna Hanulik (7 firsts, 1 second and 1 special).]



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ARTS ATTACK!

by Pauline Scott

New ideas and new artists showed up at the Third Annual Yukon Expressions Art Show at the Dawson Museum. The opening was Friday, August 11 at 7:30 p.m. The show runs until August 27, during museum hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. Between 75 and 100 Dawsonites and visitors showed up over the course of the evening to view, discuss and purchase two- and three-dimensional works by 16 Dawson artists, working in a wide variety of media. It was one of the most exciting and varied local group shows in recent memory.

The Yukon Arts Council will be looking for a new Touring Co-ordinator. Keep your eyes peeled for the ads. The Council's Annual General Meeting will be Saturday, September 23 at 10:00 a.m. in Whitehorse. Contact me (council board member) or the Arts Council office if you're interested in attending. We'd like to do some car pooling from the communities. The Arts Council is encouraging greater community participation, so if you would like to be a community board member or the community rep on a committee, let us know. You can contact me at 993-5006 evenings, or write to Box 412, Dawson. Don't forget to get your individual or organizational memberships soon!

Arts workshops and courses can be available if there is interest in this community. Palma Berger just returned from a drawing course at the Yukon College Summer Art School. At that course, there were several folks from Dawson and other communities that travelled to Whitehorse for the course. (Palma said it was terrific.) There is no reason, with that kind of interest evident, why we can't arrange courses conducted by both southern and local artists, here in Dawson, at least some of the time. If the community was interested, we could even explore a shoulder season arts school here in Dawson. I know that various people over the years have mentioned that Dawson would be the perfect place for a sort of... Banff Arts Centre-North.

The Rec Board is interested in sponsoring one or more art courses this winter. If the public wants a course, naturally. If you are interested, let the Rec Board know, and one can be arranged. Right now, ideas are being tossed around for a mixed-media course for beginners or specific workshops for the more experienced artist. Let your wishes be known.

● The 1989 Music Festival was beyond wonderful... another round of applause for the board, staff and volunteers who made it such a success. Thanks.

● Long John Baldry will be in Dawson during Discovery Days for two dances - the 19th and 20th. It promises to be legendary.

● The Dawson Drama Club is ecstatic... they finally have storage at the old Fire Hall. Thank you!

● The Drama Club will be hosting a birthday party for kids Monday, August 21 as part of the Discovery Days celebrations... Contact Glenda Bolt for further Drama Club news.

● A huge congratulations to Halain D'Repentigny for being selected one of the winners of the Yukon College Art Competition. Confetti, champagne and roses - The rest of us are green with envy.

● A national competition to recognize achievement by youth has just been announced. There will be 15 categories, including arts. Contact the Arts Council or myself for a form.

If you are in Whitehorse in September...

● There will be a \$5 Frost Bite Dance September 22 at 8:30 in Whitehorse.

● First theatre of the season is the Nakai Players' *Tom Tom at Jake's Crossing*, September 12 and the Guild Hall. This play was the winner of last year's play-writing contest.

● Whitehorse Concerts kicks off October 5 at F.H. Collins with Almata Speaks, vocalist.

● Funding has been received for the Artists' Directory... groups, individuals or organizations should be listed. These directories are used in schools, libraries, the government and by tourists to contact artists or arts groups to purchase or contract work. Registration forms will be available soon. Contact myself or the Arts Council office.

That's it for the arts scene at the moment. If you or your arts group is planning an event, let me know so I can include it in the next column. If you have any comments or questions, or any juicy point of view you'd like to discuss... tell me about it, so it can be part of the column.



Ten complete C.H.R. program

WHITEHORSE--Ten participants have successfully completed a Community Health Representative program under the Department of Education's Yukon Training Opportunities Program (YTOP).

The 20-week course consisted of 12 weeks of theory co-ordinated by Yukon College and eight weeks of on-the-job training supervised by the federal Medical Services Branch.

The trainees receive a certificate of completion, under YTOP sponsorship, and the Medical Services Branch approves the course as meeting the requirements necessary for employment by the Yukon bands.

The 10 graduates represent eight separate Yukon Indian Bands and bring to 20 the total number of native CHR's trained for the Bands.

This year's graduates were: Bonnie Boyd and Brenda Sam from Whitehorse, Cathy Dickson from Watson Lake, Cheryl Jackson and Joanne Roy from Teslin, Kathy Alfred from Pelly Crossing, Sheila Hagar from Mayo, Viola Papequash from Haines Junction, Ida Calmegane from Carcross/Tagish and Marion Nunuk from Old Crow.

NOT WANTED!

by Palma Berger


When one wanders through the government campground across the river, it is so neatly kept, clean and restful, one tends to think that all is well with the world.

But some friends went over there the other evening. After they had settled for a bit, they heard this whine, as from a small dog. It continued pitifully, so they went on a search through the bushes, thinking that a small pup had got itself entangled and could not get loose. They found nothing, but the sound persisted - and only when they passed the garbage can did they find the pup.

For a pup it was. An unwanted female black lab. It had come from a home that had given it some care, because it was not thin and starving. The appalling fact about it was the method of disposal. It was placed in a green garbage bag which was securely tied at the top, with little or no air getting in to it.

After the friends had given it a bath to get rid of the stench of the garbage, some of which had adhered to it, the pup became a small bundle of fluffy black, who greedily lapped up the milk given it.

But one wonders about the human creatures who could do a thing like that.



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NOTES FROM DAWSON CITY R.C.M.P.

from the Dawson City RCMP Detachment

The Yukon Coroner's Office and RCMP Dawson City Detachment are currently investigating a single vehicle fatal accident which occurred late in the afternoon of August 7.

A small pickup truck carrying a camper was southbound on the Dempster Highway, 23 km north of Eagle Plains, when it left the road and entered the east ditch. The driver and lone occupant, Gerald Edwards, 40, of Seattle, Washington, was thrown out of the vehicle when it rolled in the ditch and died as a result of the injuries received when he was thrown out.

A passing motorist discovered the mishap and relayed the matter via Eagle Plains Hotel to RCMP at Dawson City. A coroner and doctor from Dawson City attended the scene. An autopsy has been ordered.

Eagle Plains is approximately 400 km north of Dawson City.

DRIVE SAFE - DRIVE SOBER

Have you heard that the Yukon Territory leads the Canadian statistics in Impaired Driving convictions per capita? The rating is 2,200 convictions per 100,000 population and the closest con-

tender for this dubious distinction is the Northwest Territories, with just over 1,000 convictions per 100,000 population. Following this are the provinces with a rating of just over 800 per 100,000 and less. This certainly is not a record that Yukoners can be proud of holding. On a local note, July, 1989 was one of the highest months for impaired driving offences. Seventeen persons were processed for impaired driving, driving with a blood alcohol level of greater than .08mg%, or care and control of a motor vehicle while being impaired. Section 253 of the *Criminal Code* creates the offences of:

- drive while ability impaired by alcohol or a drug;
- having care and control while ability impaired by alcohol or a drug;
- drive while concentrations of alcohol in a person's blood exceeds 80 milligrams in 100 milliliters of blood, i.e. drive while over .08 mg%;
- having care and control while the concentration of alcohol in a person's blood exceeds 80 mg in 100 ml of blood, i.e. care and control while over .08 mg%.

All of these offences apply to: motor vehicles, vessels, aircraft and railway equipment. The summary conviction penalties for these offences is contained in Section 255 of the *Criminal Code*:

(a) first offence - minimum fine of \$300, not exceeding \$2,000 or imprisonment for six months;

(b) second offence - imprisonment for not less than 14 days, up to six months;

(c) subsequent offences - imprisonment for not less than 90 days, up to six months.

These offences may also be processed via "indictment", which means that the penalty can be up to five years imprisonment.

In incidents where injury or death are involved as a result of an "Impaired Driving" or over .08 mg% offence, the penalties are imprisonment for up to 10 years and imprisonment up to 14 years respectively. All convictions also involve lengthy driver's license suspension which are recognized all across Canada.

As you can see, there is considerable hardship involved in being convicted of a drinking and driving or a care and control offence, not to mention the grief you may cause others.

Don't contribute to our unenviable achievement and become a statistic. Exercise self-discipline if you find yourself in the situation of being tempted to drive after drinking.

A FAREWELL FROM BRIAN AND MAY

On behalf of my wife May, and myself, I would like to bid farewell to all residents of the Klondike region. We are moving to Whitehorse shortly, where I will be employed with the Force for the foreseeable future. The past four years in Dawson have been very busy and active, which is in keeping with the vibrant nature of the community. We have made several new acquaintances and friends over the years and as a result you probably haven't seen the last of us.

Sgt. Gord Crowe of Whitehorse will be my replacement. He, his wife, Karen, and pet beagle should arrive during early September.

Best wishes to all.

- Sgt. Brian and May Gudmundson
RCMP Detachment, Dawson City

KPMA Barbeque and Dance

by Noreen Sailer

This was our Tenth Annual Steak BBQ and Dance, as our annual fund-raiser for the Klondike Placer Miners Association. This event was a sold-out affair, and the weather was very co-operative. The steaks were well-looked-after in the capable hands of Jerry Klein and his Teck Corp Crew. Inside, the tickets, plates and meal was served by a very willing group of ladies. The sweets table was thanks to all the ladies who come to the affair, and loved by every age group.

Last year's Mrs. Miner, Marion Schmidt, presented this year's award to Norm and Sandra Ross. His many long hours of dedication to the Miner's Association is greatly appreciated by all.

Expect a full report in the next issue, with a list of the door prizes and winners, people and businesses who contributed so willingly to this event.

My thanks now and later.

FAMILY DAY HOMES

NEWS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

Dawson City is very fortunate to have two excellent day care centres. Nevertheless, we still hear parents in our community requesting alternative child care with more flexible hours and with less children.

Under the *Yukon Day Care Act*, there are provisions to establish family day homes. These are individually licensed homes that care for four to six children and the care is provided for more than three, but less than 24 hours a day. Licensing helps to ensure a safe and healthy environment and encourages quality care.

If you are interested in opening a family day home and applying for a license, you may be eligible for "start-up" funding through the Child Care Capital Development Program. This funding enables you to purchase fire and other safety equipment, furniture, toys, and to make some ground improvements.

Once your family day home has become licensed, you are eligible to receive operating and maintenance assistance. This money is paid quarterly in January, April, July and October, in advance, and is based on the number of children you have, within the limitations of your license. These are referred to as "set-up spaces". In Dawson City, you will receive a \$40 per set-up space per month for each child.

Subsidies are also available for parents to enable them to obtain licensed child care for their children. Eligibility for subsidy is determined by income test and is based on a sliding scale according to family income and number of dependents.

Your local Health and Human Resources office has a booklet which has been prepared to answer your questions about licensing and to help you through the licensing process. Additional information or assistance can also be received by calling the Child Care Services Unit, Government of the Yukon, at the toll-free number: 1-800-661-0408.

If you would like further information on the establishment of a family day home, please drop into your local Health and Human Resources office or call 993-5543.



Tampering with tradition?

The home of the first Mayor of Dawson at Seventh and Princess almost became the Commissioner's Residence over Discovery Days when Commissioner Ken and wife Judy McKinnon settled their RV on the parking pad. In a discussion of the moist weather, neighbour Sue Ward recalled old-timers declaring that it "never rained on Discovery Day until the holiday was moved to the closest weekend". Ken's retort: "That's what happens when you mess around with history."

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Speakers northern tour brings Baha'i teachings to Dawson

Men and women have been and will continue to be equal in the sight of God.

These words, spoken over 100 years ago by Baha'U'llah, Founder of the Baha'i faith, were quoted by Jennifer Phillips in her talk recently on the equality of men and women. A Baha'i herself, Phillips made her home in Ottawa and was on a tour of the north. She spoke to seven people at the Dawson City Learning Centre.

Phillips initiated her talk with a quote from a 1980 United Nations report which stated that women make up one-half of the world's population, do two-thirds of the work, yet receive one-tenth of the world's salary. They own one percent of the world's property and 70 percent of women are illiterate. In adjusting these iniquities, she said, a co-operative, non-adversarial approach was called for on the part of both men and women. It is a matter vital to both sexes because, she explained, in a society where such male attributes as aggressiveness, forcefulness and competitiveness predominate, women are forced - at the expense of their female nature - to acquire these qualities in order to compete in the workplace. Men, on the other hand, tend in this environment to repress their more feminine qualities of sensitivity, tender-heartedness and open demonstration of affection. This is detrimental all around, as people - whether male or female - need a healthy balance of both masculine and feminine attributes in order to function well either as individuals or as a society.

"The world in the past has been ruled by force", said Phillips, quoting Abdul-Baha, son of Baha'U'llah, "and man has dominated over women by reason of his more forceful and aggressive qualities both of body and mind. But the balance is already shifting - force is losing its weight and mental alertness, intuition and the spiritual qualities of love and service, in

which woman is strong are gaining ascendancy. Hence the new age will be an age less masculine, more permeated with the feminine ideals - or, to speak more exactly, will be an age in which the masculine and feminine elements of civilization will be more evenly balanced."

Education is a key factor in achieving this balance, Phillips asserted, quoting again from the words of Abdul-Baha, who said: "woman has been out-distanced through lack of education and intellectual facilities. If given the same educational opportunities or course of study, she would develop the same capacities and abilities".

The cause of women's rights is always the part and parcel of the cause of universal peace, Phillips said. When women achieve equality with men and equal say in world affairs, wars will cease, she reasoned, because no mother who has raised a son for 20 years or more, with all the efforts and trials involved, will allow that son to go out and be killed on the battlefield. "Woman will be the greatest factor in establishing universal peace and international arbitration" are the words of Abdul-Baha on the matter.

The Baha'i teachings predict that women will, in fact, come forward and take their rightful place beside men in the arena of world affairs, said Phillips. "In no movement will they be left behind," she said, quoting once again from the writings of her faith. "They will enter all the administrative branches of politics. They will attain in all, such a degree as will be considered the highest station of the world of humanity and will take part in all affairs. Rest ye assured. Do not look upon the present conditions. In the not-too-distant future, the world of women will become all-refulgent and all-glorious, for His Holiness Baha'U'llah has willed it so!"

A lively discussion followed Phillips' talk, in which various aspects of equality were discussed by the people present. It was observed that in many ways the world is moving towards a better balance of male and female qualities. Such feminine attributes as kind-heartedness and compassion are increasingly reflected in the work of international agencies such as Oxfam, UNESCO, Amnesty International and the various emergency aid programs set up to meet the crises arising nowadays on the world scene.

It was noted by another participant that, on an individual level, men are more and more allowing themselves to manifest the female side of their nature, such as open demonstrations of affection and caring. Other group participants noted that there was still a long way to go in terms of equality of job opportunities and division of labour in marriage.

The discussion group was a balanced one, with four men and four women with a diversity of background, nationality and viewpoint, which made for a stimulating session on this controversial but important topic.





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The 'pay-off'

by Sourdough Sue Ward

This past week has seen several "old Dawson Originals" crumble to the bulldozer blade.

Exciting bus visitors to the Myth of the Great Klondike Gold Rush took all of my energies for six summers. Great expectations grew from the promotion programs of YTG and KVA. Many world travellers found reality falling far short of the fantasy saturation. "Dawson has never been a ghost town!" I would remind my guests. "We will see a few originals, some restorations, some replicas and everything in between as Sourdoughs coped with the Great Deep Freeze." And

shut up or put up, I have spent thousands of dollars, plus two assistance grants to keep 564 Princess Street an attractive "Original". Last winter almost did me in, but today Dawson has a winner, and next winter should be a bright, snug experience. But there is more:

Several suppertimes ago an elderly couple were staring at this little house so determinedly that I gave the Yukon Hospitality: "Hi - is there something I can do for you?"

"I think I used to live in your house when I was a child. I was born in Dawson, leaving with my family in 1920, when I was eight years old. The house was closer to the ground, just a step or two. But I recall having to walk through three sheds at the back, because that's where 'the biffy' was. But I see no sheds."

I explained because of rotting foundation, I had been forced to remove the old building, saving all the good siding and boards, from which I had built my little workshop. How my grandson, Dusty, at four, had shared a treasure hunt as I raked and we had been rewarded with three NWMP tunic buttons. Had Carol Williams' (now Hagensen) father been a member of the Force? No - he worked with the company that thawed the permafrost with the steampoints.

I welcomed Carol into my home, explaining the neglect, telling her of my involvement with the new newspaper. "Is it *The Dawson Daily News*?" she inquired. I explained. "Well, I must tell you that the *Dawson Daily News* was responsible for my acquiring my birth certificate.

Two issues were found, one saying a boy had been born to my mother, the second that it was a daughter." Yet one more reason why the *Klondike Sun* must carry on as the *KK* did for so many years.

This happening was worth all of my frustrations and expense in preserving and restoring 564 Princess Street over the past 21 years. This cottage was built from a beached riverboat by "McCluskey the Riverboat Man" in 1900. How sad if all that Carol Williams of Minnesota had found had been a vacant lot!

BOOKENDS

by Dan Davidson

Murder in a Cold Climate by Scott Young. Hardcover: MacMillan of Canada, 240 pages; paperback: Fawcett, \$5.50.

This is Young's first outing as a mystery writer, but it features a character he says he has been trying to perfect for years. Inspector Matthew (Matteesie) Kito-logitak is a full blood Inuk RCMP investigator, re-spected and on loan to Northern Affairs. When his old boss asks him to look into a sticky airplane disappearance, he has no idea that he will soon be involved in the death of an important Native leader and a drug smuggling plot.

The chase takes him from Inuvik to Norman Wells by airplane and then north to Fort Norman by snow machine and dog-sled. There is a search, a shoot-out, and an interestingly low-key resolution to the problem. As lady love and CBC staffer Maxine notes back in Inuvik: "You really got here fast. I hear in the afternoon that the mighty five feet six Matteesie has done it again, bodies all over the place, and when I get home who is here but the mighty five feet six Matteesie."

Matteesie narrates his own story and throws in a lot of observations about life in the NWT while he's about it. They are fun, but maybe there are a few too many. I checked this story with a colleague who is married to a Mountie and has lived in some of the places Matteesie visits during his investigation. She was generally satisfied with the authenticity of things, but felt, as did I, that Young had packed in everything he could think to have someone say about or do in the North. It might have been better to focus a little more on the mystery and plan to let these touches emerge over several books.

Matteesie has a lot to say about the old ways and life in the white man's world. He is not shy about discussing quarrels among the aboriginal peoples of the



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NWT, as well. His is an interesting voice and a worthwhile perspective.

The last attempt I can recall at setting a fictional mystery in the North was Jim Lotz's Inspector Dominic Cominic, whose adventures dragged on for three volumes before they mercifully disappeared. Just tourist fodder from a fellow who should have known better. Young's Inuk detective could have a longer lifespan. It's certainly a much more interesting debut book and a better character. I would like to see another.



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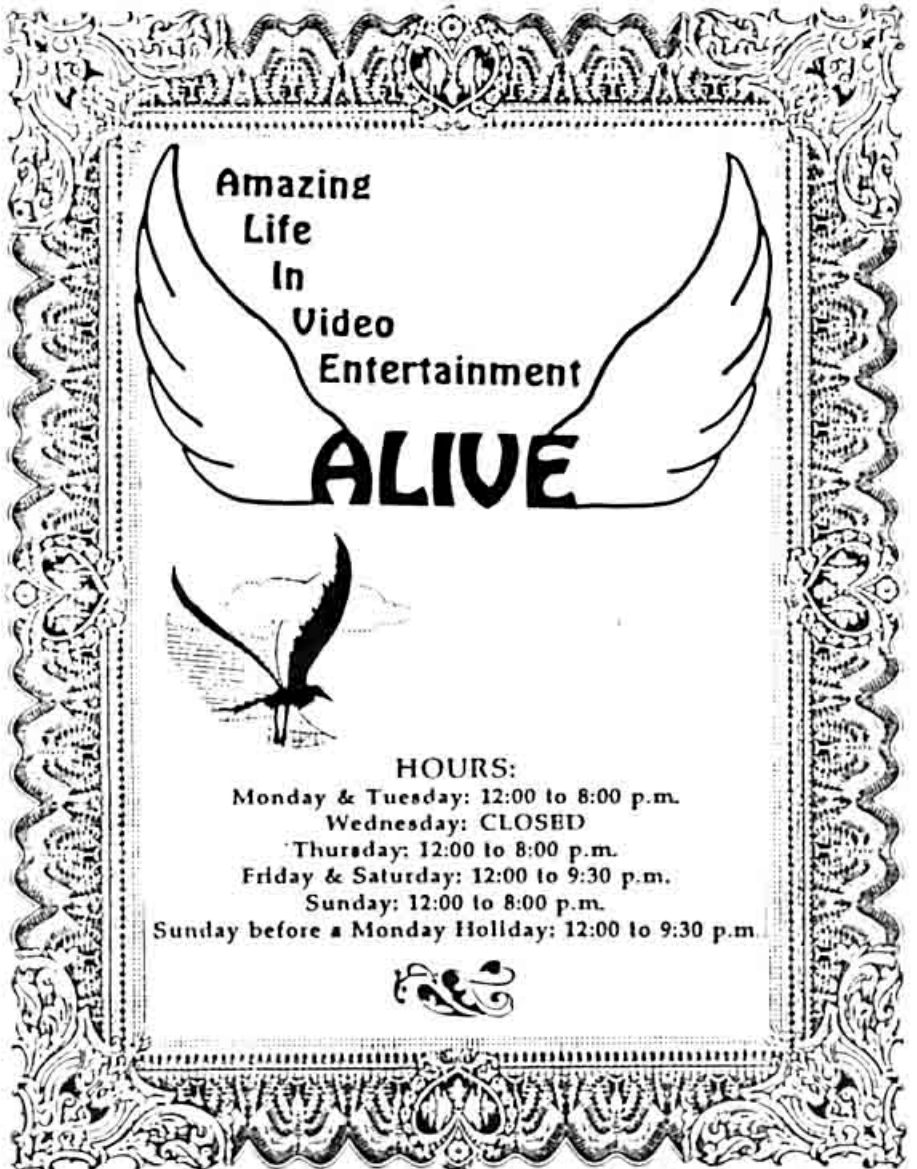


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KLONDIKE LIFE

DISCOVERY REVISITED

by Michael Gates

A number of attempts were made to find gold in the Klondike before the big discovery. In the winter of 1884-85, Joe Ladue and a small party of men hunted for game up Bonanza Creek, then known as Rabbit Creek. They actually camped on the spot near what was later to be known as Grand Forks, not aware that they were sleeping on a fortune. Some years later, in 1888, George Snow and three other men struck out from the Yukon River and intercepted the upper end of the north fork of the Klondike, and prospected their way down to the mouth. They did not find anything to cause a stampede.

In 1894 or 95, Billy Readford, an Englishman, discovered gold on Quartz Creek in the Indian River drainage, becoming the first prospector to make pay on the rich ground surrounding King Solomon's Dome. Joe Ladue encouraged local prospectors, including Robert Henderson, to try their luck in the same region. It was in this manner that the stage was set for the great drama that followed.

fate in the Klondike drama that was soon to unfold.

Skookum Jim, Tagish Charley and Carmack were running short of supplies as they returned from Henderson's camp down Rabbit Creek. They killed a moose, and while resting, they made the big discovery. It is not certain who actually leaned over that exposed piece of bedrock where the gold lay gleaming on the bottom of the creek, but it appears that Jim deserves the credit. They staked the ground above and below this point for themselves, Carmack claiming two claims, by right of discovery, for himself.

The story usually ends there, for it is normally assumed that Carmack immediately dashed off to Fortymile to file his claim. He did, in fact, try to do this, but upon his arrival at the NWMP post of Fort Constantine, he was sent back to Rabbit Creek (now named Bonanza) by Inspector Constantine to produce enough gold to pay the government fee for filing his claim. It was there on his claim that he was seen furiously shovelling the creek



BEAR

CREEK

by Palma Berger

The balmy, warm summer days of Bear Creek are drawing to a close, as we experience our first frost of the year. We found the wasps as bad as they are in town. When we dine outside, we do not know whether the wasp or the delicacy on the end of our fork is going to get to our mouth first... A rather unnerving experience.

Something else has changed, too. Our family used to sit outside with a short-wave radio and hear the news around the world. We were particularly interested in the reports from Brazil, where they are experiencing a bigger gold rush than the Klondike ever did. Malaria and fevers are laying many of the workers in the jungle gold mines low. Lawlessness abounds. One town experienced 14 unsolved murders a week. Then, suddenly this past weekend, our short-wave was not working. We do not know what has happened, either in Brazil or to our short-wave.

Gardens have been bountiful this year. Fred Berger did some experimenting and managed to grow two-foot-high papaya trees in his greenhouse. Question is, now how do we get these to survive the winter?

Others have been off to more adventurous pastimes. Kathy Hines has canoed the Klondike from Rock Creek to Dawson and also from McQuestin to Dawson. She now occupies herself with turning her house around, and moving it to a new location, ably assisted by Greg Clarke, who is proving he did not ruin himself with so much brainwork at university and still has some muscle left.

Parks Canada has reclaimed the land known as Bratsberg cabin, and Nancy Bratsberg has moved to Callison Sub-division.

Will McIntyre is so proud of his towering TV tower that he had put up himself. It picks up seven TV stations for him.

- OBITUARY -

KARL KAISER, born and raised in Dawson City, son of the late Charles and Katherine Kaiser (Katherine MacLennan), passed away in Edmonton, Alberta July 25, 1989, in his seventy-eighth year, after a short bout with cancer.

He leaves his wife, Ethel Patricia (Adams), his brother, George and sister-in-law Louise of Victoria, B.C.; son John, daughter Kathryn (Gurandiano) and her husband, Joseph grandson Jason, granddaughter Laura, all of Montreal; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Kaiser, a graduate of the U of Alaska, was a professional civil engineer. His career took him to Montreal, where he raised his family and worked on a number of major projects for the Dominion Bridge Co. Limited. In later years, he was a partner in his own professional engineering consulting firm in Montreal.

He had returned to Dawson each summer during the past seven years to do some fishing, relax and enjoy the Klondike.

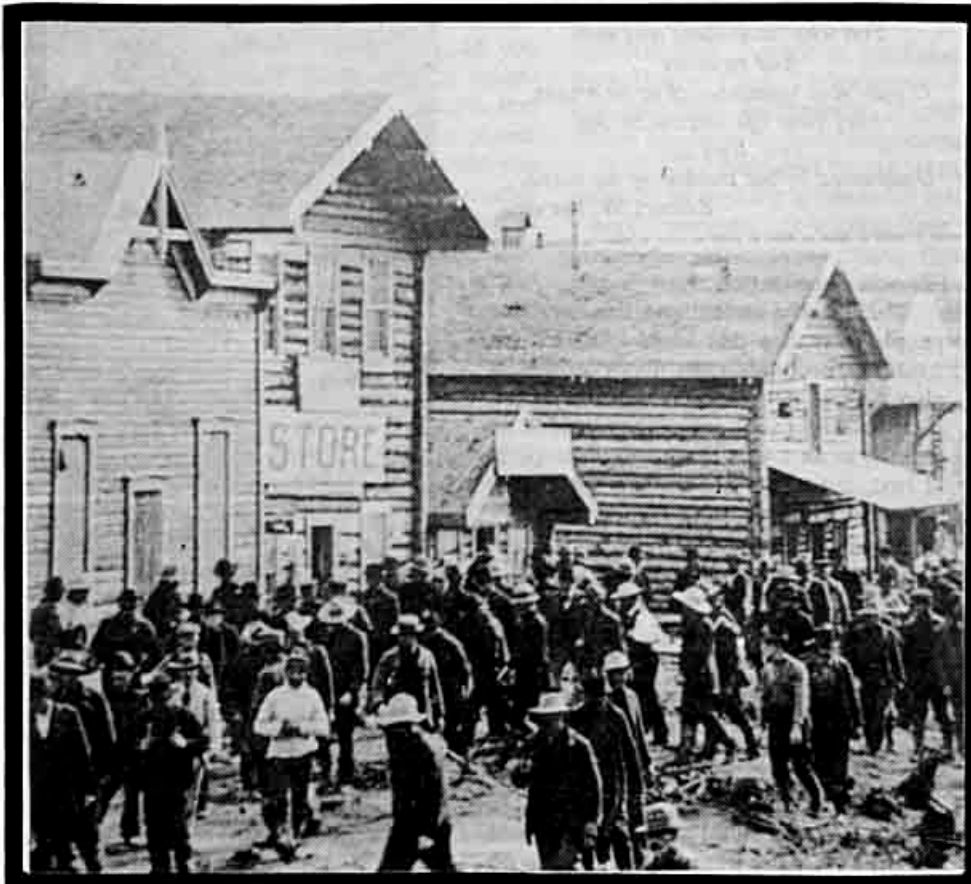
A memorial service was held in Victoria, B.C. interment at the Mason's Cemetery, Dawson City, beside his beloved mother, Kate.

When one has electricity, one can get all the refinements of big-city living. The latest news on the old Catholic church at Bear Creek is that the owners, Mirko and Alena Hampl, intend to fix it up to make it livable.

Former Bear Creek resident Mike ("Pa") Telep kindly lent me the last edition of the *Bear Creek Bucket Line*, a newsy little newsletter similar to the *Klondike Korner*. In it, we read where Basil and Daphne Charman, who used to own the lot on which yours truly has her house, has just moved to Whitehorse. The Parkins, Smections, Grychuks, Websters, Blattlers, Creamer, Hogan, etc. It mentions Alan and Jean Gould gaining a son-in-law when daughter Diane married John Wierda. The date of this paper is April 10, 1968! There is a whole lot more. This little gem was put together by the late Lorna Walmsley, and recorded where YCGC people moved to when the Yukon Consolidated Gold Company closed down their operations and their employees at North Fork and Bear Creek had to move on.

It is nice to feel one is living in a settlement with its own little bit of history.

WILL MCINTYRE'S CABIN



George Carmack, a veteran of 10 years in the Yukon River basin, was not obsessed with gold the way the other prospectors were. He was something of a Renaissance man. Entering the Yukon in 1885, he at various times trapped, traded with the Indians, lived off the land, and even looked for gold. He earned the title "squaw man" for marrying a native woman from the Tagish area.

While he was fishing at the mouth of the Klondike River with his brothers-in-law, Skookum Jim and Tagish Charlie, in August of 1896, Carmack was encouraged by Robert Henderson to try some prospecting. They travelled over the dome to visit Henderson, who was prospecting with a group of others on Gold Bottom Creek. Henderson made the biggest mistake of his life when, during this visit he violated the unwritten code of the north, to share with others whatever you might have. Because Skookum Jim was Indian, and Henderson was ill disposed toward them, Henderson refused to share some supplies and tobacco, and sealed his own

gravels into a crude sluice box, eyeing passers-by with suspicion, early in September. It was late September before Carmack finally arrived back in Fortymile to file his claim. This time, it was accepted. The subsequent fame and fortune that Carmack gained is well known.

And what about Henderson? He was denied his fortune because he didn't want to deal with Carmack's Indian relatives. Henderson missed out on every opportunity to take advantage of the great discoveries that ensued, and to his dying day, filled the image of the veteran prospector, always chasing rainbows, but never reaching the pot of gold.

It may be that folks did not like the idea of giving the credit of discovery to a squaw-man, or perhaps it was simply that national pride got in the way of the true facts of the case, for Carmack was an American. In later years, the Canadian government awarded a pension to Henderson for being the co-discoverer of the Indian River and Klondike goldfields, when the credit clearly goes to others.

KLONDIKE LIFE

Yukon memories

by Kathy Jones-Gates

"We discovered that the house was restored when we were on the plane to Dawson," said Jean Schade of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The house in question was the old Presbyterian manse, behind the boarded-up St. Andrew's Church.

Jean, accompanied by sister, Margaret Reiter, of Galeta, California and Jean's daughter, Jean Boos, from Atlanta, Georgia, visited Dawson recently to look at some of the locations made familiar to them by their parents, who had lived in Dawson in 1908-09. Dr. Archibald Sinclair was newly ordained when he arrived in Dawson in 1908 to become the minister for the congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. His bride-to-be, Margaret Whitelaw, travelled by boat and train from Scotland to join him in 1909. According to Jean and Margaret, the couple had not seen each other for one and one-half years; friends had written Margaret to describe the beard Sinclair had grown and the excessive weight he had put on, to the point where he had to sit down to put on his shoes. Somewhat mortified by the description, Margaret phoned Sinclair when she was between Whitehorse and Dawson on the winter sleigh, and recommended that he not meet her, but remain at the house! A member of Sinclair's congregation told Mrs. Sinclair later that the good Reverend had been so excited by the phone call that he had forgotten many of the words of the *Lord's Prayer* during that evening's service!

Margaret and Archibald Sinclair were married in the manse on March 29, 1909 and a much-relieved new bride realized that her "friends" had only been joking about her husband's appearance! The Sinclairs moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba later that year, where Margaret and Jean and their two sisters were born. A daughter from the widowed Dr. Sinclair's first marriage completed the family of five daughters. The family eventually moved to Bloomfield, New Jersey, where Sinclair continued his ministry.



Margaret and Jean had planned a Dawson trip, and taking in an Elderhostel program at Yukon College in Whitehorse was an added incentive. A friend who had visited Dawson in the 1970s had brought back a

photo of a boarded-up manse, so they had expected the building to be in further decay. Much to their surprise, they saw a photo of the restored building in the KVA brochure and were informed of its restoration by Parks Canada, by a fellow passenger on the plane to Dawson. They were given a tour of the house and provided many anecdotes of their parents' time in Dawson.

Margaret indicated that the poet Robert Service had frequented their parents' home, and that they had many letters that he had written the Sinclairs following his departure for France. She also produced a copy of a short poem written by Service and dedicated to her mother in a book presented as a farewell gift on the Sinclairs' departure for Manitoba. Margaret and Jean gave permission for this never-before-published Service poem to be reprinted in the *Klondike Sun*:

"To Mrs. Sinclair"
We are a people few and far away;
Little our lives are chrystalled
with delight
For through the shadow of th
long, long day
Loometh the shadow of the
long, long night.

You who have come and seen
and go away
O may your memories of us be bright;
May your life season be the
long, long day
Undaunted by the shadow of the night.
 - Robert W. Service



Virginia's story

by Palma Berger

To have a healthy baby is a wonderful thing, perhaps not appreciated enough by families. When Darcy and Mike Braga found that five and a half-month-old Virginia had cystic fibrosis, their lives were changed completely.

Although Darcy was a nurse, it was still a whole learning process to deal medically with this particular disease. For the family, it was a whole learning process to not only cope with a sick child with an uncertain future - but to adjust to a family life with a frequently absent mother, this large family problem, and to learn to fend for themselves as the need arose.

For Virginia, life became a never-ending experimentation with food and drugs and the constant problem of keeping her lungs clear. There were also the frequent trips Outside for the medical check-ups and medication.

When Virginia's illness was first diagnosed, her life expectancy was six months, but with the help of medication and the support of her family, she fought on for another 14 years.

She fought not only the disease, but also the sadness of losing a normal social life with her early playmates in Dawson as they grew apart when she could not share their growing process. At the hospital Outside, she made many friends with the other children who had the same disease; but one of the tragedies of fighting the disease for longer than the others is that you see these friends disappear, one by one, as they succumb to it. And you know that they have just gone ahead of you.

Virginia learned to develop her own macabre sense of humour. So many times, the doctor had said this was going to be her last day, but each time she rallied. One

time, she awoke after what had been predicted was going to be her last sleep, to find the doctor bending over her. She grinned up at him, and said, "Fooled you that time, eh, Doc?"

At the time her brother Dale graduated from high school, she was also supposed to be on her last legs, but again she rallied and made it back to Dawson for his graduation. It was only after the grad ceremonies that they found out that Virginia had not slept for three nights, as she was always afraid of dying alone and in the dark...

Virginia was sustained by a strong religious faith, and developed a wisdom and caring beyond her years. In the last letter she wrote her elder sister, she asked Ane not to cry for her, but just to be grateful and happy for her because she was no longer suffering. She wished for Ane to have a good life, to marry a handsome husband, and to please name one of her children after her. Virginia never expressed any regrets.

She was delighted when the 1987-88 Year Book of Robert Service School was dedicated to her.

Virginia's greatest hope for Christmas this year was to have had a heart/lung transplant. This had been planned for earlier this year, but she was found to have developed diabetes, and the operation had to be delayed until this was brought under control. On June 9, she was placed on the official list of recipients waiting for a heart/lung transplant, but it was too late.

The family knows the amount of organization necessary to get the medical attention Virginia needed, especially vital when one lives in such a distant place as Dawson, and thanks all those who helped from this end.

They appreciate the sensitivity and dedication of the medical staff in the hospital in Vancouver. Especially they appreciated the support given them by the Cystic

Fibrosis organization.

They really understand the need for people to realize that while it is fine for adults to become organ donors, there is also a great need for recognition of the fact that children's organs are needed as well. It is an awful thing to contemplate at first, but when one realizes that in the six weeks that Virginia hung on after being placed on the official recipients' list, there were no organs to be found - one then sees the necessity of this. Virginia's doctor had also hoped to see Virginia with a heart/lung transplant, because he felt the resulting publicity of being the first child to have a heart/lung transplant in British Columbia would encourage more people to sign their children up as organ donors.

Virginia and family realized this and Virginia's organs were signed over to be used. They hope that others will also be encouraged to do the same.



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