



DAWSON CITY, YUKON VOL 2, NO 12, MONTHLY 60 CENTS

Reflections in the Sunset Haze

by Dan Davidson

Some stories are difficult to write objectively, so I might as well admit up front that I have - or had - a vested interest in the recent events at the Sunset Hall and that my comments or opinions may be open to question due to that.

The major questions surrounding the closure and barricading of the Sunset Hall in Dawson revolve around the timing. It might be said that the writing had been on the wall for some time, but I have to discount rumours immediately. There are just too many here.

When I moved to Dawson in 1985, it was to work in a school which was soon to be condemned and replaced. The building which houses the museum was condemned for years. The building which houses the liquor store, Yukon College, the Dawson Housing Association and Human Resources has been under sentence of death for at least a decade. In Dawson we believe a building's life is over when it is knocked down (sometimes) or moved for recycling (more likely) and not before.

Apparently the report which put the nail in the Sunset's coffin was one which was prepared in December, 1990. That being the case, one has to ask why the powers in charge waited nearly three months to enact the decision and gave so little warning about it. Worse, that report was made to confirm one which was done up the previous August. Nobody said **anything** about that one. If the danger was so real, some one waited a long, long time to make it known.

March is probably not a crucial time, anyway. Movement of a foundation is minimized when everything attached to it is frozen solid, as it is right now and will be for a few months yet. That the form and degree of the response last week is excessive at this time is something I'm being told regularly by people who know a lot more about construction and soil conditions here than I do.

Locals with a longer history than I have here are mystified by the haste, the boards, the locks and the security device on the front door. Most cannot recall when a condemned building has actually been boarded up and locked within 36 hours of the notice coming down, or at all, for that matter.

At the **Klondike Sun**, our board had already begun to consider the need for a move to another location. A deal with the City of Dawson was working its leisurely way to a conclusion and would probably have come into effect in the late summer in the normal flow of events.

Two weeks earlier we'd been told by Art Webster (our MLA) and Joyce Hayden (Minister of Health) that the building might have to go, but there was no indication at that time how fast the end would come. Both seemed to feel that it could be measured in months rather than weeks. Skip that.. When the news came, the time could only be measured in hours.

We were all shocked by the unholy haste of things, but we soon had offers of free temporary space in the Downtown and Eldorado Hotels from Bob Laking and Peter Jenkins.

In addition, Mayor Jenkins and council hastened to conclude with us a deal that would see us move into the north end of the Waterfront Building as quickly as possible.

So we weren't devastated - just angry. Our immediate contacts with the government were positive. Graham McDonald in Webster's office was very understanding and Pam Boyd in Piers McDonald's office was also of assistance, but nothing seemed likely to delay the hammer falling in time to allow for a more convenient exit from the premises.

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Fishing Case Establishes Principle

by Tim Gerberding

Angie Joseph Rear wasn't trying to prove a point or start a fight when she went fishing on the North Klondike on May 6, 1989. She was just out to enjoy the springtime and provide some grayling for her table. Little did she realize that the event would culminate in one of the most important Court decisions in

Yukon annals in terms of establishing aboriginal rights.

The day was going rather well for the then Chief of the Dawson Indian Band. She had caught two grayling and was angling for her third, when she was accosted by the local conservation officer. He asked to see her license. She replied that she didn't have or need one. He promptly seized her

fish, rod, and gear, and charged her with angling without a license.

"I was mad," Angie says. "I told my mom and Annie Henry. They told me 'Tell em we always done it like this. Tell em your grandpa was here first.'" Angie goes on to add, "They could see the Land Claims

cont'd on p. 2



Dawson's Youngest Musers: Megan Gates (standing) and Misha Kennedy (sitting), aged 3 1/2, mushed Misha's dog, Belka, from Bear to Hunker Cree and back on Easter Sunday.

Photo by Michael Gates

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Moose Mountain's New T-Bar pg 30

Sunset Haze

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Some of the Whitehorse coverage of this affair led us to wonder if we were all talking about the same building. Deputy Minister of Government Services Dan Odin described it in a Yukon News interview as a 40 year old building, and "one of Dawson's oldest buildings." Odin was once a principal here, so he ought to know better than to age the building by 11 years and place it among the historic properties.

Michael Barton, an architect with the same department, was quoted in the Whitehorse Star as saying: "The foundation is in terrible condition. The floor is bad. There's a situation in the rear of the building where someone could fall through."

Yikes! The rear of the building was where we had been putting the Sun together all these months, but no one had told us we were in danger. Neither did anyone stop us when we very publicly spent about \$700.00 improving conditions in our offices about 2 months back.

Special dispensation was obtained to allow us to meet in the hall on Wednesday with a film crew from "On the Road" (CBC t.v.), who were here to do a story on our vice-president, "Sourdough" Sue Ward. The folks from YTG who were supposed to show up to hold our hands in case we fell through the floor after nearly two years didn't show, so we went ahead and did the shoot anyway. The fellows with the boards and locks turned up later, pulled off a job at the school in order to do this one in a rush. Had that much haste and care gone into building maintenance when the problems with the hall were raised several years ago, it might not be closed now.

All of this bad news came to us on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday we worked out a deal with the city to move to new premises. We all found that the Hall was getting to be the talk of the town. Friday was a beautiful day and I spent the bulk of the afternoon rubbernecking and chatting with folks on the dyke, waiting for the DeWolfe mushers to arrive from Eagle. Half the people I talked to wanted to know what the heck was going on over at the Hall, so I went through the story a few more times for their benefit while watching my co-editor, Kathy Jones-Gates, doing the same thing farther down the dyke. Given the proper forum, I think we could turn it into a Bill Cosby type comedy of errors routine by now.

I eventually realized that I needed to worry for other people more than about my group. There were a lot of seniors' programs planned for the Hall, which is next door and connected to the MacDonald Lodge seniors' home. Those have to be relocated or cancelled. Yukon College routinely used the hall several times a year as a place where everything from stress management workshops to jewelry making courses could be run and left without having to be set up and taken apart each day.

Since the loss of the Tro Chu Tin Hall in December's fire, the Sunset has been busier than before. Two coffee houses, several youth functions, seniors' foot clinics and other things had taken place there. Many more were planned. The town's interagency committee was actually meeting in the hall the morning we learned it was to be closed. Since there are apparently no plans to replace it, it's a dead loss to the community, no question about it.

Maybe there's an opportunity here for the City of Dawson, or folks in the whole Klondike region, to do something about this lack of useful, available public space in Dawson City. Maybe there's a challenge for someone to pick up. Maybe there's even an election issue out there. Who knows? Maybe the Sunset's closure is just the dawn of a new opportunity. Any ideas?



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

Snow Job! Spring cleaning, Dawson style!

Fishing Principles

- cont'd from p. 1

procedure. Why press charges when Land Claims are in progress?"

As a native person Angie was entitled to an angling license without the payment of a fee, but in 1989 she hadn't bothered to obtain one. In addition to feeling it was an unnecessary infringement of her aboriginal rights, she was put off by her reception at the hands of the officials involved. "You go down there (game office or liquor store to get a license) and you don't want to go back," explains Angie. "It's an attitude problem, the way they treat you. They think 'Why should they get such special treatment?' They just push you away."

During that summer there was another incident involving a Yukon native fishing without a license. Elder David Moses of the Mayo Band had his net on the Stewart River, containing one King salmon, pulled from the water by the same YTG Conservation Officer involved in Angie's case. Curiously, and in spite of prolonged harassment, illegal fishing charges were

never pressed. Angie's case was the only one to go to court.

Angie's trial proceeded in two stages. In the first, during April, 1990, the principles of the landmark Sparrow case were applied. In a nutshell, this states that unless a clear conservation need can be established, aboriginal rights cannot be restricted. The Territorial Court held that "Ms. Joseph would be allowed to call evidence with a view to establishing her aboriginal rights."

Angie went back to court in December. The trial dealt with her ancestral background. She described the traditional ways of her people, and their relationship with the Yukon Government. The result was inevitable. Angie was acquitted.

Judge Lilles noted in the decision, "... there is no treaty or agreement between the Han Gwich'in people and the government which restricts their aboriginal rights," Angie explains, "What it boils down to is that even if the freshwater

fishery was transferred to the Yukon Government (from the feds), it was done without our consent. There was no consultation with native people. The YTG has no jurisdiction over native people. We are warden to the Federal Government until such time as we see a fair Land claims settlement."

When asked how she felt during the process, Angie smiles and says, "I felt positive. I felt good. Somehow I felt the outcome was going to be in my favor all along. I could have pled guilty and paid a \$35 fine, but in my heart I knew it wasn't right and I had to prove it. It was what I believed in, so I stuck to my ground. And that's what I was taught, too."

As her lawyer observed, "By standing up for your rights you have caused the Court to send a clear and powerful message that Fisheries Act regulations must be redone in consultation with the Indian people."



The Klondike Sun moves to its new digs late last week.

Photo by Sue Ward

Dawson Council Dumps Land Fill Search

by Dan Davidson

Dawson City's quest for a new municipal dump has reached an impasse, and council has decided to throw the issue to the territorial government for a solution.

The present dump on the Midnight Dome has a projected life of perhaps two more years, but problems related to the location of the new subdivision on the Dome - problems with burning smells, bears, and further residential development - persuaded council last summer to press on with studies to relocate the dump.

Working from a territorial government funded study by UMA Associates, council hired the same firm to investigate the two prime sites that were

identified by that \$60,000.00 study.

Many months and about \$17,000.00 later, council seems no closer to finding a solution and little has changed save that one possible site, further up the Dome Road, has been ruled out, due largely to technical and cost considerations related to the construction of an access road to the site.

The other possible location was near Goring Creek. There wasn't actually a specific location, but rather a general area in which there were several possible sites. New-councilor Tim Gerberding immediately questioned the idea of placing a dump so close to the Klondike Valley's watershed area, and

Mayor Jenkins agreed with him that this seemed to be a problem.

More pressing, however, are several other issues that relate to that area. These include the development of the Klondike Valley Land Use Plan, Land Claims, trap lines, and the possible location of a future new airport. Jenkins said that all of these issues would have to reach some sort of resolution before a land fill site could be opened in that area.

Jenkins proposed, and council agreed, that the issue seemed to have moved beyond what council could handle. One possible suggestion might be to have the YTG create a regional dump to which Dawson could make a financial contribution for development and upkeep.

In Chambers

by Dan Davidson

Council Supports Environmental Act Opposition

Dawson City Council has decided, by a vote of 4 to 1, to lend its support to the coalition formed by the Association of Yukon Communities and the City of Whitehorse to oppose the immediate implementation, in its present form, of the proposed Yukon Environment Act.

The resolution was passed after much discussion, at the April 4 meeting of council. Most of the debate was between Mayor Peter Jenkins and Councillor Tim Gerberding.

Jenkins noted that some of the provisions of the new act could make illegal many of the functions of Dawson's sewer and water system. Gerberding felt that this, along with many of the conclusions contained in the AYC commissioned Yaworsky report on the act, was a "worst case" reading of the legislation which was not actually justified by its contents.

Gerberding did accept the idea that the draft act was flawed, and that there was a need to slow down the timing of its passage somewhat, but he was too uncomfortable with the tone of the Yaworsky report to vote in favour of the proposed AYC resolution which appeared to endorse most of Yaworsky's conclusions.

The major points of the AYC resolution adopted by council include:

"Adoption of a multi-stage approach to the formulation and implementation of reasonable

(Council Report for April 4, 1991)

environmental legislation.

"Revisions of the draft act, so as to be an enabling framework for regulations.

"Develop regulations slowly and in full consultation with all concerned parties.

"Set appropriate standards with full appreciation of the nature and extent of environmental problems."

(There was an overview of the proposed act in the March edition of the Sun.)

Klondike Valley Needs a Signal, Says Mayor

City council is not pleased with the proposed site selection for the rebroadcasting site for the newly created Television Northern Canada system which will be installed in Dawson City sometime this summer. While the station itself, which will be designed to service Northern Canada, and will be installed in 7 other rural Yukon communities this year, is welcome, the selection of the site on the side of the Dome is not.

Councillors had objections to the aesthetic implications of making the site so visible from the community, creating yet another bare spot on the hill.

Mayor Jenkins proposed that the site should be located a bit further up the hill, on the next bench. From there, it would be less visible on the hillside and would also, he said, afford a better opportunity to send a television signal down the Klondike Valley, instead of just covering the town of Dawson, as is the case with the present CBC site on the Dome.



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

Getting Dawson's streets ready for the melting season by trucking away the snow in advance is an expensive proposition, as revealed by the accounts payable numbers approved on April 4, 1991. Two trucking firms, Klondike Transport and Gammie Trucking, were paid about \$24,000.00 for their work during the period since the last council meeting.

Property Tax Changes

A major change to eliminate School Taxes on property will be subject to Legislative approval this spring and the Assessment and Taxation Act will be amended accordingly.

The City of Dawson, as all other Yukon communities, could be taking over the tax position as is explained in a letter dated March 21st, 1991 from Maurice Byblow, Minister, Community and Transportation Services to the City of Dawson.

The tax position explained in Mr. Byblow's letter to the City is reprinted here for all rate payers' information.

Carol Murray
City Manager

"Dear Mayor Jenkins:

One of the intended changes to municipal funding which I announced on January 26, at the AYC meeting, was the elimination of School Taxes. I would like to remind you about that change, and advise you to take steps to prepare for it.

Subject to the approval of the Legislature this spring, the

Assessment and Taxation Act will be amended to eliminate School Taxes on property. Municipalities will no longer be required to collect School taxes on behalf of the Yukon Government. That change will create some vacant "tax room" which municipalities could occupy. If a municipality raises its own property tax rate by the same amount as the existing School Tax rate, then the total property tax rate would be unchanged. The municipality would keep the additional amount, instead of remitting it to the Yukon Government. The municipality would also receive a greater Grant-in-lieu from the Yukon Government.

In exchange for the transfer of the tax room, the Yukon Government will be reducing the total municipal grant fund by an amount equal to the School Tax revenue it is giving up plus the increased grants in lieu. If every municipality were to increase

their property tax rate by the same amount as existing School Taxes, then net municipal revenues, net Government expenditures, and property taxes would all remain unchanged.

Of course, municipalities will continue to have the responsibility and authority to set the rate for property taxes for municipal purposes. The actual tax rate in each municipality will remain a decision of the Municipal Council. You should prepare now for the upcoming changes by setting a tax rate for 1991 which takes into account the elimination of School taxes, along with your revenue and expenditure projections.

I want to emphasize that in all our public information, we will make it quite clear that this is a tax transfer, and not a tax cut.

Sincerely,
Maurice Byblow
Minister, Community and Transportation Services"



New Councillor Tim Gerberding is sworn in by Justice of the Peace Vi Campbell at the March 21st Council Meeting

Photo by Dan Davidson

Notice of Clarification

Last issue's article on city snow removal contracts originated with a question that was asked by Coun. Glenn Everitt at the March 7, 1991 meeting of City Council. All statements, except those attributed to sources at Gammie Trucking, came from Coun. Everitt, including the only direct quotation used in the article. Remarks attributed to City Works Superintendent Norm Carlson were taken strictly from Coun. Everitt's summary of his conversation with Carlson. It was intended that the article should reflect this fact, but some people apparently misunderstood the context of the quotation. - Editor



One of our "winter roads"

Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

HELPING HANDS - FRAN HAKONSON, SHEILA JONES ANN BILINA BONNIE BARBER CATHY HINES AND A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO MICHAEL TAYLOR, BOBBY BLANSCHARD AND COLEMAN JOHNSON.

Editorial: New Office, Same Old Paper by Dan Davidson

You may have heard that we've moved... Actually, I think it was the talk of the town for about a week, which is a pretty good record in these days of national soul-searching. We've provided you with some fairly balanced coverage of this exodus. Our perspective on the events is somewhere in these pages, and Art Webster has also prepared a few choice words. Enough said about that.

One of the interesting things about life is how your feelings change once you have absorbed the blows of fate. None of us at the Sun were looking forward to a move, I can assure you, but now that it has been made, and is almost complete, we have to admit that our present location is an improvement.

We looked at these rooms nearly two years ago, when we were seeking a place to produce our first issue. At the time we found oily, smelly floors, a pretty shabby interior and a general ambience that didn't appeal to us. Since that time the City of Dawson has put a bit of money into making these offices quite attractive, and we're already feeling at home after only four or five days on the site.

We have to thank our readers for all of the kind words we've received over the last fortnight. Hardly a day went past when someone did not express sympathy and inquire as to whether we were going to be able to survive the closure of the Sunset Hall. As you can see, the Sun did not set with the hall.

As noted elsewhere, both Peter Jenkins and Bob Laking offered us the use of hotel rooms in which to put this issue together if all else failed. The K.V.A. had some suggestions as well. We eventually settled for transferring some of our equipment into a temporary home near Front Street, because we knew by then that we were moving into the Waterfront Building.

We owe a lot of thanks to the Mayor and Council as well as to Peter Menzies, who helped to expedite the renovations that were needed before we could move in here. It's hard to believe that it was all done in a week.

Our status has not changed. We remain an independent, non-profit society attempting to do the best we can to record the history and reflect the reality of life here in the Klondike. Our payment of rent to the City of Dawson is in advertising space, not propaganda space, as some cynic has already suggested to me. Enough said about that, too.

On another note, we'd like to welcome Tim Gerberding to our writing group. We directors love to see names other than our own in these pages. Aside from those people who produce regular columns on self-assigned topics, it's nice to have some folks that Kathy and I can call and ask to cover certain things. Tim joins Brent Morrison and Dawne Mitchell (Welcome home, Dawne. When do we get our first story?) on a little pad next to our telephone.

That's it for this month. Next issue we begin our third year. Now that we're in a more visible location, stop in and see us sometime. Be careful, though. We're equal opportunity slave drivers and we might just put you to work!

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Renewal

The Klondike Sun

Published by the Literary Society of the Klondike. On sale monthly on the second Thursday. Printed at the offices of The Yukon News.

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Second Class Mail Registration No. 8687, telephone number for answering machine is 403-993-6318, FAX number is 403-993-6625. We are a volunteer organization, performing a community service.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Your March publication covering the court report was alarming, to say the least, to these two readers.

The community is entitled to this information, but of the eight people charged, one was singled out by including the Judge's comments. Are we to assume the Judge made no comment on sentencing the remaining seven?

Obviously the Judge's sentencing provided sufficient punishment for the crime committed. Additional public degradation for this person and family was unnecessary and irresponsible. Does this report reflect the reporter's personal opinions or the paper's policy? It is our belief that a newspaper should report events without bias.

Yours sincerely,

Audrey Rogers

Lisa Kerwin

Ed. note: The report reflects the judge's comments, nothing more. We had considered combining this part of the court report with the R.C.M.P. press release on the original raid, thus giving the affair a complete story by itself, but felt this would be too sensational.

Hi Folks:

Just a short note to let you know how much I enjoy receiving the Klondike Sun Paper. Shortly after getting it, I sit right down and read it from front to back. It is most interesting to me, as I've made the trip to Dawson City 4 times and each time enjoyed it more.

I am an Escort for an Ottawa Travel Agency, and was sent green

to do this 21 day tour. We started out of Edmonton, Alberta, and travelled by Coach the full length of the Alaska Hwy. stopping, visiting, and detouring to various towns and cities and many attractions - Dawson Creek and Milepost 0, Watson Lake and its sign post village and the wonderful Canuck show put on in the Big Tent there at the Watson Lake Hotel. Excellent Show. Then Whitehorse and its Frantic Follies and new friends and acquaintances - Mildred and Sharon. Beautiful mountains - valleys and glaciers, a sight to behold. Fairbanks, the end of the run of the Alaska Hwy. (of course I suppose depending on which way you are going it could also be 0 mile!) At Fairbanks I met another lovely gal Grace Moore of Red Hot Tours whom I have kept in touch with and we correspond regularly.

Coming across the Top of the World Hwy was a sight to behold. One could almost see the Heavens, the beautiful valleys and the various colors of Lupins growing in profusion all along the road side. Then enter via Ferry to the most fascinating town on our journey - Dawson City and 90% of my passengers agreed. We were only there two days each time, but most felt we should have had 3 or 4 days there. There is just so much to see and do and so much history to be learned here. Since being there and seeing and doing, I've read several most interesting books of your era and town (city). Four of Pierre

Berton's books, also one by his mother - **I Married The Klondike**. The Martha Black Book - and a paperback novel called **Tisha**, story of an American girl who went to "Chicken" to teach. We had stopped at Chicken, so the story was so real.

While in Dawson I met a priceless lady, we all call Sourdough Sue Ward and believe me, she had become one of my dear friends, whom I will always care for deeply. She has been a real source of learning for me and I will always cherish her friendship. We write, and talk on the phone quite often. She is certainly a committed Citizen to Dawson City and I truly hope all there realize this. That Lady has talents beyond our wildest dreams.

I've been to the Top of the Dome with her and all my passengers. We've been to pan for gold and visit the Dredge #4 and all the other main attractions, even left money at Diamond Tooth Gerties. I could almost write a book on my tour and many have said, as I have that we will be back again to see it all. I wish you all much success, with your newspaper and also with all your plans and celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of the Alaska Hwy. I'm sure you will be swamped with tourists this summer.

Keep up the good word, as I look forward to receiving my Klondike Sun, then I let 2 local friends here read it, and then I mail them to Nova Scotia, friends who were on my first Yukon tour.

Thanks,
Daisy Robinson
Vernon, Ontario

CHANGES IN THE KLONDIKE SUN

Columns: Increase from 4 to 5 columns per page.

Advertising Rate: Per column-inch rate goes back to \$5.00

Billings: Billings starting January, 1991 will have 7% G.S.T. added.

Price of Newspaper: 60 cents

Subscriptions: All Canadian Subscriptions will have 7% G.S.T. added.

Personal Classified: 30 words or less FREE

Notices & Thank You's: 50 words or less FREE

FAX Number: 403-993-6625 **Phone number:** 403-993-6318

Klondike Kids Pics: Provide either wallet-sized school picture (colored), name and birth month, OR let a Sun staffer know in good time so that a black and white photo may be taken. These are FREE.
Special Greetings: If you wish to send special greetings with your child's photo OR if you would like to surprise any family member or friend with a photo and greetings, border included, cost is \$20.00

Klondike Nuggets: Everyone loves a new baby. . . we think a photo of the baby and the vital statistics can be a treasured keepsake. . . providing Mom is up to one of us arriving to take the photo. Call the office or a Sun staffer for the photo time.

Photos of your Event: The Sun staff are all volunteers, so cannot always get out to every event. Contact us in plenty of time to see if we can be there; OR if we are unable to, we can supply the black and white film, you take pics, we will process and use pics and you get the credit. Or provide your own film. After we have used photos we will return the film to you with a contact sheet.

YUKON STATISTICS

By John Gould

These few pieces of information were taken from the Yukon Statistical Review for the 3rd quarter of 1990, which is July, August and September. Since that time both the war in Iraq and the GST have effected prices, pushing some up and some down, mostly up. According to the review Dawsons population at the end of September was 1802, this compares with 1793 in September of 1989. Of this number 1063 are between the ages of 15 and 44, 131 are 4 years and younger and there are 71 seniors in Dawson.

The population of the Yukon was 28,697 down from 29,335 of the previous year. There is a work force of 14,199 which is make up of 12,972 employed and 1,227 unemployed. Of this work force 4,585 work for one of the three levels of government, municipal, territorial or federal. Mining and exploration employed 816, the smallest employer was agriculture, fishing and logging.

The spatial price index shows Dawson at 111.7 with Whitehorse 100. In June Whitehorse was 110 with Vancouver 100.

One thing for sure we are a beer drinking lot consuming 3,616,900 litres of the stuff, which is close to 7 million bottles, or 230 for every one in the territory.



Constitutional fatigue is hitting a lot of Canadians these days. But this is an opportunity to re-examine what Canada has to offer Canadians and what Canadians have to offer the world. At the same time, we are exploring who we are, our strengths and weaknesses and where we wish to go as a nation. This process is vital if this country is to emerge united, strong and compassionate from this current period of uncertainty.

I recently had the opportunity to speak at a joint luncheon of the Canadian Club and the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, in Toronto. While the prospectors trade show was educational, I still think that the Dawson City Gold Show tops them all.

Many of those at the luncheon represented prospectors. As many Dawsonites know, prospecting is high risk and it requires much initiative and

Words from Webster

"Dawson's Community Building Condemned" shouts the headline in the March 20 edition of *The Yukon News*. From remarks made by users of the Sunset Lodge in the article which follows, as well as comments I've heard from several residents, there are three main issues related to the closure of this building which have raised the ire of many locals:

- 1) Why were the several community groups and organizations which regularly use the building not informed of the problem with the foundation, and the risk it presented?
- 2) Why was the building closed so abruptly without adequate notice given to users to relocate to another suitable facility?
- 3) Does a suitable facility for these users exist?

The first issue is difficult for me to comprehend as being an "issue". Clearly the Golden Age Society, as lessee of Sunset Lodge, knew two years ago that the foundation structure was not sound when the Government of Yukon made repairs to shore up rotten support posts for the temporary prevention of the building's collapse. When the long-term lease with this society expired in August of 1990, surely its members were aware that the reason why the lease would be terminated, and not be renewed, was the unsafe condition of a badly deteriorating building. After all, a report dated July 30, 1990, of an inspection completed on July 26 by a Government Services architect stated, "that the building is in very poor condition structurally", and concluded; "Note: At present, the building should definitely not be occupied by senior citizens for any purpose".

So why wasn't the Sunset Lodge shut down last August as opposed to being made available to the Golden Age Society on a month-to-month basis subject to immediate closure? The first of two reasons is that Government Services wanted to determine the feasibility of renovations. Its in-house assessment was that bringing this building up to a minimum standard would be extremely expensive, exceeding the cost of constructing a new building. The second reason is that being aware of the adverse effect the closure of the building would have on our community, the Departments of Government Services and Health and Human Resources wanted "a second opinion". That opinion was offered by an independent engineer of the Whitehorse firm Wood and Associates, who, in a letter dated December 27, 1990, concluded: "It is our opinion that the occupancy of this structure should not be permitted until such time as foundation reconstruction has been undertaken. Furthermore, we feel that the age and present condition of the building itself does not warrant the relatively high cost of foundation replacement."

As for the second issue of why the building was closed so abruptly, it was simply a matter of public safety. Confirmed opinions as to the safety of the building were reviewed - at the ministerial level - and it

REPORT FROM OTTAWA

Audrey McLaughlin,
Yukon MP

patience. Sometimes, it means challenging accepted truths.

If you think about it, these are exactly the qualities and talents we need as we work towards not just keeping this country together, but in making this a better country.

Unfortunately, just when we were trying to improve services in the Yukon, our national institutions are being dismantled. The federal government has cut rail transportation; crippled our communications networks, including the CBC; privatized Canada Post; and, eroded social programs such as unemployment insurance and post secondary education. Most recently, the federal government is not meeting its share of funding for vital services such as the RCMP.

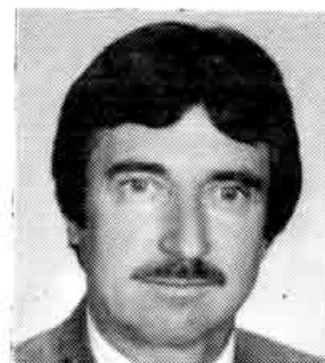
I believe that to address the needs of people, what Canada requires is a national unity program. A vision of national unity that would include not just a Constitutional accord but also accords in such areas as the

economy, social programs and the environment -- accords not simply between governments but between governments and people.

Ultimately, this is our opportunity to speak as one nation, but not without first ensuring that all Canadians have a say -- be it aboriginal people, women, unions, businesses, churches, or elected leaders from the various levels of government in all regions. It is crucial that as a nation, Canadians reach a consensus on the fundamental principles upon which our nation is formed.

In March, New Democrats released our Discussion Paper on the Constitution. If you are interested in receiving a copy of this or copies of any of my speeches, of Debates in the House of Commons or any federal government report, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can call my Constituency office at (403) 668-3030, (toll-free) Zenith 5000, or write to me c/o House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6 (no postage required).

Art Webster, M.L.A. Klondike



was decided that continued occupancy of the building was not in the public interest because of the risks involved. It could be argued that having procrastinated for three months already, surely another month's delay to give fair notice to all users to vacate the premises wouldn't hurt. However, the responsible ministers disagreed. They did not want any mishaps or injuries suffered as a result of the building's faulty condition. I accept the criticism for the abrupt closure of the building, and apologize to users, in particular the *Klondike Sun*, for the inconvenience it has caused.

The final issue: is there a suitable facility for our displaced community groups and organizations to use? Given the generosity of local businesses and their eagerness to extend a helping hand, I am not surprised that free temporary space was offered immediately for the operation of the *Klondike Sun*. However, what is really required is a solution which meets the space needs for all Dawson City area organizations and groups on a permanent long-term basis.

The Sunset Lodge, despite the claim in the opening headline, is not "Dawson's Community Building", nor was it ever intended to be. It merely served that function by virtue of nothing else being available, especially since the tragic fire in December 1990, of the Tro-Chu-Tin Hall. The fact is, however, that Dawson has a true community hall: Diamond Tooth Gertie's. But because the building is leased by the City of Dawson to the Klondike Visitors Association, it is not available on a year-round basis for most community group functions. Although like most residents I support the Klondike Visitors Association and its operations, I have always been critical of the City (yes, even as a Councillor) for not providing its residents with a facility to compensate for the loss of Diamond Tooth Gertie's as our Community Hall.

For this reason I have consistently maintained that the City of Dawson used poor judgement in not designing and constructing the Waterfront Building for winter use. Because I firmly believe that the City has an obligation to provide and operate a community hall for the benefit of its taxpayers and residents, just as municipal governments do in all rural Yukon communities, I am dismayed that this opportunity to do so with the Waterfront Building was missed. Thus, I urge the City of Dawson to remedy this oversight by upgrading the Waterfront Building for year-round occupancy, and recommend that its space be made available at the same reasonable rental rates offered by the Government of Yukon to users of the Sunset Lodge. If some financial assistance is required by the City of Dawson to make the necessary improvements, may I suggest it apply to the Government of Yukon's Community Development Fund.

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MAY 23-25, 1991



Wayne Rostad and Sourdough Sue Ward at Sun Office acclaiming the Klondike Sun as No. 1.

I was "On the Road Again"

By Sue Ward

Have you ever thought of yourself being preserved for all time for everyone to see? It's quite the experience. I mean, an in depth grilling which goes on for at least four hours, maybe five, and "it ain't over yet"! In fact, I've just been asked if I'd still be mobile at 11 p.m. for an outdoor shot of star-gazing. I can't believe it is all happening but there's no stopping these CBC TV lads. I have the feeling they have been caught up in this rare Klondike atmosphere. I've seen it happen before. But there we are--it's all for Dawson though goodness knows when we're apt to see the production. One hour of filming produced one minute of showtime -- hmm -- whatever parts of me will end up on the cutting room floor? I'm being "shot" through my lace curtains from the porch as I peck away, to illustrate my involvement with our Klondike Sun.. "Just type away" says producer Jonathan Craven. So here I am Killing Two birds with one stone as I simply can't think of another thing through all this equipment, and I don't ever remember having my we house so stuffed with big men.

Tomorrow we're to get down to the Sun Office, then shoot a street stroll scene before we go to Gertie's to give "Sourdough

Sue the Yukon Buckaroo" a rebirth.

From here on it's all after the Tact. We did all of those things and when I said I was wearing out after the sixth "Sourdough Sue" asking that they pick the best rendition they told me I kept getting better.

Andy Little who had to take retirement and was unable to return to film the segments, had told his replacement to chat about the old bottles I decorate with wild flowers, etc. You see dear readers, I had paid a thousand bucks for Martha Collins' collection about 15 years ago. Back then they were considered artifacts and we didn't want to have another thing leave the Territory. I matched the Californian's bid. Two years ago the Museum asked if I could take my gift back as they had no room for bottles. One hundred tote boxes of dirty bottles are stacked in my shed and I need to retrieve my investment. So I sat painting a bottle and the crew thought they were just the right item to take home for a souvenir.

We finally did "a wrap" of Cleo and I setting out on a stroll from 564 Princess Street. You wouldn't believe how Cleo hammed it up -- like a young pup instead of a sixteen year old -- but then she was working with a pro!



Photo by Madeleine Gould

Dawson Bids Farewell to the Montgomerys

by L. Sprokkreeff

On the evening of March 30th about 100 friends of Dennis and Sheila Montgomery got together to bid them farewell. It was a potluck affair at the Curling Club which proved to be a wonderful evening. MC for the evening was Peter Menzies and presentations were made by five people. Gord Crowe presented Dennis a plaque and spoke of how closely the R.C.M.P. and firemen work together. Tim Coombs of the Ambulance Service made a presentation as well and said the ambulance crew and the firefighters have all grown together. Mayor Peter Jenkins presented Dennis with a citizen's award and gave his best wishes to Dennis and family. Paul Derry spoke on behalf of the firefighters and presented an Albert Fuhre print of the firehall to Dennis. Joni Vickers on behalf of everyone present, presented them with a picture of Dawson and a money tree and spoke of a few fond memories. Joanne Smith shared a few laughs too on behalf of the seniors. There are a lot of fun memories from Dennis, Sheila and Amanda. Some are captured on video and pictures but I think most linger in our minds. Wednesday night fire practices will never be the same without Dennis. Sheila's friendly face will be missed at the KVA office and Amanda's beautiful voice will be missed in the school choir. As everyone said, they will be missed by all of us. We wish you all good luck in Mackenzie,

B.C., and all the best when your new little one arrives. They say if you're ever in Mackenzie to look them up; and maybe Loretta Lynn in her (his) blue chiffon dress will appear at Gerties one

year. Or maybe Dolly Parton, Mr. Leprecaun, Drag Queen, Johnny Cash and June Carter! The memories linger on! Watch out Mackenzie -- here come the Montgomerys!

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News From the Rock

Margie Mann

Isn't it glorious watching spring come to the Klondike?! The little pleasures - "fairies" dancing around the living room because of the sunlight hitting crystals in the window - direct sunshine coming in the east window in the morning, and the west window in the evening - wearing sun-glasses on the way to work in the morning so the "glare" of the morning sun in the rearview mirror doesn't blind you - the sounds of birds, and dripping water - the shedding of parkas and snow-packs - the occasional glimpse of bare leg (yes, skirts are back!!) - So simple, so delightful!! With the promise of even better things to come.....

We have a few welcomes here as well. Welcome to Mich and Andre Gagne who are living in Marg Van Dusen's extra house. This is a little belated as they have actually been in Rock Creek about 2 months. But, like many of us, are just "coming out of the woodwork" (also called "winter"). You will probably see their posters around town as "Do-It Construction". I understand they are crackerjack cabinet makers and carpenters - if you are looking for that sort of service, they can be reached at 993-5234.

Rock Creek is a bee-hive of activity lately with people coming and going in all directions. Farewell to Darren and Carrie who have left for convenient quarters closer to town. And farewell to Pat, Paul

and Joel Pierson. But, Piersons have not moved far away - they left "the Rock" for greener pastures at Henderson Corners, completing the house they have been building there over the winter. Congratulations!!

Also, welcome back to the very tanned Trish Malfair and Denis Boudreau. They were gone for a 3-month holiday to B.C. and Mexico. They came back with a new car and a very pregnant springer spaniel who promptly delivered 6 spaniel-cross pups. This is kind of interesting because I'm sure they considered charging the father (Stinky, dog of the North) with a palimony suit. Yes, its true, Stinky usually resides at our place. But their male dog (handsome and debonair Alf) is the father of our female's 13 pups (yep - 13 pups!!) - delivered about 4 days earlier. So, if anyone wants a springer/Stinky pup, or a golden lab/Alfy pup, we have plenty of them in Rock Creek!

Also, welcome to Gene DuBois who is currently living at Rock Creek. Gene house/dog/cat-sat for us last month and has now taken up residence in our travel trailer. Gene will be having company later this month when Marie Gogo comes to spend some time with her hubby before starting rehearsals for her role in Whitehorses' Frantic Follies. It has been really wonderful for us having Gene in close proximity - he and Himself spend hours trying to out-balance each other. Which is good entertainment for us spectators.....



Other interesting things in and around include Rose Margeson, who was in Edmonton on a business trip last month and was able to pay daughter Barbie, who is going to school in Calgary, a surprise visit. The "Travelling Wilburys" of Rock Creek/Henderson Corners (AKA Chris, Chuck, Bud, Ron, and Perry) celebrated their first-prize winnings from the Spring Carnival Lip Sync contest by partying in grand style with their wives. Ray Dagostair is in Victoria to attend school for his carpenter trade. Oh, to be in Victoria in April when the trees are blossoming!! Some folks have all the luck! Our family can't complain though - we all went to California for about 10 days last month - did Disneyland, San Diego Sea World, Tiajuana and all that stuff. Got to admit, it was pretty nice being able to wear shorts and T-shirts! 2 Things were really apparent while on holidays - the lack of dogs and the abundance of wonderful service!! Do you think we could do some sort of trade? Some of our dogs for some of their service-industry people? A big thank-you to Pat Pierson who put the bug in our ear that resulted in a wonderful holiday!!

So, on into Spring! See you next month!

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MacDougal Takes Mail Run After Two Tries

by Dan Davidson

"It's always a long race, the Percy - a long race comin' home," said Brian MacDougal shortly after placing first in this year's Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Run. MacDougal's time of 24 hours and 47 minutes was 22 minutes shy of the course record and only 9 minutes ahead of second place musher Benoit LeFebvre, but it was enough to give him the victory this time around. He's been working towards it over his 2 previous mail runs, having come in 2nd place on the 340 km run both times.

MacDougal has been racing for 6 years now. In addition to his third DeWolfe race, he has also run in Carcross, Mayo and Haines. He began the Yukon Quest one year, but had to scratch. He says he got started in an almost offhand way.

"I used to stay with some people who used to board a dog team, and I had nothing else to do so I started running it."

Sunshine and the crowd smiled on the opening of the 15th Annual Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race. A crowd of well over 150 lined King Street beside the Palace Grand Theatre and the Old Post Office to see the 10 mushers pull out shortly after 10 a.m. on Thursday.

"We're really pleased," said

a smiling Ann Bilina, "both with the crowd and the field." Certainly it's nice to have all the work of organizing the race pay off with a good turnout, and last year's field of five was a major disappointment for the DeWolfe Race Committee.

This year, however, the race was healthy, the weather was fine and the 340 kilometre round trip trail to Eagle, Alaska, was in good shape.

The mushers in this year's race were as follows. From Dawson City there were Larry Smith, Mikin Bilina, Francois Varigas, Johnny Anderson, Cor Guimond and Raymond Brisebois. From Whitehorse the mushers were Brian MacDougal, Benoit LeFebvre and Tom Randall. Rookie mail runner Douglas Hutchinson came from Fairbanks. Team sizes varied in size from 6 to 9 dogs.

Trail conditions were thought to be optimum for a record breaking run this year. Race Marshall John Borg said, "I'm surprised we don't have a record time. I think all the conditions were there to have one."

Race leader LeFebvre had pulled into Eagle, Alaska, in just 11 hours and 15 minutes on Thursday, but MacDougal passed him near Forty Mile on the return trip and made it to Dawson City by 3:02 on a

sunny Friday afternoon.

There were at least two false alarms at the Dawson checkpoint that afternoon, the first caused by a pair of travelling mushers who were simply using the river highway that day. The second false alarm actually resulted in the fire siren being set off, but it was just another local musher using the river. The weather being fine, the crowd that assembled after the siren stayed put and enjoyed the sunshine until MacDougal pulled in.

Francois Varigas was third to arrive with a time of 25:27, followed by Larry Smith at 26:48 and Raymond Brisebois at 31:08. Some dogs were still showing signs of the virus which plagued the Yukon Quest, but most seemed in good shape after what MacDougal called "a pretty tough grind."

John Borg was full of enthusiasm for this year's results. "The Percy", as everyone connected seems to call it, was rumoured to be in sad shape and on the decline, but that fear seems to have been set aside by this year's good showing.

"With 10 teams this year I think the race is in good shape," said Borg, who has seen 14 of the 15 races. "It's great to be out here with people who like to be out doing something. I think that's why I'm here."



L to R: Francois Varigas, Brian MacDougal, Race Marshall John Borg and Benoit LeFebvre who is tending to a dog's sore foot

Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates



Dog Musher Corwin Guimond

Photo by John Gould



Postmaster Lambert Curzon, Gerry Sutherland RCMP, Willie DeWolfe and Mikin Bilina who carried the commemorative mail.

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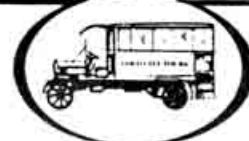
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COMING INTO DAYLIGHT

by Tim Gerberding

Dawson's Agnes Joseph Rear received high tribute in ceremonies held in Whitehorse on March 8 to celebrate International Woman's Day. She was one of five Yukon women, chosen from 53 nominees across the Territory, to receive special recognition. Angie was lauded for making "significant contributions for the benefit of all Indian People."

Her Court challenge to the Yukon Fisheries Act, in which she established the rights of native people to fish freely for subsistence purposes, has been widely reported across the North. Less well known, but equally important in reinforcing the Indian identity and culture, has been her work in asserting and preserving traditional Indian values on the homefront.



For the past several summers she has lived at Moosehide, repairing and improving the former home of the Dawson Indian band. "I'm not the only one," Angie states modestly. "There are several of us, all trying to fix it up, make it liveable, plow gardens, pull weeds, whatever needs to be done."

There's a definite spiritual bent to Angie's nature. She wants to pay "special tribute to ones who've gone before us, for what they've left us and given us." She aims to "help younger people understand where and who they are. You've really got to search your background to know where you've come from, to be more yourself."

Angie recounts an old Hopi prophecy, circa 1850. The Hopis were living in the desert, growing corn, and fighting for their lives against the encroaching whites. An old medicine man proclaimed, "Our people are in our midnight. We'll come into our daylight and become leaders when the eagle lands on the moon."

"Our midnight", Angie explains, "was how our life was changed - Alcoholism - low self esteem." Her eyes light up as she continues, "and you know in July '69 (when Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon) the first words back were 'the eagle has landed.'" She nods her head. "That's when Indian people started to change. Now we're coming into our daylight."

Gould -YOOP Case Takes New Turn

A conflict of basic rights is said to be at the center of Madeleine Gould's battle to join the Yukon Order of Pioneers. The question boils down to a battle between Gould's right to equality and the YOOP's right to have freedom of association. Yukon Supreme Court Judge Allan Wachowich has ruled that the original decision in favour of Gould by the Yukon Human Rights Commission was full of errors in principle, and that the case must begin all over again at this point.

"The process of developing human rights legislation involves the careful balancing of fundamental democratic principles," Justice Wachowich is reported as having said in his 125 page decision on the case.

Though Wachowich said the case would have to go back to the YHRC if it was to be continued, he also cast doubt on whether or not the Human Rights Act was the proper legislation for handling a complaint like Gould's.

"I am reluctant to state uncategorically... that the conduct of the Pioneers in the rejection of Madeleine Gould's membership application amounts to discrimination," the Justice wrote. He

indicated that the YOOP may not even fall under the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission in this matter, and that the group's right to freedom of association was hardly considered by the commission in its decision.



Lawyers for both sides in the case were not clear on what would happen next. It seemed plain that the Gould case was hampered by the tone of the justice's decision but, on the other hand, her claim was not rejected out of hand. In essence, the justice told the commission to take another look at the case and that certain factors would have to be considered in any further rulings.

On the day the decision came down, Gould said she would continue her battle, which has been in progress for the last 3 1/2 years. Lawyers for the YOOP indicated that it would be a waste of time and money to do so.

There are two other options, according to YOOP lawyer, Rich Buchan. The case could be taken to the B.C.-Yukon Court of Appeal, or it could be resolved privately between the parties involved.

Ed. Note: This story is paraphrased from material which was written by John Dunn, for the Whitehorse Star, and Dave White, for the Yukon News.



Brian MacDougall mushes down Front Street on his way to 1st place in Percy DeWolfe Race

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For more information about the National Safety Code call the NSC Whitehorse office at 667-5057. If you live outside Whitehorse, you can call toll free 1-800-661-0408. In Watson Lake, call the NSC area office at 536-7413.

Yukon

Community and Transportation
Services
Maurice Byblow, Minister

Farewell Bob Mitchell

by Marjie Mann

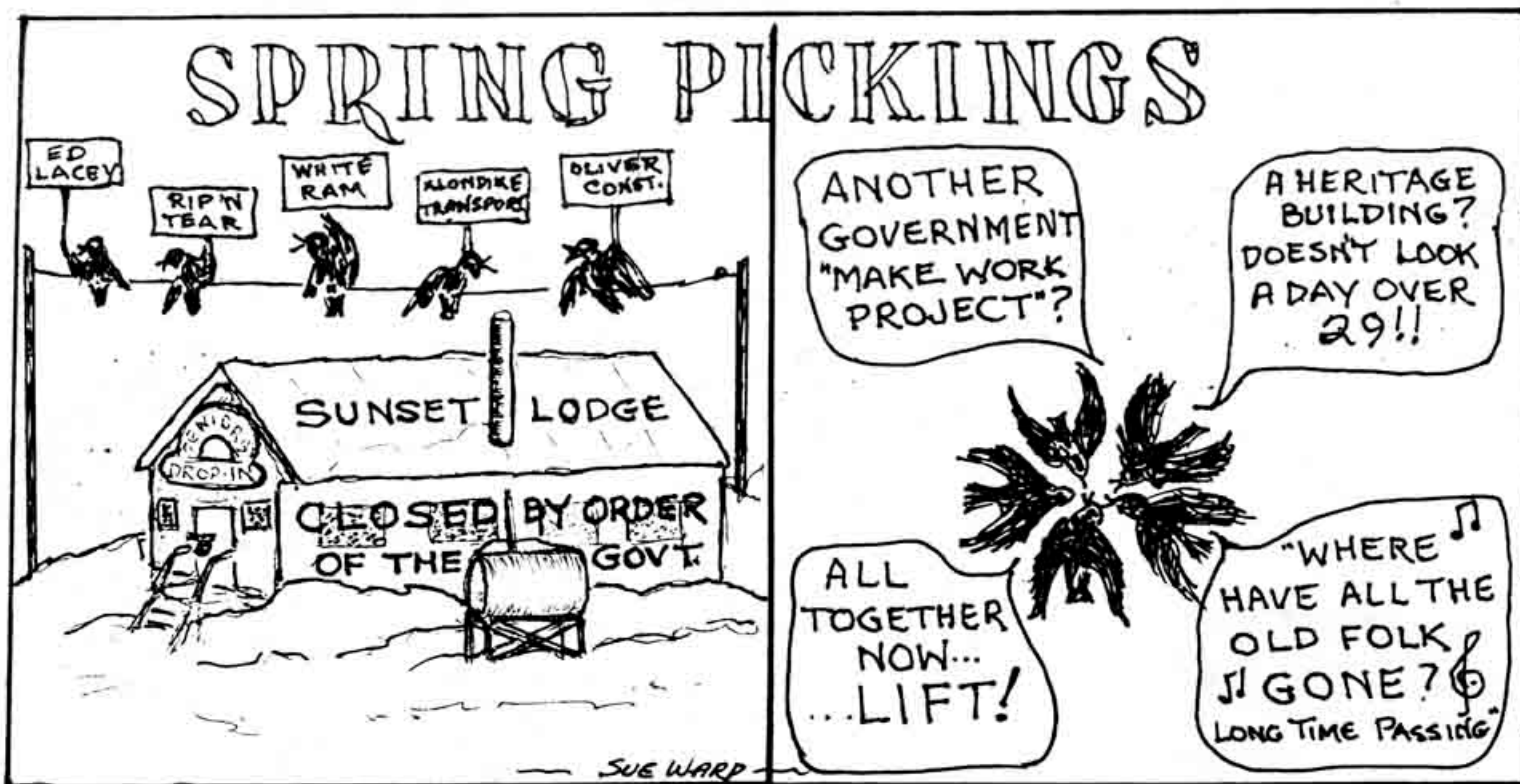
Yes, another valuable member of our community has left us for points south.

Bob Mitchell has been living in Dawson City since January 1988 when he was hired by Klondike National Historic Sites as an Extant Recorder. Since then, Bob has worked closely with Robbie Van Rump in performing the duties of an extant recorder. But, he has offered far, far more than that. On the job, Bob was involved in the safety committee and the formation of the union local. And off the job is when Bob shone the brightest! Bob became involved as a volunteer with the Museum almost as soon as he arrived in town. With them, he contributed hundreds and hundreds of tireless hours as part of the collections committee and, most recently, on his train project. The fruit of his labours is in the museum and will be enjoyed by all the countless visitors and residents who visit the museum in the years to come. As well, Bob has offered his expertise in photography in many areas. Both at work and at the museum, Bob has always given his best and he could always be counted on for a smile and a hug.



Photo by Michael Gates

However, it seems "all things must pass". Bob truly was a part of Dawson City and his friendship and enthusiasm have become his trademark. But a job offer in Winnipeg could not be turned down, and therefore he had to take his leave. In appreciation of the time he was able to give us, a going-away party was held at the home of Robbie and his wife Pat Russell on March 28th. The party was attended by co-workers and co-volunteers alike, with many Parks employees and Museum people to enjoy a last evening with him and wish him well in his future endeavours. Goodbye, Bob!!! We will all miss you very much!!



RCMP News Release

Dawson - On April 3, 1991 a Dawson City R.C.M.P. investigation resulted in a seizure of Cannabis Resin (Hashish) with an estimated street value of \$525.00. As a result of the investigation one Dawson City resident, Sharon Irene Peerenboom, age 44, was charged with possession of a narcotic for the purpose of trafficking contrary to Section 4(2) of the Narcotic Control Act.

On April 5, 1991 a Dawson City R.C.M.P. investigation

resulted in a seizure of marihuana with an estimated street value of \$1700.00. As a result of the seizure one Dawson City resident, James Malcolm McNaughton, age 27, stands charged with possession of a narcotic for the purpose of trafficking contrary to Section 4(2) of the Narcotic Control Act.

Both McNaughton and Peerenboom are scheduled to appear next in Dawson City Territorial Court on May 15, 1991.

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Summer Art School in Dawson?

By Karen DuBois

The Dawson Rec Board and the Dawson Campus of Yukon College are going to try something new this year - art courses in the summer.

We can already hear people saying "Summer? Winter's the time for courses," but we have a few good reasons for holding the courses in the summer, (such as space & teachers) so we are going to give it a shot.

We have some offerings

firmed up already - Dale Cooper and Kim Tuson will be teaching dance courses, Halin DeRepentigny will be teaching oil and acrylic painting, Sandra Hall will offer her music theory course, Murray Johnston from Okanagan College will hold two weekend workshop on either sketching or watercolour painting. We are also working on setting up a few other courses - voice lessons, acting and stage productions with our Gaslight

Follies crew and, hopefully, a one week carving course for those with some carving experience. We also plan to offer some of these classes to children.

Our main concern is knowing if there are people out there who will want to take the courses - or should we say who will have time to take them. Please contact Pete Menzies 993-5434 or Karen DuBois 993-5231 if you are interested.

FROM THE DAWSON NEWS, APRIL 25, 1936

A Tip on the Ice Break Up

Researched by John Gould

A tip on the ice break up,

The absolute date nobody knows.

But at the horseshoe cigar store

So the story goes.

Harry heard the police chief on his beat,

Say to Bobby on the Street.

That he had a letter just last week,

From a pal of his from, I think Coal Creek.

There is an Eskimo in Kotzebue,

Who said his squaw in Dutch Harbour knew,

of a man who has travelled the world over,

And now runs a restaurant down in Cordova.

Who knows of an old Sourdough in Dawson Town.

Who got it straight from a cheechako clown,

of a man in the Klondike who got the story

From the "King of the Arctic" up in Point Barrow.

About a man in old Juneau,

Who knows a man who claims to know.

of a lonely trapper in Ketchikan,

Whose partner says, he'll prove it if he can.

That the ice will break up on

Oh hell! I've forgotten the date,

But I think it was some where around May the eighth.

Author Unknown



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

Weather Watch



by Art Vickers, Flight Service Specialist, Transport Canada, Flight Service Station, Dawson Airport

Hello again! Have you had enough winter yet? -Oh!- (No need for that kind of response - Spring (officially) is here.)

As promised, I'm back with the weather stats for March 1991. Again, no temperature records were tied or broken in March. The following gives a breakdown for the month with comparisons to last winter and to the long term means.

(Bracketed figures are in Fahrenheit and Inches for those who can relate to them better.)

And now, the answers to those questions which, I know, have kept many of you awake since the last issue of this fine publication.

First - How much snow have we had so far this winter? There has been 223.2 cm (87.9 in.) of the white stuff up to the end of March. That has managed to compact down to 72 cm (28.3 in.) on the ground at the airport at the end of the month.

Second - Was there more snow last winter or this winter? Thanks to larger than normal amounts of snow in March this winter and in November last winter, the competition was very close, HOWEVER, (are you ready for this?) - The winter of 1990-91 edged out last winter by 223.2 cm (87.9 in.) to 219.2 cm (86.3 in.) WOW!!! Wasn't that worth the wait?!!?

That's it for this time. Hopefully, the snow will be gone and the mud will be dried up (Ho! Ho!) by the next issue. Bye for now.

	1991	1990	Longterm Mean
Max.	5.9 (42.6)	9.0 (48.2)	
Min.	-35.5 (-35.5)	-30.0 (-22.0)	
Mean Temp.	-14.8 (5.4)	-9.0 (15.8)	-14.1 (6.7)
Rainfall	0.0	Trace	Trace
Snowfall	32.4 (12.8)	11.2 (4.4)	13.2 (5.2)

Is your job giving you a headache?

If so, your office's air may be the villain. Here are some things you can do to clean your air:

•Increase ventilation. Find out if the air is exchanged with relatively fresh outside air and see if ventilation can be upgraded if necessary.

•Buy plants. They release oxygen, and cleanse the air of some contaminants.

•Buy non-toxic items. For example: water-based pens and markers. And ask your cleaning staff to use non-toxic, biodegradable cleaning agents.

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Royal Canadian Legion Poster and Essay Contest



Dawson City Branch #1

Once again the Annual Royal Canadian Legion Poster and Essay Contest has challenged Dawson City students, reminding us that War is not the answer, and we must constantly remember, with gratitude, the sacrifices made in lives and bodies of our young men and women in past struggles.

The contest is launched each January when entries are received. In March the winners at the local level are chosen. Their works are then submitted to Zone level, on the District, Provincial, and finally Dominion Command. Overall winners are invited to participate in the November 11th Remembrance Day Service in the Nation's Capital, Ottawa, thus

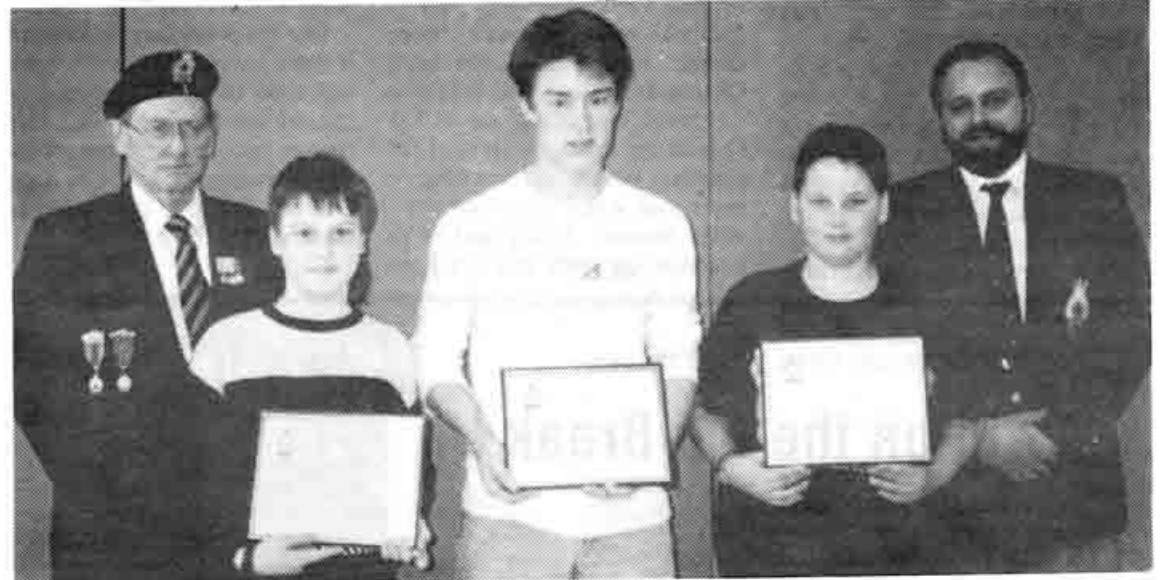
encouraging young Canadians to be constantly mindful of the cost of Peace, and the sacrifices made by their forebearers.

The members of Royal Canadian Legion, Dawson Branch No. 1 wish to thank all students who participated in this Contest, congratulate the winners, and wish them all success in their future endeavours.

A total of about 30 posters were received, all in the Junior Category: 1 essay was submitted for the Junior Literary contest, and 2 entries (1 essay and 1 poem) were received in the Senior Literary contest.

The winning entries of the Literary contest are printed here for your enjoyment, also photos of the winning posters.

Jim Reilly, President



Left to Right: President J. Reilly; 1st Prize Literary - Jr., Kevin McCauley, Grade 5; 1st Prize Literary - Sr., Gordon Kerr, Grade 12; 2nd Prize Poster, Andrew Taylor, Grade 6; Kelly DeWald, Poppy Chairman

Photo by Sue Ward



1st Prize - Christopher Johnson - Grade 5
Poster - Junior

Photo by Sue Ward

2nd Prize - Renée Brickner - poem - Grade 11

Photo by Sue Ward

His First Poppy

One rainy, grey November day in the year 1942, a young Canadian boy was plodding along a muddy dirt road to his grandma and grandpa's house. The boy was supposed to stay there over night. That afternoon, his mother was volunteering at the local Red Cross office, preparing first aid bundles to send overseas. As he walked along splashing in the puddles, the boy thought of his father who was serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force in France.

The boy finally reached his destination just as it started to pour. The boy's grandpa answered the door. The boy came in and soon they were settled down. They talked about everything from the mating call of an ostrich to the horsepower of a tractor.

Then the boy asked, "What is going on? People are wearing little red flowers and throwin' money into cauldrons. What for?"

"Grandson, do you mean that you have never heard of Remembrance Day?" the grandpa questioned, wide-eyed.

"My dad is the tail gunner of a B-52 bomber," the boy said proudly.

"I was fighting in the sky, shot down four planes, and met Billy Bishop but, back in 1917, you had to pilot as well as shoot the enemy," the grandpa said, trying to impress his grandson.

"Wow, that must have been exciting!" the boy almost yelled.

"Well not exactly. I did lose my best friend and that is why we should always honor the ones who have died for us," the

grandpa said more seriously.

"So that's what Remembrance Day is about!" the boy exclaimed.

"Exactly," the grandpa replied. Grandma walked in "Time for bed," she said.

"No," the boy replied calmly.

"Oh, just thinking about it brings back a lot of memories from my experiences in World War I," the grandfather said, looking at the ceiling.

The next day the boy and his grandpa went into town. The boy looked across the street and saw a man selling poppies. The boy paid the man and stuck the poppy carefully onto his jacket. The grandpa put his arm around the boy, looked down and winked.

by Kevin McCauley

The Pipes of Peace by Gordon Kerr grade 12

1. A Life of Learning

"Someday you'll be leamin' um too lad," Granddad assured me in his heavy Gaelic accent. I was staring up at him with my big brown two year old eyes. "Pip," I babbled, and pointed a grubby finger at the elegant bagpipes my Granddad cradled in his arms.

They came from Scotland where they were played at many glorious battles; this I learned later, when I was old enough to talk and understand the English language fairly coherently. By the time I was ten Granddad had me blowing his big practice chanter, learning the fingering and stumbling through songs. Eventually I managed to carry enough of a melody to convince Granddad I was ready to try out his big heavy pipes.

They were nothing like the practice chanter I was accustomed to, that was for certain. They were heavy; they kept sliding off my arm; and try as I did there was no sound to be made from them.

Discouraged as I was, Granddad wouldn't let me stop or give up until finally I managed to make them squawk and only then would he allow me to rest. For years afterward he badgered me to play, kept me practicing each

day until I could play all the songs in his music book, then he would spend hours telling me of the war, during which he was a piper with the Black Watch; how he led fellow soldiers into battle and into death with the ancient instrument. He told how once a sniper's shot punctured his pipes' leather goatskin bag which had to be repaired with an army sewing kit and part of a dead soldier's boot right in the field, (he eventually piped the next wave of soldiers into the battle).

He explained how a particular scar was inflicted in the top of the bass drone, by a mortar shell which also struck him in the head and wounded him severely. He said the saddest day of his life was waking up in hospital knowing he was getting sent home and would have to leave the Watch and his men in war-torn Europe. Upon his return to Canada, Granddad was presented with a medal of outstanding valor, for his fearlessness in the face of death.

Although Granddad died many years ago in a home for veterans of war I

vividly remember being there with him. I managed good-bye to a proud man that I spent much of my life following and learning from. It was extremely hard for me to do. He was very calm and straightforward with me; told me that he knew he was dying and I was to have his pipes.

"I hope ye'll not have to use em as I did," he whispered, "in bloody war." The words died on his lips, and for a man who made a great deal of noise during his life, he left it very quietly.

2. Friends are Dying

I buckled my kilt, laced my shoes, tightened my sporan, straightened my shirt and tie and slipped into a coat. On my way out the door I finished my cup of coffee and grabbed my case. I was off to town.

It was November 11, 1996. Remembrance Day. The war in the Middle East was less than five years old. It had sure made a liar out of President Bush, alright, I thought to myself as I drove. I recalled one of his early press conferences, "this WILL NOT be another Viet Nam." I shook my head; he sure didn't talk like that now, 13 trillion dollars later, with over a 1000 coalition casualties each day.

I'm angry because Canadians are needlessly at war again, just like Granddad was years ago, they are dying in defense of oil and American interests not even needed in Canada, and just when we finally had the world in a pro-environment attitude, it will lose out again, because of this war. Mainly, I'm angry because recently I was asked when I would join the army and go fight.

My family will never raise its hand or its talents against another race of people. The Berlin Wall has been totally obliterated, oppressed people in the Eastern Communist Bloc have been experiencing democracy for years now. The Cold War was over long ago, East/West relations were just becoming friendly.

For God's sake, surely we were on a road to peace; why war? Why now?

Today I was off to do a very sad duty. I was on my way to pipe home seven of my friends who went to Saudi Arabia a year ago. Two of them were in pine boxes. I strove off tears as I thought of the years of school we went through together, how they tried to

convince me of the 'cause'. I knew it was all bullsh*t. No one had to tell me war was for insecure and foolish people. Granddad spent many hours doing that in the years before his death.

Today I would play two songs while the men carried my friends into their church. They were two laments I had become very familiar with since the beginning of the war; sad songs for sad times.

I was still thinking of how I pleaded with them to stay at home, get a job and not go to war. The more I thought, the more sad and bitter I became.

I still had mixed feelings about not going to war, somehow I felt that Tommy and Jack were better because they died fighting for their countries. I knew it was wrong, but I couldn't help feeling it, at least a little, especially when they carried Tommy by me. My playing wavered ever so noticeably as I saw his face again, for the first time in years, it seemed.

Of course I couldn't see Jack, no one could. Jack had asked to be cremated. They did cremate him; what they found I guess, which wasn't much according to those I spoke with. I winced as his mother filed past; face devoid of expression; he'd been hit by a mortar shell.

After the church ceremonies there was the graveyard for Tommy. I played the "Last Post" as the Canadian Armed Forces lowered him.

I felt glad to be able to send him off; he was one of my best friends and he'd have liked it that way. The reception afterward at the Community Hall ended up being the town's Remembrance Day ceremony. The Father said a prayer, the Legion spoke, as did the mayor and other dignitaries.

They all expressed their sympathy and sorrow to Jack and Tommy's parents and said how much they hoped the war would end so everyone would come home. I shook everyone's hand, had some tea, spoke with my friends and their parents, then bid everyone farewell as I was off for home, there were chores to be done.

I felt strange on that trip home, sad and depressed because I knew that Tommy and Jack wouldn't be the only friends to come home in wooden boxes, but proud because I still had Granddad's pipes and I hadn't taken them to war again.

Remember

by Renée Brickner
grade 11

*I fight a war I did not start,
But for the cause I would die.
I give my life, and as I part,
I ask for reasons why.*

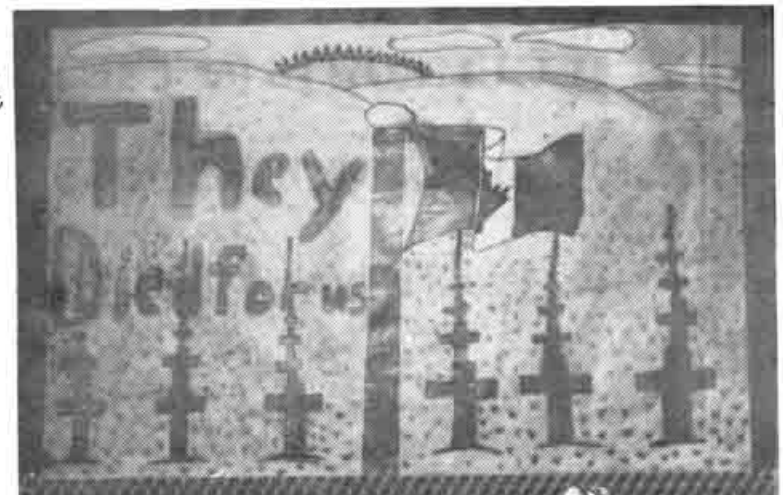
*I see the glory as I look ahead,
As a Canadian I stand tall.
And if I were now struck dead,
Oh, how proudly I would fall.*

*I live in times which are hell
As I fight to survive,
Knowing that to live and tell
Really means to die.*

*I remember times not of war,
I remember when I wanted to live.
And as we stand at freedom's door,
I know I've nothing to give.*

*But where I thought all was lost
I found that I could see,
That I would give at any cost
For my country to be free.*

*As I stand and watch them die,
I'll remember what I see.
Pray that you remember why,
Pray you'll remember me.*





Lorie Sprokkreeff and Cameron



Jimmy Roberts, Tim Malcolm of Eagle, Alaska, and Edward Roberts

SPRING CARNIVAL



Susie, 2 1/2, tied for 1st place
in the 1 dog pull, pulling 516 Kg



1991 Carnival Queen Sandra Roberts



After this, I will design the elevations for the new golf
club building



★ Carnival Photos by everyone
who could click a shutter ★

Awright you mugs: Stroke! Stroke!

Spring Carnival Thaws Dawson

by Dan Davidson



Sylvia Farr and Edith Henry

If Spring is a state of mind, then the season arrived in Dawson late last week as the community turned out in full force to make the annual Spring Carnival a success. A full schedule of events aimed at young and old kept the community hopping for three days, from March 22 - 24. Participation in the events is perhaps best indicated by the length of time it took Rec. Director Peter Menzies to read the list of winners at the banquet on Sunday evening.

A short list of the events includes: jigging (dance contest), a dog show, snowshoe baseball (2 days), ice fishing (2 days), log sawing, egg, chainsaw and rolling pin tossing, various types of rifle marksmanship, a canoe race (on dry land, yet), adult lip synch and youth airband contests, a fashion show, 2 banquets, kids' events at the school gymnasium, smooch racing and tug-of-war, ice sculpturing, the Sunnydale Classic dog race and one-dog and kids' dog pull events in Minto Park.

The weather was cooperative. If it got a little grey on Sunday, it was still nice enough that no one really minded the line-up outside Gerties for the 270 places at the banquet. Side from the 20 minute list of winners, the carnival Queen, Sandra Roberts, was crowned after the banquet.

For many the highlight of the weekend was the youth airband contest, where 22 acts from elementary to high school age romped their way through a dazzling line-up of material. For many of the younger kids, a highlight of that evening was the appearance of their idol, Bart Simpson, doing "The Bartman".



ORCA the killer snow sculpture was masterminded by Michael Mason and the Yukon College Crew



If we pull hard we can probably turn page 15 for you.



Batter Up! Donna Tutin whacks one to the outfield.



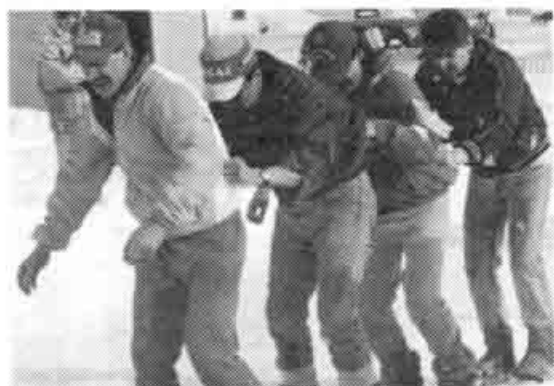
Coasting time at the North End kids' park.



'Gone Fishin' Paula and Jenni try their luck at the derby.



This is what computer users call "logging off."



What a place to put a conga line!

Look what I cod!



Frankie Laytons Ling-Cod



Randi Henry and Crystal Roberts



I think the killer went this way, men.



Mistie Bowers, Vanessa Joseph, Sandra Roberts, Jennie Bowers



About your deodorant. . .



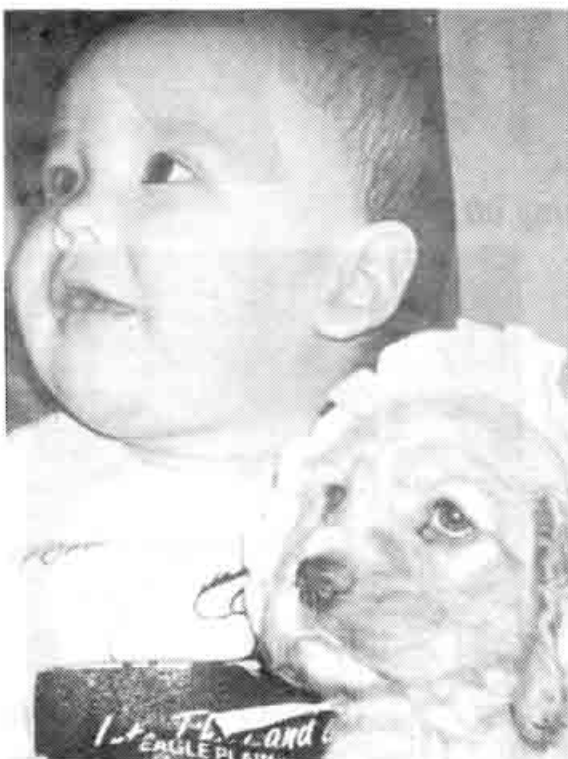
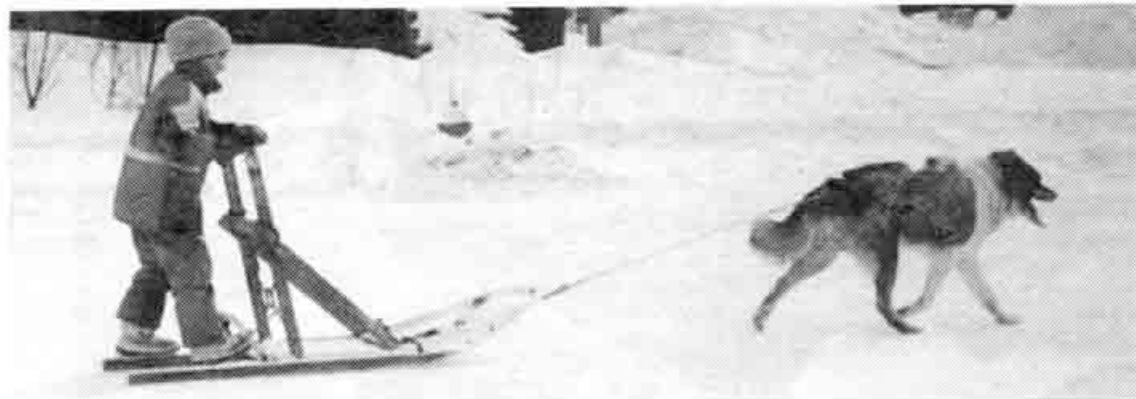
The Mystery Man



Edgar Russell



Misha Kennedy pulled by Belka wins the "Kids Dog Sled Pull" in 9 seconds.



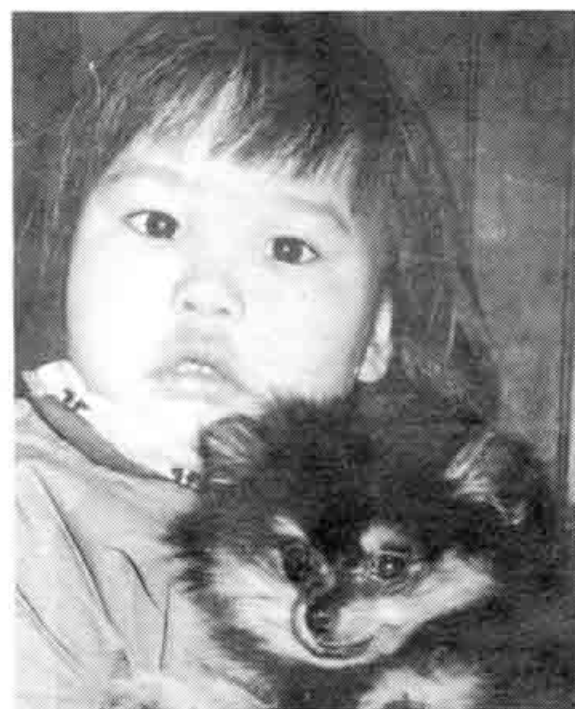
Mindy Anderson with Buddy



Lambert and Baron



Dolores Anderson



Kyrie Nagano and Becky Dog



Cindy Braga with Buddy



Twelve year-old "Cow" ties for first pulling 516 kilos