

The KLONDIKE Sun

DAWSON CITY, YUKON VOL 3, NO 1, MONTHLY 60 CENTS



Myrna Butterworth, Albert Fuhre, Allanah Fuhre & Lenore Jenkins

Photo by Sue Ward

LOCALS WIN ICE POOL

By Sue Ward

The next best thing to winning the I.O.D.E. Ice Pool is to have the loot stay at home. When the official clock was snapped off at 10:16 a.m. Tuesday, April 30th, the Yukon River was already sweeping past the last reluctant section of ice supporting the tripod. So, for most of us who skeedaddled down to the dike it was almost not worth the interruption, though of course the siren blast was music to the ears of the students and teachers who gleaned an early lunchbreak.

Allanah and Albert Fuhre had jointly purchased six guesses with 10:15 a.m. being one minute short. Their share of the pool receipts was a hefty \$3,313.47. The remainder is held by the good ladies of the I.O.D.E. for next Christmas's Senior Hampers, etc.

Had there been a second ticket of the same time, or one which guessed 10:17 a.m. the monies would have been divided equally.

Al and Allanah are deep into a renovation of their home on Second Avenue so the extra funds are most welcome.



Photo by Michael Gates

Both the Klondike and Yukon Rivers caught us Sun staffers with our cameras empty this year. The Klondike Ice broke up on Saturday, April 27, flooding the Klondike Highway south of the Dempster Corner and filling low lying areas as close to town as Jack Vogt's sawmill at Henderson's Corner, seen above. The Yukon River continued its recent habit of breaking up on the last day of April. Editor Gates was out of town, leaving Photographer Gates and Editor Davidson to shrug, cameraless, at the departing floes. So it goes in the newspaper business.

A Personal View: North End Future Prompts Debate

by Tim Gerberding

A controversy is brewing over the proposed realignment of 2nd Avenue between Albert and Judge Streets in the North End of Dawson. At the heart of the dispute lies a fundamental question citizens of Dawson have to answer concerning the development of our city. How much of our municipality do we want to set aside for tourist and commercial industries, and how much do we want to retain for ourselves as residents? Who gets priority treatment?

Residents of the North End had an opportunity to ask questions and air their opinions at a meeting held on April 24 in Council Chambers, when Ed Shillington of Stanley & Associates was in town. Mr. Shillington has designed sewer and water systems all over northern Canada and Alaska, and has been the mastermind of the Dawson sewer and water system since its inception 12 years ago.

This meeting was held to follow up on a meeting held on February 21 with Peter Thompson, of Thompson & Aucoin. Mr Thompson presented North End residents with 2 options for the development of

their end of town. Both options close all alleys in the area. The first option retains the present street alignment, officially closes non-existent 3rd Avenue, and increases the residential lot sizes on 2nd and 4th from the present 50 ft. by 60 ft., to 50 ft. by 155 ft., which is the distance from the existing 2nd and 4th Avenues to the middle of 3rd Avenue.

Commercial lots between Front St. and 2nd Ave. would then be 50 ft. by 130 ft. A sewer and water loop would be extended into the area utilizing 4th and 2nd Avenues.

The second option moves 2nd Ave. 80 ft. to the east, thereby realigning it to conform with the rest of the City. 4th Ave. is also moved slightly to become an extension of 3rd Ave. south of Albert St. This creates smaller residential lots than the first option (*Ed. Note: Both are bigger than the current lot sizes*) between the two new avenues, and larger commercial lots between Front St. and 2nd Ave., which then become 50 ft. by 210 ft. A sewer and water loop would be extended into the area utilizing the new 2nd and 3rd Avenues. It

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North End Future... continued

should be noted that both options create the same number of lots, both commercial and residential. Under either option, the extension of sewer and water will take place in a phased manner, moving one block at time from Albert St. towards Judge St. Late Summer of 1992 is the earliest possible date for beginning the initial phase. (Major repair to the existing system must take place first.) It could well be many years before service reaches Judge St.

There was considerable argument over the two options at the first meeting. The residents clearly preferred the first option. Mayor Jenkins, on the other hand, claimed that unless 2nd Avenue were realigned, a lift station would have to be installed to get sewer and water into the North End, thereby vastly increasing the cost of these services to the affected residents and businesses. He could not provide an explanation as to why this was the case, but solemnly assured those present that sewer and water engineer Ed Shillington had in fact reached that incontrovertible conclusion. North End residents refused to accept this as a given premise for extension of sewer and water into the North End. Instead they requested a meeting with Mr. Shillington when he would be in Dawson in April. Mr. Jenkins agreed. Thus the 2nd meeting.

The first fact to come out of the meeting with Mr. Shillington was that there is no difference in capital cost between the two options. Neither requires a lift station. The choice between the two options has nothing to do with the cost of implementation. It depends solely on the inherent merits of each option. The question is which option best serves the present and future interests of Dawson. What are our needs?

The population of Dawson is surging. Varying estimates have soared to 3500 within 10 years. These people have to live somewhere. Clearly, we must designate new residential properties and extend municipal services to meet our growing needs. Because the largest block of undeveloped land in the City is in the North End, it must be developed.

But it is not all black and white. Other pressures are being brought to bear on our community. Tourism has replaced mining as Dawson's #1 industry. There are indications that it will continue to increase steadily. Many of our existing tourist facilities are operating near capacity already. We must decide to what extent we need to expand our facilities to accommodate the increasing number of visitors. And where we should do it? There is limited opportunity in the downtown core. Most of the land there is already utilized, and a good portion of the remainder should probably be designated

Parking, to solve that growing problem.

Certain segments of the Municipal hierarchy, including Mayor Jenkins, believe that the 130 ft. strip of land between Front St. and the present 2nd Avenue will not be adequate to satisfy the future needs of the Tourist/Commercial sector. They argue that with a growing population and increasing numbers of visitors, we must create a larger Commercial zone. Therefore, they favor the realignment of 2nd Ave. They believe that this would allow more substantial development in this area and generate greater revenues for the community, both in terms of larger profits from larger commercial operations, and in terms of increased taxes flowing to the municipality from more valuable commercial properties, which are taxed at a higher rate than residential properties.

The year round residents of the North End are unanimous in their view. They want to leave 2nd Avenue where it is, and develop the area within the boundaries of the existing streets and avenues. They have invested considerable time and effort in their homes and neighborhood, and don't want to see the character of that neighborhood destroyed. If 2nd Ave. is realigned, several houses will have to be moved. Longtime residents will be displaced. A good portion of the greenery in the neighborhood will be razed, leaving it stark and bare.

These residents argue that 130 ft. is plenty of width for Commercial development. They point out that the vast majority of Dawson businesses, including the 3 year round Hotels, exist quite comfortably on 100 ft. lots. The 130 feet between the existing avenues already represents an enlarged commercial zone. Buildings within this zone are going to be erected as close as possible to Front St. anyway, to take advantage of the view and the flavor of the river. Why create an enormous commercial zone when in all likelihood that space isn't going to be used anyway? Furthermore, these businesses are likely to be seasonal in nature, busy during the summer, and closed down for the remainder of the year. It doesn't seem right to sacrifice the year round interests of permanent Dawson residents to the short lived interests of casual visitors.

Another consideration is the increasing migration of citizens out of Dawson into the Klondike Valley. The "postage stamp" size of lots in town is often cited as the cause. Why not create some larger residential lots, and encourage more in town development?

And so the debate rages on. The next step, according to the Mayor Jenkins, is to hire a consultant, probably Thompson & Aucoin, to officially poll all North End

"Remote" Airport is Favoured

by Dan Davidson

Dawson City's new airport, if and when it comes to be constructed, will probably be built on one of two "remote sites" located up to 30-40 km from the town. That was the consensus of a show of hands vote at a public meeting held on Thursday evening at Diamond Tooth Gerties. While this decision would more than double the fifteen minute drive to the current airport, most people who spoke at the evening's meeting felt that the distance would be more than offset by the advantages.

There were three potential sites in the latest report from IMC Consulting, which was released towards the end of March. As anticipated from earlier discussions, the options were to renovate and upgrade the present airport, establish a new, but similar facility in the Callison area, closer to Dawson, or go to a site further afield.

The Callison option, which has been bandied about a lot over the years, collected no votes from the 70 or so people present. In the opinion of speakers from the floor, it had no advantages over the present airport and a number of significant problems.

Fred Berger, chair of the Klondike Valley Land Use Planning Committee, said that Callison was rejected by his committee as being "the old airport in a new location with the same problems." Not to mention the fact that Bear Creek residents (of whom Berger is one) would have been facing the end of a runway with planes perhaps 150 feet overhead when ascending or descending.

Peter Dunbar, a former city manager in Dawson, noted that the supposed convenience of a Callison location - or of upgrading the current strip - was "short term thinking". An airport in Callison would destroy much of the city's possible expansion routes for light industrial and residential use in the immediate future.

Expanding the present airport received only a few votes to start with, and even fewer when Catharine Fletcher of Transport

Canada got finished explaining the problems. According to Fletcher the present airport, which has existed in some form for about 70 years, is already in violation of so many access regulations that it operates only under a special dispensation, and that allowance would be harder to grant if the runway were expanded.

A Dempster cut-off or Rabbit Creek site would have a number of advantages that other sites cannot give. It would allow for year round instrument assisted flying by day and night. It would be a less restricted airport. It could accommodate jets up to and including a 737 size aircraft. There would be more room for expanded airport facilities, such as parking.

Earlier in the meeting, Mayor Peter Jenkins put the case for a new airport in pretty compelling terms. It was needed, he said, to insure better medical evacuation facilities, as a "basic tool of economic growth" for the region, and because the area's tourism capacity has just about tapped highway traffic as far as it can go. To stretch the season and improve the economic outlook, Jenkins said air traffic is vital.

In this he was seconded by Joe Castellarin, president of the Klondike Visitors Association, who noted that Princess Tours

has already decided not to fly in here this year because of the present airport.

Doubts were cast on the Dempster location by representatives of Bonanza Air and Alcan Air, who felt that the distance from Dawson might be so far as to make the airport too inconvenient for people to use and thus chase away the traffic. In particular, Brian MacDonald, of Bonanza, wanted to be able to continue using the present airport, even if it had to become a private strip.

This seems unlikely, though, as it was pointed out that the Dawson Indian Band has Land Claims interests at the present airport site in the event that it should no longer be needed for that purpose.

Art Webster (N.D.P. - Klondike) stated that the government recognizes the need for improved airport facilities in the Dawson area, and said the territorial government was committed to such a project.

Many issues remain to be resolved and no one was surprised to hear Webster add that the matter would have to have further study. He would like to see the process finished and an airport in place by the time the Klondike centennial celebrations begin in 1994.

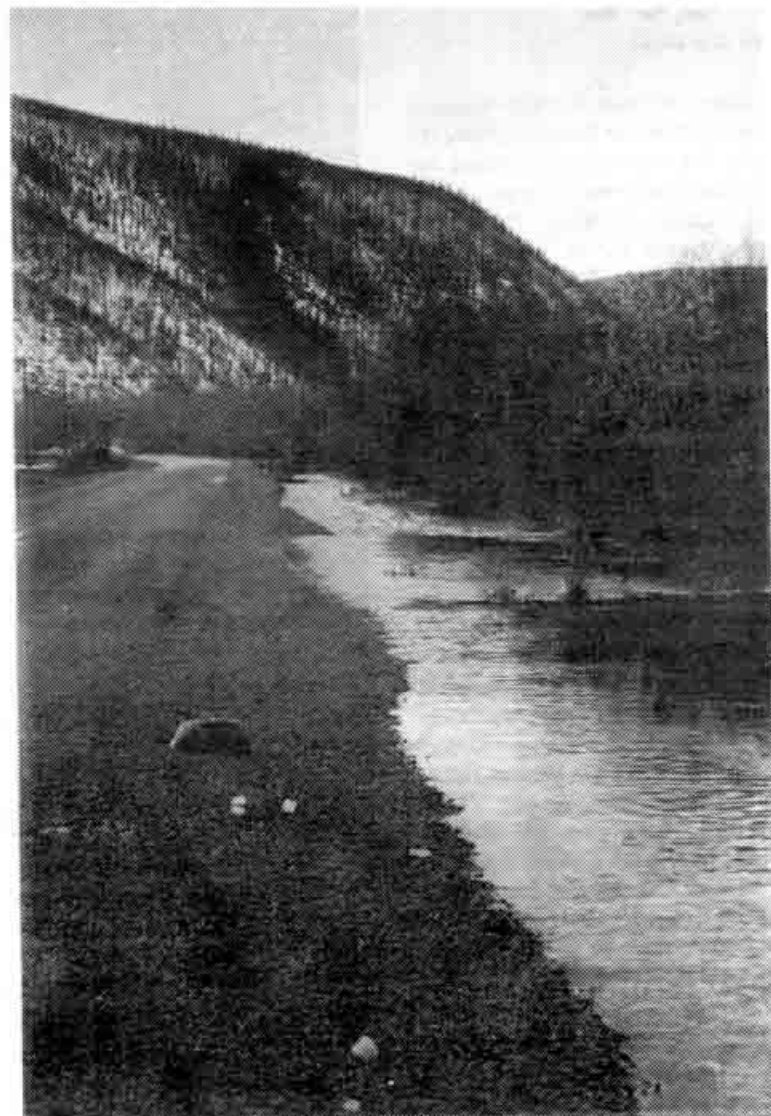


Photo by Michael Gates

Flooding near the road at Henderson Corner

Ed. Note: Even before he joined city council, Tim Gerberding was vocal with his concerns over the issue of Dawson's future development. He has been a major spokesman for the North End Residents. This commentary must be seen in the light of that concern.



We are lost? Anyone seen the dog catcher?

Photo by Sue Ward

In Chambers:

by Dan Davidson
Klondike Valley
Government?

Is there a regional government in store for the Klondike? This question was raised at the May 2 meeting of council by two documents that appeared on the agenda. Council has recently been exposed to a paper entitled "Exploring the Role of Municipal Government and its Relationship With Indian Self-Government", a draft study drawn up by David Leverton and Phil Cove. Mayor Peter Jenkins says that his reading of this paper indicates that it is proposing nothing less than a regional government structure to be sandwiched in between the present municipal and territorial levels.

He is totally opposed to the concept of yet more government and has led Dawson's council in the direction of expressing that opposition. So far it is just a proposal, perhaps one of many,

but the following passage in a letter from Community and Transportation Services Minister Maurice Byblow caused council to sit up and take notice immediately.

Byblow was writing to Whitehorse councillor Art Deer on the general subject of land development consultation when he wrote: "As you are aware, we are considering legislating processes to rural local government that will provide forums for discussion between municipalities and their fringe areas in a wide range of activities, including land management and development."

Mayor Jenkins sees this as a sign of things to come.

Airport Developments

Dawson's airport, presently the second busiest in the territory and twenty-first most active in the entire western region overseen by Transport Canada, may fall victim to

cutbacks and services reductions in the near future. Reporting from his attendance at a recent conference, Mayor Jenkins informed council that cutbacks are taking effect all over the west and that many remote sites are being pared down or shut down. He cited the case of Watson Lake, which is losing most of its flight services in the next short while.

Dawson is not, he feels, as endangered as some places, but he warned council, as he warned the audience at last month's airport relocation meeting, that it was something to watch out for in the future.

Studies to further the relocation of the Dawson Airport (see separate story in this issue) are proceeding quite quickly. Jenkins reported that a number of sites have been identified by map studies and that field work to determine their suitability will commence as soon as the ground dries out.

Yukon Government News Release

Nearly \$10 Million in Municipal Grants Distributed

WHITEHORSE - The Yukon's eight municipalities have received \$9,854,724.50 from the Yukon government for community operations this year, Community and Transportation Services Minister Maurice Byblow said today.

"These grants represent the majority of the 1991-92 funding for the municipalities," Byblow said. "The advances will allow the municipalities to carry on with the operation of their communities while awaiting finalization of the changes in funding arrangements to be introduced in the spring sitting of the legislature."

Byblow said the legislation will combine several funding programs into one and includes changes which will give the communities more say in where

the money can be spent.

Advance payments include:
* \$4,476,196 to the City of Whitehorse;
* \$1,069,659 to the Town of Faro;
* \$870,692.50 to the Town of Dawson City; and
* \$956,728 to the Town of Watson Lake.

Payments to villages include:
* \$598,234 to Haines Junction;
* \$690,114 to Mayo
* \$657,447 to Teslin; and
* \$535,654 to Carmacks.

The total grant for Dawson City was \$1,233,599, but has been reduced by \$362,906.50, which represents the final payment on Dawson's water and sewer agreement with the Yukon Government.

DAWSON CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We Mean Business!

by Darlene Caley
Office Manager

The Dawson City Chamber of Commerce Business Directories are ready! Anyone who would like to receive one, please call 993-5274.

All members: Be sure to fill out your forms for the Member Directory and return them to the Chamber office as soon as possible.

Bill Dixon was in Dawson City on Monday, May 6th holding GST Seminars for the public. If anyone missed the seminars and would like to obtain information on the GST, don't hesitate to contact the Chamber office. We have lots of GST information books for many types of businesses!!

The next General Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 5th. All members will be contacted in advance as to the location. **GOLD SHOW!!**

The Gold Show is being held May 23-25. The exhibits will be open to the general public on Friday, May 24 from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm and Saturday May 25 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Anyone interested in attending the seminars and special events: Avoid the weekend rush and submit your delegate forms and payment in advance! **EVERYONE - COME OUT AND ENJOY THE GOLD SHOW!!**



Now where's the fishin' gear? Summers here! Goodbye ice. Goodbye winter!

Editorial: Signs of Spring

by Dan Davidson

Things change, don't they? Anything that doesn't is probably dead. So it shouldn't come as any surprise that our "living historical community" is changing, too. Each year brings its share of innovations, alterations, arrivals and departures, the latter often signaled by the ubiquitous spring Yard Sale.

New directions for Dawson are often the subject of a lively street level debate that never gets into print. I've lost track of the number of people who have complained to me over the last year or so that the place is getting to be "too Disneyland" and that tourist considerations too often outweigh residents' concerns. None of them ever want to be quoted. I'm not sure how true this is myself. Personally, I like the look of Dawson now better than what I saw here as a tourist in 1978, but that's just my view. There is bound to be more than one side to this issue, and we'd love to have some letters about it.

Tim Gerberding has provided us with one, rather long, opinion on the subject of North End development. As he notes, it is certain that the North End cannot stay the way it is. The town is too crowded for that area not to be used in some way. The new municipal plan includes this in its outline of future development needs. As this is a subject currently on City Council's agenda, it might not hurt to come out and make your feelings known.

This is the time of year when various organizations have their annual general meetings and report on their past successes. We have a couple of those reports for you this issue. They're pretty good reading, and pretty exciting, too.

Our own "report" is highly visible each month. This issue launches us on our third year of publication, our second issue from these premises.

We had some people wondering whatever happened to the "moral outrage" that should have accompanied our eviction from the Sunset Hall. Ye editors really felt that such a display would have been a bit self-indulgent. We always knew we would have to move some day, and we did know there were some problems with the building. We just never expected to have to move so fast, or that the problems (which we did not know were quite that bad) would be dealt with in this way. So we opted for bemusement instead. It seemed more honest.

We still have room for willing hands at our layout tables. We have a nice view of the river now and the coffee's usually on. If you see a light in the window this time next month, don't hesitate to drop in and say "hi".

The Klondike Sun

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Letters to the Editor

The March 14th issue is a meaty one, requiring considerable time to digest. With so much going on in the lives of Dawsonites the subject matter in every column presents food for thought. You and your staff deserve plaudits for effort and results.

No issue of the Sun is a throwaway.

Iris Warner
Ganges, B.C.

Dear Sun Volunteers:

Enclosed is my postal money order in the amount of \$20.00. I really enjoy and look forward to each issue of the *Klondike Sun*!!!

A lot of changes have been made there since my last visit in 1983, so by keeping up with them maybe I won't feel "lost" when I come again. I also enjoy all the photographs!

I was also a subscriber to your former *Klondike Korner*. While the *Klondike Sun* is a REAL newspaper, I have missed the

"down home" and "folksy" chatter in *Klondike Korner*. For example: comments made by tourists, such as "Why does it only rain down the middle of the street in Dawson?" Priceless!

Keep up the good work. I enjoy you and appreciate you.

Laura M. Schell
Seal Beach, CA Calif.

Ed Note - our continuing offer to old KK staffers to do a column of that nature still stands.



The former home of Pierre Berton is scheduled for restoration this year

Trees for Canada

Each spring since 1972, 130,000 Scouts Canada members, aged 5-26, plant 3 million seedlings across Canada as part of *Trees for Canada*. Forty million seedlings have been planted by a million young Canadians since 1972. Scouting is very proud of this achievement.

The objectives of *Trees for Canada* are to help reforest Canada through involving youth in the outdoors and helping them develop an appreciation of the environment. The *Trees for Canada* program also increases public awareness of reforestation efforts.

Trees for Canada is an example of cooperation between local communities, Scouts Canada and government. Volunteers and local agencies meet to select sites, appropriate species and

quantities. Presentations are made by forestry officials to Scouting youth on how to plant trees, and their importance to our environment.

Trees are obtained from Conservation Authorities and provincial forestry departments. On "Dig Day" trees are planted by young people supervised by leaders. Some areas visit sites annually to remove weeds, replant trees that did not survive and maintain the forests. Scouts plant on Crown lands, conservation areas, Provincial Parks, as wind breaks on Prairie farms and along the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Groups such as Scouts are thinking about tomorrow's forests, and accepting today's challenge, by planting trees and educating our young people.

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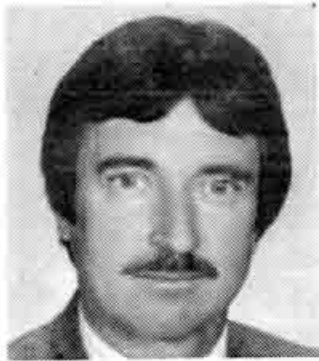


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Renewal





Words From Webster

by Art Webster, M.L.A. Klondike

At a public meeting held in Diamond Tooth Gertie's on April 11th, the vast majority of the approximately 80 residents in attendance indicated, by a show of hands, their preference for building a new airport located at a remote site. The option of upgrading the existing airport met with the approval of only a handful of residents and no one favoured the Callison site.

I am extremely pleased with the results of this informal poll. It is a clear endorsement by the community to proceed with the recommendations of The New Dawson Airport Site Selection Study, which was completed by Thurber Consultants Ltd. in 1985. With letters of support for this position recently received by Dawson City Council, the Klondike Visitors Association, and the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, the Government of Yukon can finally get on with the job of addressing a problem that has existed for far too long.

The Government of Yukon is, and always has been, committed to providing Dawson City with an airport which will meet the needs of our community well into the future. This new airport facility must be one that provides for safe, certifiable 24 hour operations and meets the requirements of charter and

scheduled air carrier operations. In addition to assisting Dawson City to realize its potential for tourism and economic growth, the new airport should enhance the reliability and effectiveness of forest fire protection services in the area. As these objectives could not be achieved by either upgrading the existing airport or building a new one at Callison, the remote site has been my choice and that of the Government of Yukon since the very beginning of this long exercise.

With the decision now made, the next step is to conduct a detailed analysis of the few remote sites identified by gathering topographical, geo-technical, environmental and weather information. Once the final site has been selected, an estimate for the capital costs of the new airport will be made, and a construction plan developed. The Government of Yukon will be looking to Departments of the Federal Government, in particular Transport and Forestry, for some financial assistance toward the capital costs. While I would like to see the process finished and a new airport in place by 1994 for the start of the Klondike Centennial Celebrations, it is probably more realistic to establish 1995 as a completion date; five years later than our new airport could, and should have, been built.

Turning trash into tables

(NC)—A new recycling program is turning plastic waste into park benches, picnic tables, fence posts, and road signs. Plastics now account for almost a third of Canada's solid waste.

The private program, run out of Mississauga, Ontario, blends plastic waste into a finished product that resembles fabricated wood. When fully operational in 1991, the program will

recycle some 1 000 tonnes of plastic each year. As a result, the flood of plastics now choking Canada's garbage dumps will be reduced, and we'll save energy. Recycling plastic into a table uses much less energy than manufacturing the table from scratch. It's estimated the program will annually save the equivalent of 16 500 barrels of oil.



REPORT FROM OTTAWA

We Want a Bright Future for Northern Air Travel

by Audrey McLaughlin

sary to supposedly provide this service from Whitehorse.

Working with Watson Lake officials, and members of the flying community, including people from Alaska, we are working to cancel federal government plans to cut the FSS and ILS from Watson Lake.

Dawson residents will be interested in what happens to the airport at Watson Lake, since all remote communities may eventually be affected by the federal government's centralization plans.

If I was presenting a Throne Speech, you can be sure it would include a new approach to national unity. An approach which creates a country in which all Canadians want to belong. My Throne Speech would outline a program which includes accords on the economy, the environment and social policies as well as the constitution.

We will have to wait and see what Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn has to say when he reads his first Throne Speech on behalf of the federal government.

And lastly, I look forward to seeing many of you at the Gold Show later this month.

This move to decentralization is happening as the United States is reconsidering the wisdom of taking this road, as it did a few years ago.

I intend to continue to speak out against any threat to safety of northern air travellers. Without an FSS, without being able to see what is or is not on the landing field, I fear for the safety of all northern air travellers.

When the House of Commons resumes sitting sometime in mid-May, the federal government will introduce a new Throne Speech.

What is a Throne Speech? A Throne Speech is general in nature, rather than specific, and sets direction for the upcoming session of Parliament. In Canada, it is read by the Governor General. According to An Encyclopedia of Parliament, the Throne Speech "descends from the address made by the Chancellor in medieval times which explained to a Parliament the cause of its summons. Since the Cabinet system was established, the Speech from the Throne has been used to announce the programme of legislation for the session and to set forth the Government's policy."

Those "lazy, hazy" days of summer aren't all they're cracked up to be.

(NC)—In fact, experts say the "haze" you see on summer days could be dangerous to your health: it's actually ground-level ozone gas that, in high concentrations, can harm humans, plants, and synthetic materials.

And unfortunately, the amount of ground-level ozone in Canada is increasing. However, reports Environment Canada, governments are tackling the problem, and you are part of the solution.

Ozone's Dark Side

Ozone, a gas in the atmosphere, has good and bad sides.

Ozone surrounds Earth and acts as a protective layer that filters out ultraviolet rays. Which is why the world is so concerned about ozone's depletion.

Ozone also occurs naturally at ground level, and is present in small amounts everywhere. In these natural quantities, it's harmless.

Ozone becomes a problem in higher quantities. Nitrogen and hydrocarbons, pollutants emitted mainly by automobiles and industry, form ozone when they interact with sunlight.

This means high concentrations of ground ozone (smog) are usually

formed in highly-populated and industrialized areas, and also downwind from these cities. (Wind can move ozone thousands of kilometres—so even if you live out in the country, you're not spared from the problem.) If there's little or no wind to carry away some pollutants, the cities are worse off.

Attention Consultants Register Now!

If you are a consultant in the Yukon, make sure your company's name and data is included in the third edition of the **Directory of Consultants**. It's a comprehensive list compiled by the Yukon Business Incentive Office for use in all Yukon government offices.

If you're already listed in the directory, you'll be receiving an update questionnaire in the mail. If you're not, please contact us at Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6; telephone 667-3505 or 667-3628. Or drop by our offices on the second floor at 302 Jarvis Street. Deadline for your submission is June 14, 1991.

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"Take a Giant Leap of Faith"

by Kathy Jones-Gates

Author and historian Roy Minter claims that he has enjoyed a love affair with the Yukon ever since his first trip north in 1955. In the decades since then, Minter has involved himself with encouraging and promoting Yukon tourism, special events such as the 1962 Gold Rush Festival here in Dawson, and becoming the founder of the "Klondike Defence Force", which was established in an attempt to return the Klondike Identity that Edmonton had had the gall to 'lift' in the 1960's.

It is little surprising that Minter's latest project has a distinctly northern theme: that of convincing Skagway, Whitehorse and Dawson to have bronze statues erected in each community commemorating the centennial of the Klondike Gold Rush.

Three hundred seventy hours and over \$7,600 of his own money later, he is hopeful of most of his idea coming to fruition.

Last year, he had internationally-renowned Vancouver sculptor, Jack Harmon, make maquettes of possible sculptures for each community. Using his own time and funding, he set about trying to promote the idea in each location for this permanent reminder of the Gold Rush.

Skagway apparently liked the idea, but have decided to create their own sculpture with an artist they select. Whitehorse appears very interested in their project. Which leaves Dawson City, and a lukewarm response at best when the maquette was displayed in town and residents solicited for comments and ideas.

A 7-foot high bronze statue was priced at \$65,000.00 in 1990. Already that price has risen to

slightly over \$80,000.00. At a meeting held in late April, Minter asked Rec. Director Peter Menzies and others to give the idea further consideration. Local groups already solicited to take on the sculpture project had turned it down. The price tag attached represents considerable fund-raising for any group when placed in line with the vast array of programs that could occur when celebrating the gold rush centennials.

Minter does hope though, that some interested Dawsonites will "take a giant leap of faith" and take on the commemorative statue project. He underlined that the maquette was only intended as the artist's conception based upon written descriptions provided by Minter. He recognises that many creative ideas abound. Rather than shelve the commemorative statue project entirely because people did not like the example maquette provided, Minter would like Dawsonites to look at the idea of a statue and then think about what they might like to see as the commemoration and then take into account the maquette made by Harmon.

If you like the idea of a commemorative statue, but not the maquette shown, submit your ideas to the Klondike Sun for publication. If you are unable to draw your idea, try to describe it in a brief paragraph. If you think a lasting reminder for the Centennials should be another idea entirely, send those thoughts along also. It would take Harmon two years to complete a bronze statue... and 1996-98 is not too far away.



Photo by Michael Gates

CFYT Creates New break-through

By Sue Ward

Our local FM Radio Station produced its first live video broadcast on Saturday, April 27th when launching the 24 hour Radiothon when John G. Sherman dedicated constant hours until noon Sunday.

Three thousand of the four thousand dollars were phoned in, as bids were taken on donated items and hours of service. This volunteer group have plans to capture "Dawson Live" on video cameras, edit films for good quality viewing, and present the show on our local TV Channel Eleven.

"Sourdough Sue" Ward had visited the Dawson Museum's Research Department for material on Dawson's original Radio Station which proved such a wonderful community happening back in the late 50's and

60's before CBC made Whitehorse part of the national network and placed a repeater station in Dawson.

Historian Iris Warner who lived in Dawson before moving to Whitehorse wrote a fascinating and lively recall of those earlier times when volunteers hustled to the station at 40 below to put on the platters, some of which through U.S. Signals Corps, via Canadian Signal Corps were complete programs of such favourites as Fibber McGee and Molly and Fred Allen, etc. But that's another column in the offing!

President Peter Menzies, also covering as Treasurer and Secretary, organizes his merry crew to keep music playing 24 hours a day. Jeff Cook solicits advertising, while John G., Gene Gritner, Meredith O'Conner, Ray Fugard and Jan Kaplicky, cover productions. There is a library of

some 2,000 records which are being catalogued and anyone interested in helping with this huge job should contact Peter Menzies through the City Office or call CFYT which boasts an answering service at 993-5152. The station has its' computer to ease the strain.

There is a Live Radio Show each Sunday Night 7-9 p.m. when Gregory West and Jeremy River present lively chatter and music.

When a second video-camera of studio quality is acquired along with the Editing Suite Equipment there will be a second facility to record the on going history of Dawson City.

If electronics are your thing, get involved. You too can become MIKE SMART. Jan Kaplicky is an enthusiastic Camera Whiz willing to share his talents. It's the pulse of the town. Take it. Those grants and gifts are for all of us.

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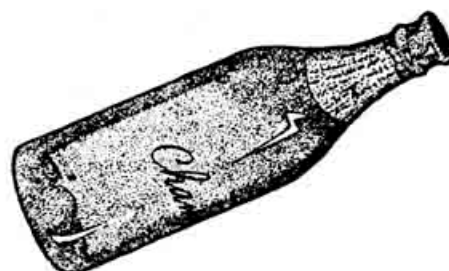
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HERE'S THE BOTTOM LINE -- SORT OF!

by Sue Ward

It being one of the few items when I was involved in spending Canadian tax dollars knowingly, I shot off an enquiry to ex-CBC(TV) producer Andy Little for a guestimate on the cost of the "On the Road Again" experience.

"Our Yukon shoot would have been one of the more expensive undertakings of the season because of the higher travel costs. Advance Booking the Economy Class \$10,000. (There was a crew of five including Wayne Rostad, plus Veterinarian Jim Kenyon in a chartered plane from Whitehorse and return.) Add meals, hotel accommodations, car rental and gas for \$5,000. As Andy says "Salaries are something else. Most of the crew are Staff drawing salaries wherever they are, with a guess at \$700. a week. No idea what Wayne's salary is... but let's add \$1,500. rounding out at \$5,000."

Remember we did 10 hours of

filming with me, plus The Vet! More from Andy. "Jonathan (Craven, producer replacement for Andy) will spend a week screening all the material, a second week writing the three (I don't know who the third "victim" was) scripts, and a third week editing it with a videotape editor. So we had four more weeks of salary... another \$3000. If Wayne writes a song for one of the stories, or if special music is required then you have to add another thousand or so. When it's finally edited, Wayne comes into studio for a day of narration... (he reads in the prepared scripts.)

Then it goes to the "Super Suite" for a final mix where special effects are introduced. That's another day of work by a producer, editorial assistant and videotape editor. Let's add \$6000. more for all of this. The tape is then shipped to Toronto where it is "Closed-captioned" for the deaf.

My guess then, is that the three Yukon stories (a complete program--30 minutes of television) will work out to about \$30,000.00. Added are equipment costs, building overhead, depreciation, publicity, etc. etc.

Concludes Andy Little "This may seem terribly expensive to you, but by network television standards ON THE ROAD AGAIN is considered quite a bargain. A program like Dallas, for example, spends more money to produce one minute of show than we spend on a whole program. I look forward to seeing the stories on the air in the Fall when the average audience per program for ON THE ROAD AGAIN (including repeats) is about ONE MILLION VIEWERS."

All I hope is that we will all believe we got our money's worth, and thanks to Andy Little for taking time out of his early retirement to give us "the ballpark figure I asked for."

Tokyo TV Crew Early Visitors

by Sue Ward

There's no knowing who you will run into on the dike as "ice watch" takes over. Learning the secrets of the I.O.D.E. Ice Breakup Time Alarm were members of CR-NEXUS INC. of Tokyo with Lenore Jenkins and Shirley deWald. I had the feeling they were entranced with the simplicity of the system as their cameraman zoomed in for the closeup.

Under the guidance of Rob Toohey of Whitehorse, the trio were constructing a One-Hour Documentary on the Porcupine Caribou Herd Migration, the

Garter snake Migration in Winnipeg, and Images of Canadian Spring in various locations -- Little Atlin Lake, Atlin, Dempster Highway, Old Crow Region and Katovik, Alaska.

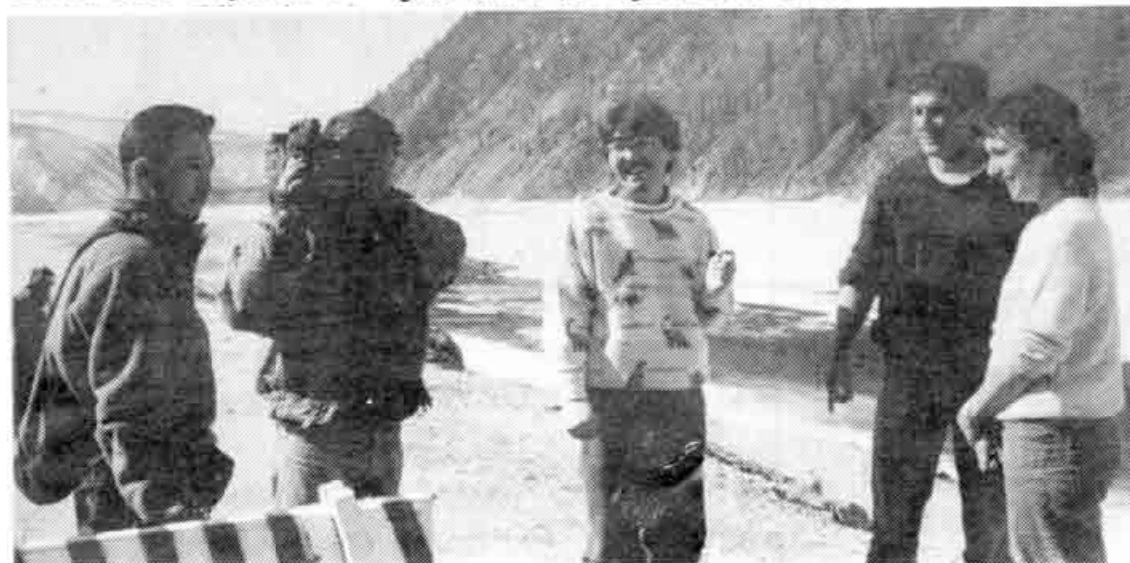
It seems that the travellers had envisioned a sighting of all 200,000 of the caribou herd and were not too swept away when Tommy Charlie could read the herd of a few hundred well enough to tell the camera crew to move to a special spot for good "takes". (Having seen some

of the Japanese subway rushes on TV perhaps it didn't come across all that terrific.)

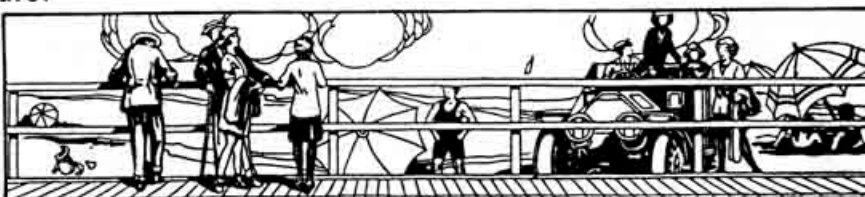
Shirley and I, with dear old TV Hound-dog Cleo, tried to add some flavour with stories of Winter in Dawson.

The show will be broadcast on Tokyo Broadcasting System on July 28, 1991 to 10 MILLION WEEKLY VIEWERS.

The young men were most gracious and presented three delightful clutch purses made of a new Japanese fabric to the three ladies.



Checking the ice are Japanese TV crew, Rob Toohey of Whitehorse and Lenore Jenkins IODE treasurer



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If you're a worker in the Dawson City area and think working around loud equipment or machinery has been affecting your hearing, then you may want to set up a hearing test appointment with the Workers' Compensation Board's audiometric technician.

Tests will be conducted from Tuesday, June 4 through to Thursday, June 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

To arrange a hearing test appointment, or health and safety lectures, contact your community nursing station in Dawson City.



The Consummate Volunteer : Joan Audrey Bilton

July 18, 1938 - April 23, 1991

It wasn't the same this spring when the Yukon River ice broke up. The picture was incomplete without Joan Bilton, usually accompanied by one or more members of the family, pacing along the dike watching for the signs of break-up.

Tiddlewinks and Palm Tree Climbing clubs may never be the vogue in Dawson City. But they will forever be associated with Joan, who died April 23rd following a two-year battle with cancer.

Considered a visionary and planner for recreation who embodied what being a volunteer is all about, Joan has left a legacy of commitment and achievement that will be difficult for anyone to match.

The youngest of four children of Steve and Mildred Nichol, Joan was born in Vegreville on July 18th, 1938. At 18, she was already launched into her future recreational involvement, as a Life Guard and Swimming Instructor at the R.C.A.F. pool in Edmonton. It was here that she came to the attention of her future husband, John, then a private with the Canadian Army. She banned him from the pool for a week for fooling around! They were married on December 15th, 1956.

Joan's lifelong dream had been to attend university and obtain a Physical Education degree. That was changed when marriage and three children intervened. In July, 1968, John was transferred by the Canadian Armed Forces to a base at Soest, West Germany.

Joan often claimed that the next three years were one of the highlights of her life as the young family travelled around Europe when time permitted.

John retired from the Army in 1971, and the family headed north to Dawson arriving on September 11th. John had been appointed manager of the old D.C.W. Trading Post owned by Joan's sister and brother-in-law Evelyn and Hank DuBois. In the fall of 1977, they purchased the Butterworth's Store and renamed it J & J Emporium (now Trapper's). They operated the store until November 10th, 1989, and then sold out.

Following the family's arrival in Dawson, they became involved in the Dawson Curling Club, both curling there until 1977. Joan joined the fledgling Dawson Recreation Board in 1974 and became its chairperson soon after holding this position right up to her death; it was only during her last two weeks that she was unable to attend board meetings.

Joan's opinions and vision for recreation were given light at both local and Territorial levels. She firmly believed that Community Recreation should be given an equal say at the Territorial level, and that Recreation was just not about elite artists, facilities and athletes, but was for everyone no matter what their level of competence was.

Her feistiness, strong values and commitment benefitted the entire Territory. She served at



Ancillary Room next to the Gym was dedicated in her honour.

The Tiddlewinks and Palm Tree Climbing clubs were fictitious groups frequently used as examples by Joan when she was trying to make a point and needed to use a group as an example. She was afraid that a legitimate group, if used as an example, might misunderstand her message.

One of Joan's ideas - "Volunteer Appreciation Day" - was in full swing, when her memorial service was held at a packed St. Paul's Anglican Church on Saturday, April 27th. Reverend Andrew Wilson officiated, accompanied by Betty Davidson on the piano. Following the service, everyone was invited back to the school for a get together in her honour.

Joan is survived by her husband John, son Mark with wife Darra Bilton of Whitehorse, daughters Wendy Bilton of Dawson and Shelley with husband Tom Varga of Campbell River, B.C. She is also survived by her brother Marvin Nichol of Vegreville, Alberta, and sisters Evelyn DuBois of Dawson and Pegi Eccleston of West Vancouver, B.C., two grandchildren, Brett and Kelsi Bilton of Whitehorse and many nieces and nephews.

The family ask that in lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, Yukon Branch, Box 5375, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 4Z2.

least three terms on the Yukon Recreation Advisory Committee and the Lotteries Yukon Board. Whitehorse Board members Truska Gorrell and Ray Hayes speak fondly of Joan's persistence in getting the community's voice heard. Truska Gorrell indicated that when Joan had a point to raise, she did not allow you NOT to listen. She considers Joan a leader in Yukon Recreation and that it will be very difficult filling her shoes. When issues arose, it was Joan that Truska called, so that she might see the issue from a community standpoint. The Yukon government's Green Paper evaluating Yukon recreation reflected the community voice aspect that Joan had worked so hard for.

For Ray Hayes, a first appointment to YRAC and Lotteries Boards two years ago was made very simple once he got to know Joan. He said that he soon learned to appreciate her broad concept of the board's various roles. With no formal seating at these meetings, he made sure to sit next to Joan, considering her his mentor.

Dawson was the first Yukon community to get a Rec. Board, and became the model that the Recreation legislation is based on, according to local Rec. Director Peter Menzies. Joan's involvement over the years earned her the affectionate title

"Mother Bilton", as she steered new board members along, expanding their own ideas about community recreation.

According to Menzies, Joan treated everyone just like one of the family, and he said it was a joke on the board to say that the Biltons' store was the REAL Rec. Office as members and staff constantly dropped by for a chat or advice.

From all who knew her, Joan disliked being in the limelight. She refused to give a speech, but put ten people in a room together and she had no problem getting her message across. She was indeed a dedicated volunteer. As Menzies considers it, she was "the most underpaid consultant in the Territory."

She put considerable energy into the committee meetings for the new school, was on the Library Board, the Curling Club Executive and was a strong proponent of youth activities. Aside from recreation, Joan did cross-stitch, quilting, gardening (especially flowers), was a voracious reader and an active participant in the role playing game, Dungeons and Dragons.

She refused to be nominated in any capacity for awards, but was surprised at the official opening of the Robert Service School on September 16th, 1989, when the

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Not So Dumb

by Iris Warner

The Dawson Museum is getting mannequins, says the recent newsletter. But, I have to tell you, if these are the first to be acquired, they've been almost 30 years in coming.

When the Dawson Museum opened at its present location in June 1962, there were several original 1898 gowns that arrived, folded in an old trunk. They never were displayed, in my time, for lack of store dummies.

As the so-called curator of the museum during its first few years, I tried every way possible to acquire at least one dummy, female. Even a dressmaker's form would have served, but any in town were being used by busy seamstresses who created gold rush costumes for festival events.

The museum had no funds for what proved to be expensive acquisitions. Nor were my personal appeals to friends and stores "outside" successful. No ingenuity on my part, using wire, newspapers, cloth, et al., managed to create a suitable form. Nor could they be padded and propped up within a dustproof case as these, too, were in short supply.

But, in the way of things during that magical Gold Rush Festival year of 1962, when the Palace Grand rose renewed from its long attachment to permafrost, when the steamer Keno made her final voyage, to a strange docking on Front street, when Mme. Tremblay's boasted designer gowns from London, England, the Dawson Museum had its share of glamour, and two mannequins, male.

There were 100 Eskimo graphic prints, 400 black and white photos of Dawson and the Klondike gold fields in their heyday. Amazingly, and apropos of nothing, replicas of the Crown Jewels arrived from London, England, and sufficient plate glass to display them, bought locally.

And, that's not all. Accommodated in an instant-dormitory upstairs, were 32 handsome members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, always seen wearing their red uniforms, who were at hand to assist me when two crates of memorabilia arrived from the RCMP museum, Regina.

Included were a great many black and white photos, the beaded moosehide gauntlets and gold nugget cuff links of the unfortunate Royal North West Mounted Police Inspector F.J. Fitzgerald, and accoutrements sufficient to uniform two store dummies which arrived soon after, in sawdust-filled crates. All were on inventory and all had to be returned at the end of the season.

In the crates I found iron stands that would hold the dummies erect; one stand with a short rod at the side that went inside the trouser-leg, the rod on the other into a hole in one of a pair of short boots, then through a matching hole in one foot, to accompany riding breeches.

I pulled the trousers and dress oxfords on one dummy, and turned to the other. But, there is a certain agility in donning riding pants and it was proving impossible to manage the small dip and bending of the legs it required. My waltz with the dummy, its hand resting on my shoulder in glazed appreciation, was seen by Bruce West, columnist for the Globe and Mail, who could be heard laughing all the way down the hall to the CN telegraph office.

Into the fray marched four of the finest, who set about making men of the dummies, which, being small and slight, were in remarkable contrast to the altogether more massive men of '62.

They determined which jacket, red or blue, would be worn with what outfit. Who would wear what belt. With which, the dress sword or folded white gauntlet-style gloves, or the dispatch bag. With great difficulty they set a pillbox hat at an unbelievable angle over one stiff-lipped face, a smart helmet above the other.

It was with awakened respect that the quartette of police eyed their early counterparts, in uniforms which had made thousand-mile winter patrols, canoed wild rivers and tamed the frontiers of Canada. No store dummies these but touched with history and the glamour of our past.

The same could be said for the gown and the pioneer women they graced, which went unheralded for lack of — a mannequin.

Cadet News

The 896 Pioneer Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets will be holding its Annual Inspection and Change of Command Parade on May 10, 1991 at 2:15 P.M. in the Robert Service School Gymnasium.

We are inviting all local citizens to participate that afternoon.

The officers of 896 Pioneer Squadron are very proud of our cadets and feel that they are an asset to our community.

Our Reviewing Officer this year is Major Jagi of 407 Sqn., Comox, B.C.

Please show our cadets that our community is proud of them. Be there!

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Ranger Patrol Most Westerly in Canada

by Dawne Mitchell

Cam Sigurdson always wanted to join the army but her eyesight wasn't good enough. For Sigurdson, joining the Canadian Northern Rangers was the next best thing.

Twenty-seven Dawsonites, including two women, spent 10 tough days of training recently to become the most westerly Ranger patrol in the North. As part of Canada's Military Reserves, the Rangers provide a military presence in the region.

There are fifty-one communities above the 60th parallel in Canada with established Ranger patrols. The first one was started in the Northwest Territories in 1948.

Sgt. Mario Aubin and Major Marcel Bezilny from Yellowknife put the recruits through a rigorous training program. It included navigation with maps and compass, basic first aid, general information about Canada's military, some training on ground search and rescue techniques, drill marching and weapons practice.

Bezilny explained that developing the Rangers provides Dawson with an organized group to help out during a community crisis or emergency.

For example, if someone is lost, the RCMP can call upon the Rangers' trained search and rescue skills. They can also act as guides for any regular peacetime military training exercises.

"Hypothetically, if there was a real military threat, we would ask the Rangers to keep an eye out on the threat and report information to the Canadian military," says Bezilny.

But "the Rangers would not provide any specific military action against anyone."

After completing the training, each Ranger is given a Second World War army issue .303 rifle, 200 pounds of ammunition a year to practice with, an army winter parka and windproof pants.

Each individual is responsible for the care of their army issue items. The Rangers are paid for active training and related duties.

"These guys are just bang-on with their attention," Aubin said during weapons training.

"Most of them don't need training on how to live off the land. The weapons training is just to a level where they're operating a safe practice on a rifle range."

"One of the most important aspects of the military training is to develop a sense of pride and accomplishment as a group."

Both the sergeant and major were particularly impressed with the community's support of the program.

The school donated classroom space and the local Rod and Gun Club donated the use of its new firing range.

"The whole town has given us excellent support," said Aubin.

For the local participants, it was a rewarding experience, too.

"I've really enjoyed this," said Sigurdson. "I've learned a lot - map reading, compass, search and rescue, how to take a gun apart, shooting practice."

"I've got one heck of a sore shoulder. But one thing's for sure, I know now if I were lost in the bush and had a compass and map, I could survive."



Sgt. Mario Aubin from Yellowknife filing the sight on Hans Algottson's .303 Army issue rifle, after target practice

Photo by Dawne Mitchell

Dawson's Ranger Patrol is the fifth established in the Yukon in six years. It will provide the community with a well-trained, organized group of individuals.

Members are: Sgt. John Mitchell, Master Corporal Joe Fraughton, Ranger R. Mendelsohn, Ranger J. Anderson, Ranger H. Algottson, Ranger A. Anderson, Ranger M. Farr, Ranger P. Henry, Ranger C. Sigurdson, Ranger S. Nagano, Ranger R. Nagano, Ranger R. Johnson, Ranger B. Fields, Ranger K. McLeod, Ranger B. Whitelaw, Ranger A. Robinson, Ranger P. Maxwell, Ranger J. Evans, Ranger D. Purington, Ranger B. Dupont, Ranger K. Davis, Ranger S. Montreuil, Ranger B. Taylor, Ranger T. Combs, Ranger P. Combs, Ranger Steve Komendy..

Help your ecosystem

(NC)—All living things, including you, are part of the planet's ecosystem. So if the ecosystem is disrupted, if the environment's delicate balance is upset, then we can all feel the consequences.

For example: somewhere in your area, there's probably at least one species of mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile or plant that's in danger of disappearing because the city, factory or farm has wiped out its habitat. Such disappearances, now occurring at an alarming rate, are a grave threat to the ecosystem's balance.

In short, says Environment Canada not only do we have a moral obligation to give the creatures back their homes, but doing so also helps you. It helps your environment in many ways, including:

•**Cleaner air**—Wildlife spaces purify urban air: the plants remove carbon dioxide and return oxygen.

•**A "tougher" environment**—By keeping more of the environment wild and varied, you're fortifying its ability to withstand environmental extremes. For example, lawns require constant care and watering, whereas native shrubs and grasses do well under various weather conditions.

•**Abundant water**—When it rains on a city, much of that rain can't get into the ground, because the ground is covered by streets and buildings. As a result, the underground water—level lowers—often beyond the reach of tree roots. A wildlife space will help replenish this water supply.

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Bookends

by Dan Davidson

Klondike Newsmen by "Stroller" White, compiled and edited by R.N. DeArmond, Lynn Canal Publishing, 237 pages, \$12.95

While "Stroller" White may have been known in his lifetime for always telling his associates to "put a squirt of lemon in it", there is nothing sour about this collection of columns on Klondike Gold rush themes. White came north with the rush, passed a few months in Skagway and moved on to Dawson City, where he settled in for a five year stay before moving to Whitehorse and operating the *Star* from 1904 to 1916.

is correct, he never could see why any American would ever want to become a Canadian, and he returned to Alaska in that year to begin the first of a series of papers that eventually ended up as *Stroller's Weekly* in Juneau.

The *Stroller* was a persona he assumed while writing in the *Klondike Nugget* here in Dawson City, and one that he continued to use throughout the rest of his career, wherever he went. It supplanted Elmer John as his given names and has been passed on now through three succeeding generations.

Most of the columns in this book come from the period when *Stroller* was living in Douglas Island or Juneau, when he finally decided to mine his memories of the Gold Rush for his column.

Stroller had an eye for the commonplace and a way of rendering it almost mythical in

his writing. The tales of the many "Kids", the dancehall girls, the miners and the con men; the sense of being on the edge of something that was at once profound and silly; these things all emerge in his work.

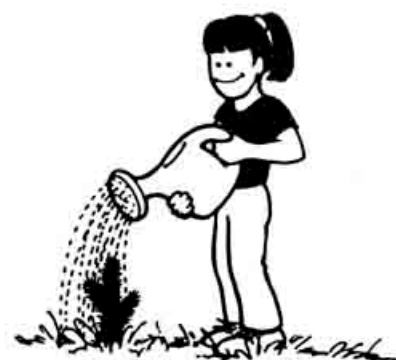
He lived in somewhat the same place that Robert Service would move to a few years later, and touched it with his prose in the same way that Service used his poetry. Unfortunately, weekly newspaper columns did not get the same exposure as poetry in those days. This is only the second (expanded) edition of a book that was last out in 1969. Perhaps the joyously rendered cover painting by Ted Harrison will help get it a wider exposure this time around.

The additions to this book (7 of the 40 pieces are new) are

mostly from Dawson and Whitehorse columns, a bit closer to the events they chronicle. A sad note is the fact that the microfilm copies of the *Star* in the Yukon Archives apparently lack most of the *Stroller's* columns. They'd been clipped out, according to DeArmond, before the copies were made.

After ten years at it, I can testify that it's no mean feat to come up with a weekly column of this type and have the work still make sense a few years later. A lot of the articles will be too topical to stand re-printing and many of them will be merely workman-like pieces of competent writing.

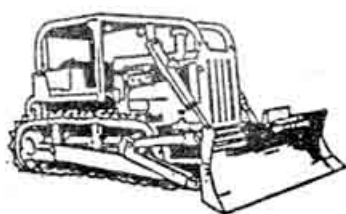
Stroller White, however, did find at least one vein of gold from his Klondike experiences, and it is a strike well worth the prospective reader's time.



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Clean-up Week, May 11 - 17



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Let's all pitch in for Clean-up Week, May 11 to 17

Let's clean up our own yards and then do what we can to help out with a community clean-up project.

And throughout the year let's remember to **Reduce** (generate less waste), **Re-use** (refillable containers), **Recycle** (return cans and bottles) and **Recover** (organic waste for compost). Let's learn too, how to deal with our special wastes (oil, paint, solvents, chemicals).

Yukon

Community and Transportation Services



Lisa Kerwin performing at the last coffee house

Photo by John Gould

Klondyke Rod and Gun Club's Shooting Range Now Open.

by Dawne Mitchell

After years of lobbying YTG, conservation officers, the Dawson Indian Band and the Klondike Placer Miners' Association, a small group of dedicated individuals have acquired a lease, cleared the land and set up an area where people can go to legally practice shooting.

"Everybody that's got a gun would like to go and practice their target skills," explains club president Ron Ryant. "This is a safe and legal place to do so."

The club is a non-profit, private membership only

organization. It caters to the general public, RCMP and conservation officers, Canadian Rangers, Cadets and biathlon athletes.

Originally, the big push was for a small arms and pistol range only, says Ryant.

The group is still working on getting approval for hand guns used at the range. But for now the range is only open to rifles, archery, black powder and trap shooting.

Club vice-president Dave Robinson is pleased to see the camaraderie of club members who enjoy a common interest in guns.

"For some it's the interest in craftsmanship of the custom-made or antique rifles," says Robinson.

"For others it's an interest in sighting rifles for hunting or just improving their marksmanship."

The main idea behind the organization is to promote firearms safety and responsibility," says Ryant.

Rules are posted at the range and a range officer will be on duty during its hours of operation.

"The officer will have authority and must be obeyed," he says.

The range is located near the Quigley garbage dump, off the Klondike Highway. It is well-marked.

Memberships are available at the Trading Post. And the club's executive thank Gammie Trucking, Winton's Machine Shop and Arctic Inland Sawmill for helping to get the project started.



Dawson City International Gold Show

AGENDA May 23, 24 & 25, 1991

Thursday, May 23

TECHNICAL DAY

(Schedule of seminars and speakers not available at the present time)

Friday, May 24

8:30 am

OPENING CEREMONIES BREAKFAST -Diamond Tooth Gerties Delegates & Exhibitors Only

10:00 am-6:00 pm

EXHIBITS OPEN TO DELEGATES - Bonanza Centre

1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

EXHIBITS OPEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC

7:30 pm

KPMA GENERAL MEETING - (May be re-scheduled for Thursday, May 23; announcement will be made)

9:30 pm

WINE & CHEESE - Curling Club. Exhibitors & Delegates only.

Saturday, May 25

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

EXHIBITS OPEN TO DELEGATES AND GENERAL PUBLIC

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

FASHION SHOW & WINE & CHEESE - Diamond Tooth Gerties. Delegates free / General Public \$5.00

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

CLOSING HOST PARTY - Curling Club

Are You Getting Your Money's Worth?

By Sue Ward

With media making a living from Trivial Pursuit of Politicians, I wondered just what was paid from the Public Trough to Yukon politicians.

A 1-800 number brought this information:

As of April 1, 1991: A M.L.A. (Rural) i.e. Klondike (population under 2,000 though not relative) receives \$30,487 plus an Annual Expense Amount of \$15,243. A Minister (Rural) i.e. Klondike, receives an additional \$22,260 for a grand total of \$67,990.

Travelling anywhere in his Riding, he is reimbursed for expenses. Travelling to M.L.A. Conferences (3 annually) anywhere, all expenses paid. Add Travel and Living Expenses when attending Legislative Sessions. The Legislative Assembly Act, from which this information was read does not oblige a Minister to have an Assistant to handle Constituents' problems during

his absence from the Riding.

How much of this is tax free? Expense Allowance for Rural Member, \$15,243.

The Premier receives all of this, though slightly less if he is a Whitehorse Member, plus \$8,236. The Leader of the Opposition receives the same amounts as a Minister, again less if he is a Whitehorse Member.

The Speaker of the House -- M.L.A., and Expense Allowance Indemnity, plus \$7,420. A M.L.A. (Whitehorse Riding) receives \$30,487 and Expense Allowance of \$13,309.

The next Territorial election is less than two years away.

There are sixteen members in the Yukon Legislature; there are less than 30,000 Yukoners, all shapes and sizes, ages and colours.

Like I said "Are you getting your money's worth?"

I'm off to cash my Old Age Pension cheque!

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Dawson City Museum Re-opens to Public May 19

by Sue Ward

Facts: Your Dawson City Museum Society was born in 1959.

Operating Budget in 1988 was \$110,000 when 14,680 visitors enjoyed the 3,000 sq. ft. of exhibits.

Staff: One permanent employee, full-time, six seasonal, two-ten full-time term positions. 1,422 volunteer hours given in 1988/89.

There are over 30,000 artifacts (many of which are stored out-of-town in an old warehouse!)

It's time to bring on stream a second full-time employee, a Curator, who would be in charge of Artifacts and Exhibits. The Administrator would be able to concentrate on all other areas of importance, i.e. procuring of grants for staff and equipment, payroll, correspondence, public relations, coordination with activities of the Dawson City Museum Society, Gift Shop, Coffee Shop, and on and on. At

this writing there were 74 paid-up members, with no more than a dozen actively participating.

Part-time summer or project employees enable the Museum to function, but these fine folk do not often bring expertise, talented and eager though they may be.

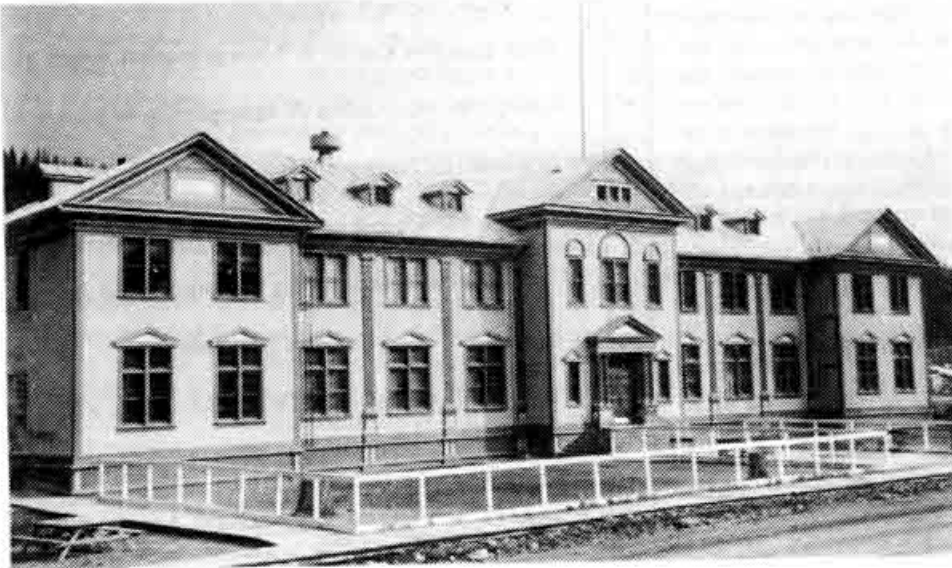
Dawsonites have been encouraged to donate their family treasures to "Our Museum" but they are unhappy when years go by and nowhere is Grandpa's Moustache Cup displayed. It's resting in a carton, often unmarked, stored in a warehouse, out-of-town. There has got to be a full-time Curator to press forward with cataloguing, and nearby controlled storage space, enabling workers to record and restore and re-cycle exhibits. That's not the job of the one full-time employee, our Administrator.

"Local people don't come to the Museum" I heard from several workers. No doubt we all feel that now that the wonderful old building has been restored,

with heat and lights, and restrooms, and galleries have been opened, That's It!

It has taken thirty-two years of tremendous togetherness to bring our Museum this far. Now it is time for another explosion of town support to provide a Curator whose job it will be to skilfully manage those seasonal personnel and bring our treasures into the light so we may again be proud and stimulated by Dawson's Past. Take out a \$15.00 yearly membership now, a Family Membership is \$25.00. You can drop in for free all year, giving your ideas birth.

We can't begin to tell our story to Visitors, but our museum will. May is National Museum Month. Notice what took place at the Annual General Meeting, and share the remarkable story of our past 32 years as we remember special people and the events which brought us to our proud possession on Fifth Avenue, our Dawson City Museum!



Sun File Photo

Museum Lecture Series Planned

by Palma Berger

Michael Gates has planned and initiated a series of lectures on Yukon history which will take place over the next few months. Two speakers, Gates himself, and Roy Minter, have already presented lectures.

Yet to come are: David Neufeld (technological change in the gold industry); Robin Fischer (from U. Vic's History Dept.); Dr. Richard Harrington, a well known collector of Pleistocene fossils from the

Dawson area (speaking in August); Dick North, speaking on topics other than Jack London; Barb Hogan, on the Yukon Ditch; and Ruth Goddard, on Yukon's pre-history.



Photo Museum Society Files

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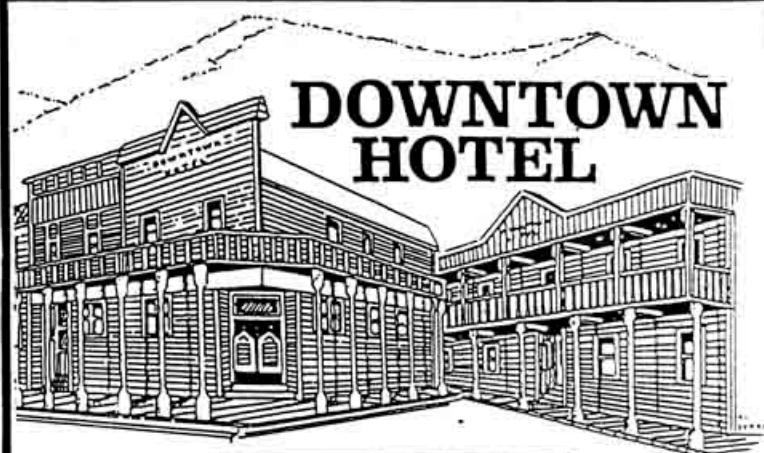
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Visitors at the Museum

by Palma Berger

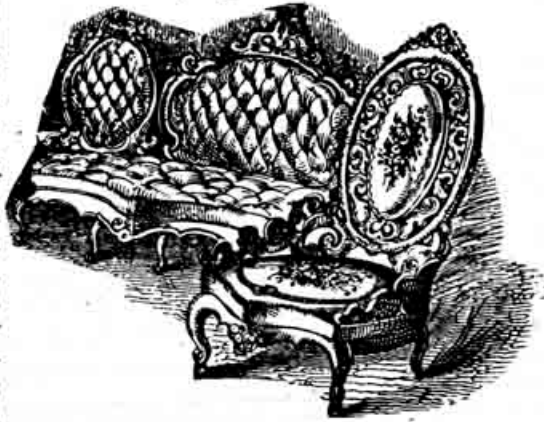
There was the usual excitement of cheesecake to go with the coffee and snacks, but still the attendance at the Dawson City Museum and Historical Society's AGM was less than had been hoped. But, as president Chris Sorg, pointed out, there was competition with the hockey game, with other events (but surely not with the last show of "Dallas").

Chris welcomed visitor's Art Webster (MLA- Klondike), Museum Advisor Ed Krahn, and thanked YTG for sending their Collections Registrations Co-ordinator, Drew Ball, who was acting director of this museum last year.

Art expressed amazement at the number of people who were employed and volunteering over the winter and the amount that has been accomplished. He praised their talent at accessing ever decreasing funding. He noted that Chris Sorg has done a good job with the Pioneers, Canadian Legion and the City of Dawson to get a concerted effort from the community to get gardens, walkways and the Victory Gardens development next to the museum.

He requested the museum's support for the Yukon Historic Resources Act which is going through the legislature now. This act is to keep track of historic objects and to further the education of Yukoners to make them aware of our heritage here.

Ed Krahn also commented on the number of volunteers the museum has. They are the backbone of any organization and



they have done great work this winter. He spoke on the work being done by students to list all artifacts outside of the Yukon. From the Vatican to Finland there are Yukon artifacts to be



listed. The new booklet "Vacation Guide" is "going like

hen's teeth". All the museums in Canada are listed in it.

Krahn said that adding Drew to his staff is very exciting. Drew is listing all collections on the computer and connecting with other museums. Ed noted that it is harder and harder to raise funds and praised the museum's annual auction and its creative fundraising.

Drew Ball spoke on his position of "artifact inventory and collecting" which is the compiling and computing of information from artifacts. He said the work here in Dawson exceeds the work done by all the other Yukon museums. We have done quite good cataloguing here. But Yukon's collection is housed all over the place, and it is his job to record it all.

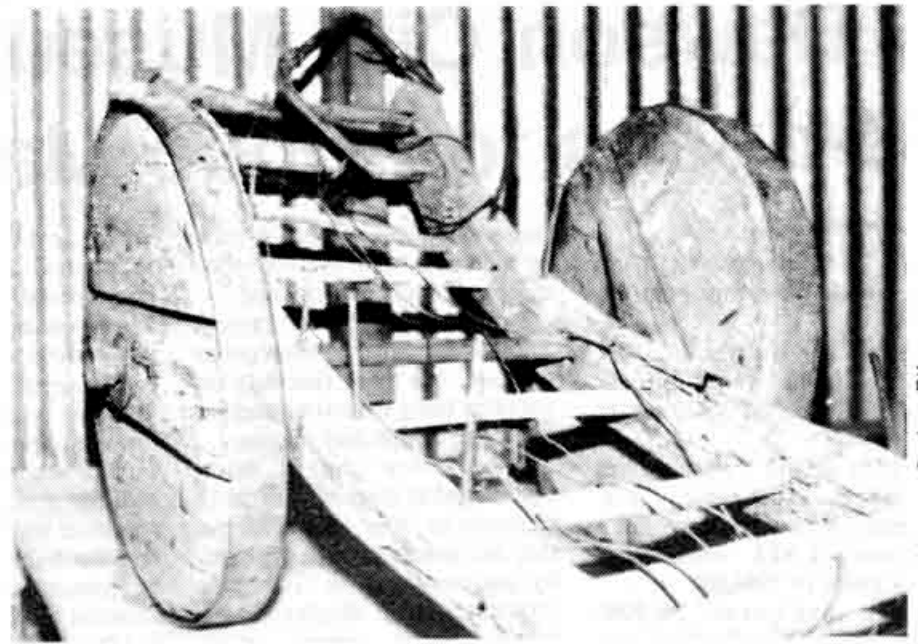


Photo Museum Society Files

Hot Rod - Circa 1898

1991 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Diamond Tooth Gerties Gambling Hall opens May 17

Dawson City Gold Show May 23 - 25

Gaslight Follies (Palace Grand Theatre) opens May 24

Jack London Cabin & Interpretation opens June 1

Robert Service Cabin & Interpretation opens June 1

Klondike National Historic Sites opens June 1

Commissioner's Ball June 8

Yukon Goldpanning Championship July 1

Canada Day July 1

International Dome Race July 20

Dawson City Music Festival July 19 - 21

Yukon Talent Night Aug 4

Discovery Days Aug 16 - 19

Klondike Mixed Slo-Pitch Tournament
August 31, September 1 - 2

Great Klondike International Outhouse Race Sept 1

Klondike Dart Tournament Sept 6 - 8

Gold Rush Curling Bonspiel Sept 19 - 22

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Good News at Museum AGM

by Palma Berger

Concern has been expressed over what would happen to the Dawson Museum and its collection in the unlikely and impossible-to-think-of event that the Museum and Historical Society should ever become defunct. What would happen to the collection that people have donated to and spent so many hours working on? Well, rest your mind. It has been decided that the collection would be secured by the City of Dawson, and if the city finds itself unable to accept this responsibility, it would be handed over to the Government of the Yukon to be held in trust until a suitable Dawson based organization would be prepared to accept responsibility. On the written advice of Iris Warner, each of the above stages has the phrase "after an audit" appended to it.

A storage facility is being planned for the museum's undisplayed artifact collection. Pat Hogan spoke to this issue. As the society has artifacts stored in several buildings in Bear Creek, it plans, with funding from various sources, to build a storage facility near the museum to house the collection, a future conservation lab, and a carpentry shop. The design stage of the plan has been accepted by city council and the planning board, and Hogan hopes to start work on the building in two years. Its completion will free up more space in the main building for display areas.

The Collections Committee report came from Louise Ranger, who began by praising the work of her group. Highlights of the year were receiving the document collection of the Klondike Visitors Association, a 1919

unused calendar from the Robert Service Cabin a Northwest Mounted Police tunic and a program autographed by the participants from the first Percy DeWolfe mail run. Already this year the museum has found a home for 57 deposits, accepted a photograph of Percy DeWolfe and received negatives of the Cat Train. Ranger noted that she needs some help on the Museum newsletter.

Carol Murray's report on membership and fundraising spoke of 1990 as the year to computerize, as membership information is now being fed into a computer. Jan Couture has been hired to do this work. The membership for 1990 was 77 and the goal for 1991 is 200. The annual auction showed an increase of \$2000.00 over last year, bringing in a total of \$7327.00.

President Chris Sorg reported that attendance was up 10% last year. Gift shop and fundraising increased by 60% and 15% respectively. Thanks to valuable volunteer assistance from John Weirda the museum is making greater use of its computer to do its accounting. Sorg reported on various projects already mentioned here and on the efforts that were made to have Drew Ball's YTG position moved to Dawson, where half of the territory's artifacts are housed. This was not a successful lobby effort. It was noted that the museum has now accepted the responsibility for and possession of the existing mining recorder's records on microfilm up to the 1970's.

Sorg thanked retiring trustees Pat Hogan, Palma Berger, Renee Mayes, Coleman Johnson, as well as departed trustees Barb Forsyth and Bob Mitchell.

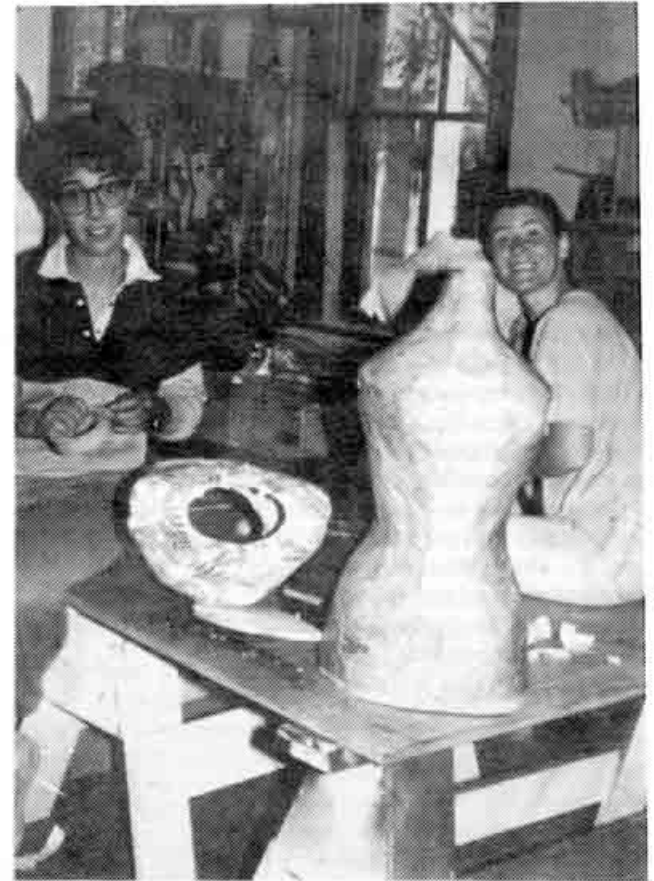
Director Val Baggaley reported that total summer attendance last year was 15,400 and that gross revenue was up. The museum received many grants which enabled it to purchase



Photo by Sue Ward

Museum Director Val Baggaley

books, train more people, improve displays, do archival work, etc. The Community Development Fund grant funded the continuation of the photograph finding aid for the museum's collection of 3,000 pictures. Heritage Branch funded the night life bar scene in the North Gallery. Mannequins were built, and new finding aids were made for such collections as maps, blueprints, ledgers, Klondike



Making a mannequin

Korner (Natty Club newsletter) and Bonanza Hotel collections. Through the Canada Job Development program the museum has been able to take on and train four workers for the summer.

The training program here is seen as superior by the YTG's Museum Advisor Ed Krahn, who said that it gives such a broad range of experience that trainees easily go on to other jobs.

The financial report from Jan Malfair indicated that the museum was once again not in the red.

New board members for the year are: Marjie Hills and John Williams (1 year terms), Chris Sorg, Carol Murray, Jeff Cook, Bob McCauley, Jan Malfair and Louise Ranger (2 year terms). As for volunteers, there are too many to list, and they gave 1205 recorded hours of time in 1990. Great work by one and all!

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ELLA'S TRAVEL TIPS

By Ella Patay

by Ella Patay

Today we're going to talk about your credit card, and what insurance is included when you use it to pay for an airline ticket. As you may well be aware, your travel agency offers extra insurance. The two most common are cancellation insurance, and medical insurance. Medical insurance covers you for medical aid that you may require as a result of accident or sickness while you are away from home. Yukon Health Care will only pay up to the cost of treatment had it happened in the Yukon. Extra medical insurance can be purchased for approximately \$1.00 per person per day, with coverage up to \$1,000,000. Cancellation insurance has

strictly to do with airfare. Especially in the case of seat sales, changes/refunds are rarely permitted without upgrading. This insurance covers either the non-refundable portion before departure, or a full fare home after departure, in the event of sickness in your family, misconnections, etc. Reasons must be fairly substantial and are spelled out in your insurance policy (i.e. the family dog being sick doesn't count).

Now -- a lot of people who pay for tickets with either Visa or Mastercard are under the impression that they are insured for a lot more than the card actually provides. Did you know that:

Ordinary Visa-- only automatic insurance is personal life insurance on the carrier up to \$100,000.00

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Gold Mastercard-- costs \$50.00 annually. Coverage is the same as Gold Visa.

****Hot Tip**** Seattle-Toronto Round Trip/Thai Airways \$299.00 CAD

And here's the news you've been waiting for!! The winner of the "Travel Tips Trivia" contest is Sylvie Guibord. Two Passes anywhere Air North flies. Congratulations, Sylvie!!

THE PLEINE TRUTH

by John Gould

Father Pleine O.M.I. is back in Dawson after a 30 year absence. He has been here to take over the duties as parish priest while Father Boyd is on a months fact finding trip visiting the Oblate fathers in Peru.

Father Pleine came to Canada from Northern France in July of 1939. He was posted to the Yukon diocese at Prince Rupert. From there he has been in most of the Yukon communities.

He came to Dawson in the late 1950's and took over the duties as priest at St. Mary's Hospital. In the fall of 1960 he was doing some work in the Catholic cemetery on the hill back of town. On his way back to the hospital where he was residing, he became sick. He collapsed on

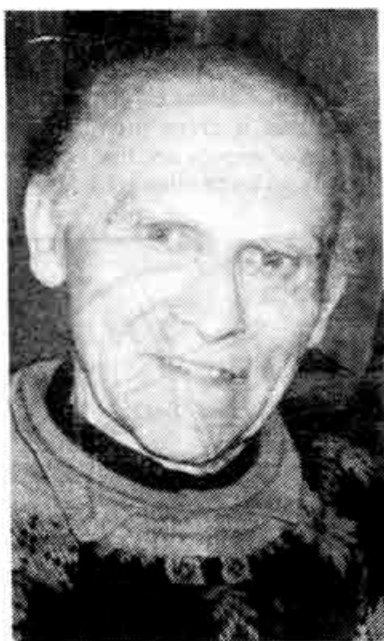


Photo by John Gould

5th Ave. near where Marinas is today, falling face down in the snow.

Dick Fields happened along in a vehicle and saw him lying there. Dick stopped, picked him up and took him to the hospital. If it hadn't been for Dick he probably would have died there in the snowbank; he was suffering from a bleeding ulcer. The Doctor was out of town and there were only the nurses to look after him.

This was before we had telephone hook ups to the outside. Luckily there was a plane in so he was flown to Whitehorse where he received proper attention. For the past number of years he has been in Atlin, B.C. Father Pleine is now semi-retired and is living in Whitehorse.

News From: Vancouver Yukoners'

Our Annual Banquet and Dance held at the Hotel Vancouver on March 16, 1991 was a great and happy reunion of old friends, Yukoners and ex-Yukoners sharing unforgettable memories of their days in the far north. There were approximately 230 special people in attendance.

Guest Speaker, Commissioner Ken McKinnon enthusiastically reported on the celebrations being planned for the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Alaska Highway. This 1500 mile highway through the wilderness from Dawson Creek, B.C. to Fairbanks, Alaska was

completed in the unbelievable time of 8-1/2 months in 1942.

Mr. and Mrs. Yukon - Al and Tish Tomlin of Haines Junction were on hand to receive congratulations and best wishes from all those present.

The lovely floral centerpiece from the head table was sent to Bob McLaren who is a patient in the Vancouver General Hospital.

Winner of the draw for the attractive crochet afghan which was donated by Lil Munroe was won by Yvonne Burian. Second prize was won by Debbie Algotsson of Dawson City. Thank to Lil for this special

effort to raise funds on behalf of the Vancouver Yukoners' Association.

CONDOLENCES- Once again we must report on the passing of members and longtime Yukoners. Virginia (Harbottle) Eldridge of Whitehorse passed away February 1991; Andy Hooper of Whitehorse passed away February 1991; Mike Nolan formerly of Whitehorse passed away March 1991; John Bergstrand formerly of Dawson City passed away March 20, 1991. Our condolences go out to their family and friends.

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