

The KLONDIKE Sun

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

Doing Unto Others

by Jennifer Williams

Some might call the timing luck, others fate, but few would argue that the quick thinking of two visitors who were the first to arrive at the scene of a terrible car accident on July 2nd might very well have saved the lives of local residents William Skinner, Laura Ward and Brianna Ward.

Last Tuesday around 8 p.m. as Huseyin and Pauline Sirt of Carleton, Michigan were driving back from Inuvik they spotted someone waving to them from the side of the road at kilometre 45 Dempster Highway. Mr. Sirt said he thought that he was being waved on but after slowing down he turned around to make sure that everything was O.K.

As they approached the couple realized that everything was not as it should be. Although the smashed '79 Ford pick-up was not visible from the road one good look at Laura, 24, and her two year old daughter Brianna confirmed the Sirts' fears.

After assessing the situation, that a single vehicle had rolled and thrown all three passengers, they decided that Mrs. Sirt should stay behind with William, 31, who had hit his

head on a rock. He was losing a great deal of blood and they felt unsure about moving him. Mrs. Sirt checked his wallet to find his name and tried to keep him talking, so that he would not lose consciousness. Meanwhile Mr. Sirt took Laura and the toddler to get help.

Although there was no traffic on the road the emergency effort was slowed by a cow moose who insisted on giving the makeshift ambulance an escort "for what seemed like hours." A little later Mr. Sirt tried to flag down a passing helicopter to no avail. Finally the anxious party came across a Fire-fighters' camp where a Forestry official was able to radio for First Aid assistance.

Once Laura and Brianna had been delivered into capable hands Mr. Sirt took several members of the Forestry medical team back to where Mrs. Sirt was trying to make William as comfortable as possible by "swatting mosquitoes like mad."

From then on the Sirts watched the rescue operation at a distance and said they were impressed by the work of the

Forestry Department and the Father Judge Memorial Nursing Station Health Care staff.

The three injured people were taken by helicopter to Dawson and then on to Whitehorse General Hospital. Mr. Skinner was listed in critical condition for several days and required many stitches, but had been released from hospital by the weekend. Ms. Ward recovered quickly and has been flown down to Vancouver to be with her child. Brianna, although badly bruised, suffered no broken bones. However she will have to undergo physiotherapy for the right side of her body at the Sunnydale Rehabilitation Centre.

"The prognosis is remarkable," said a visibly relieved Jane Dann, Laura's mother and grandmother to Brianna. "We burnt sweet grass as soon as we heard the bad news and our prayers were answered," she added.

A fund has been set up to help defray Laura's expenses for the month she plans to spend at the

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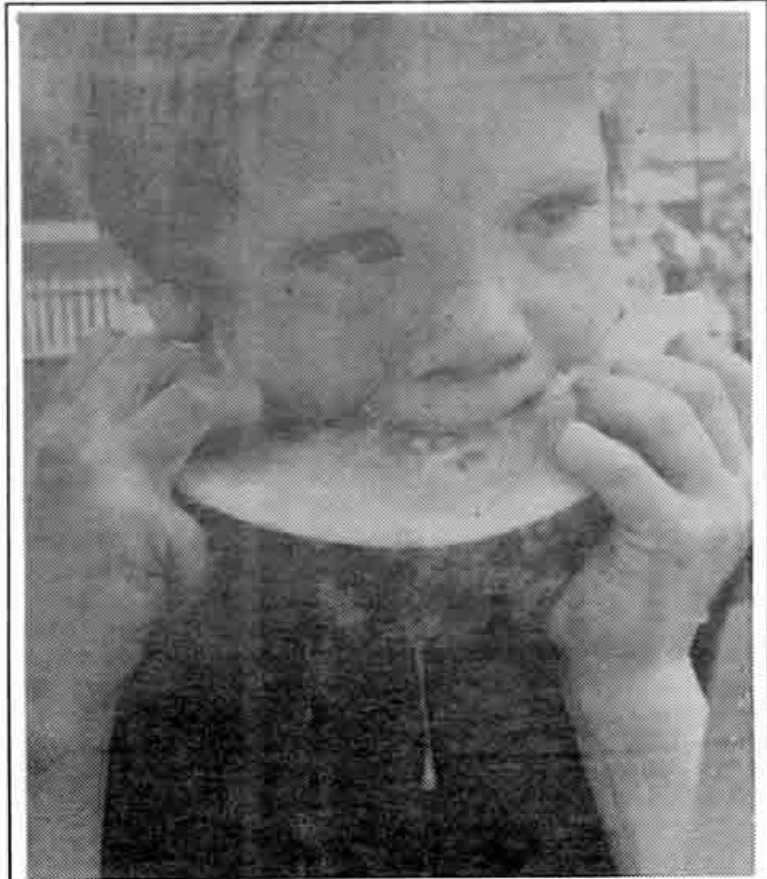


Photo by Dan Davidson

Chew it? Nah! I just shove it in. This eager eater enjoyed Canada Day fun. See more on page 3.

Dawson Fires Are Setting Record Season

by Dan Davidson

Over 200 employees are fighting or have fought a total of 41 fires in the Klondike area as of June 7. One fire, number 21 up on the Dempster Highway, has cost over \$900,000.00 so far, eating up the lion's share of the close to \$2 million that has been spent here during the first three weeks of the fire season.

An average season would see 50-55 fires in the Klondike area over a period of 5 or 6 weeks, but Kelvin Leary, the local Resource Management Officer in charge of field operations for the Northern Affairs Program of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, readily admits that this season is well ahead.

It began early, on the evening of the summer solstice, about a week before it would normally have happened.

"We had no fires burning in the district and one fire had burned in late April," Leary says, "We had 14 strikes the first night, and it just went from there."

By Monday there were 34 fires. Ten have been extinguished since by the actions of Leary's legions of fire fighters, but there have been more started, and the prime fire season is less than half gone.

Leary says that there are 5 or 6 weeks in the Yukon's summer when things are expected to burn a bit. Usually, this area's resources are committed to fighting fires on the basis of an "action plan". This plan designates the zone within which fires will receive attention. That's a corridor about 5 miles wide on either side of the Klondike Highway, large circles of space around settlements, resource areas, important historic sites and transportation corridors.

Normally, with no more than 6-7 fires starting in a short time period, it is possible to react in terms of this plan, but Leary says that the plan has had to be set aside this summer. Too many of the fires are close to the zone, and they've all started too quickly to handle in such a fashion. People and resources have been moved around to handle the areas of greatest need on a case by case basis.

"We have to work on the basis of life and property," he said.

Leary agreed that the process could be likened to a kind of environmental triage, a medical

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Photo by Jennifer Williams

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Westmark Sues Dawson

by Dan Davidson

The lawsuit launched by Westmark Hotels against the City of Dawson to attempt to recover a levy of over \$60,000.00 in forced sewer and water charges did not come as news to council watchers. Notice of this intent was served by Westmark's solicitors, Anton, Campion, Macdonald and Phillips, in a letter dated April 24, 1991 and included in a May council package.

It was made clear to the Westmark chain in the fall of 1990 that city council looked a little dimly at the most recent expansion plans. There were numerous problems with the plans, with parking and with the acquisition of the land. While not actually placing any unusual roadblocks in the hotel chain's way, it seemed to observers that city offices were working to rule on this particular project.

Meanwhile, Mayor Jenkins began to instruct council on the problems soon to be faced by Dawson's infamous sewer and water system, which he stated had reached its maximum capacity for usage by the end of 1990.

Upgrading, the mayor maintained, should be at the cost of new users to the system, not to users who have already been paying for the original system ever since it was installed.

To that end, two proposals were made. One was to increase the sewer and water hookup charges and fees faced by new users under the city's sewer and water bylaw. The second approach, still in the discussion phases at this time, was to draft a

development bylaw which would enable the city to recoup expansion and upgrading costs from major new projects that put a strain on existing municipal infrastructures, some-thing

like the legislation the City of Whitehorse has in place.

Under the former local legislation, the sewer and water bylaw, Westmark was assessed a sewer and water capital contribution charge of \$60,776.00, based on charges of \$1200.00 per hotel room. By contrast, anyone developing a new home on previously unserviced land in Dawson will be looking at a \$1500.00 charge as part of their building costs as a result of this bylaw increase.

Westmark paid its assessment in late April, lawyer Campion noting that "This payment is made under protest and without prejudice to the rights and remedies of Westmark Hotels of Canada Ltd. In due course our client's position with respect to the legality and propriety of your water and sewer capital levy and the enabling legislation will be advanced."

The lawsuit is, then, a direct challenge to the planning and future direction indicated by Dawson's municipal council in the matter of covering expansion costs. Concerned citizens and municipal officials, both in Dawson and in Whitehorse, will no doubt be watching the unfolding of the arguments with some interest.

Dawson's municipal council has a discussed a proposal whereby the Band would get every third lot, counting from a lot which will be chosen at random from the total development.

The lot sale will once again be conducted by lottery, and a prospectus will be available some weeks in advance. There will be a charge for the prospectus. Prices are not yet determined. The City of Dawson attempts to recover only the development costs on its land, and the bills are not yet all in.

The survey work on the lots is complete now. The roads have nearly been finished. The hydro and telephone installations have yet to go in, and the final legal work is under way. It should be noted that the last set of country residential lots, which went on sale in 1989, cost about \$10,000.00 each.

Dawson Council Moves on Boundary Expansion

by Dan Davidson

Times change. Old viewpoints are altered by new conditions. Communities grow, and Dawson certainly falls into the category of growing communities. So it is that city council is seeking an expansion of the town's boundaries. The proposal, called Bylaw 91-11, "A Bylaw to alter the boundary of the City of Dawson", takes up barely a page of legal size paper, and yet it represents a remarkable change in thinking on the part of the council.

Communities are permitted, under Chapter 119, Section 14 of the Municipal Act, to petition the territorial government for boundary amendments, after giving proper reasons and going through the necessary regulatory steps.

Bylaw 91-11 is quite specific about its reasons: "Whereas the Town of the City of Dawson is restricted by its boundaries when dealing with issues such as safe potable water supply, a land fill site, and secondary sewage treatment and deems it desirable to expand the municipal boundaries..."

The attached map, which does not as yet show an actual legal survey, proposes an extension from the Moosehide boundary to Flat Creek. This is a distinct shift from the thinking of Mayor Jenkins' previous council, which refused to take the boundary out as far as the Callison Subdivision when the Municipal Board wanted it to in the spring of 1986.

Mayor Peter Jenkins, who balked at the 1986 pressures and maintained that the tax revenues to be gained by such an expansion would not match the expenditures which would be required to provide municipal services that far out of the town core, has clearly had his mind changed by the rapid developments of the last 5 years.

The new proposal would take in Bear Creek, Rock Creek, the Dempster Corner, and all the residential development that has occurred in between those population clusters and the current city boundaries.

This is, in fact, the same parcel of land that has been studied by the Klondike Valley Land Use Planning Committee for the last several years, except that most of the proposals of the KVLUPC stop at the Dempster Corner. Since some aspects of the proposed Klondike Valley Land Use Plan run counter to City of Dawson interests, it is tempting to speculate that the expansion is an attempt, in part, to pre-empt the implementation of the Klondike Valley plan.

The plan would also take in land in a 6 mile radius on the west side of the Yukon River, and an as yet unspecified breadth of land on either side of the Klondike Highway. A lot of things - like Land Claims selection, federal ownership of most of this land, and the territorially backed Klondike Valley Land Use Plan itself - could stand in the way of part or all of the expansion request.

City administrator Carol Murray says that the reasons in the bylaw's petition are more or less in order. Water quality control cannot be enforced presently, because much of the development which is affecting it lies outside the city, which stops before the bridge across the Klondike River.

Sewage disposal is a related problem. Many rural residents collect their water from the Dawson system and those which have storage tanks instead of septic fields dispose of their waste by dumping it at the treatment plant in town. The city would like to get more control over and more revenue from this process.

The need to find a land fill site to serve both the city and the valley is another pressure driving this process. Many valley residents have objected to the idea that a new dump to serve the city might need to go in the valley. Murray responds by noting that valley residents use this city facility as well.

Then there are numerous other city facilities that get regular use by rural residents. One might cite Dawson's many recreational facilities and clubs, some of

which receive city funding and assistance. On the other hand, one might say that rural residents do contribute to these enterprises by the volunteer time they give.

One of the major complaints from rural residents is that their taxes are bound to increase under city rule. Murray concedes this, but says that the services already provided by the city and those that the city is prepared to provide will make that worth it.

Another fear expressed by rural residents concerns their lifestyle, which they feel will be affected by historic guidelines, city zoning and official community plans. Murray points out that the so-called "grandfather" effect, (often explained by the Mayor as "what exists, exists" or "bylaws cannot be made retroactive") would certainly apply to Klondike Valley residents.

"I don't believe they'd be any more restricted with the city," Murray said, pointing out that these areas are changing anyway, as they grow naturally.

There is some sense in this argument. The original mindset of the people who fled Dawson for these areas would have opposed the introduction of telephones, electricity, propane furnaces, an organized fire department and improved road services, all of which have added to each hamlet in turn over the last decade.

While the street talk reaction to the expansion bylaw has been largely negative, Murray says that the people who have contacted her in person have been about evenly divided in terms of pros and cons.

The bylaw has gone through two readings at council already. Murray thinks it likely that the third reading will come sometime in August. Concerned citizens can contact the office to find out when the bylaw will be on the agenda next. In the meantime, the council is open to the pressure of letters, telephone calls and personal conversation.

It is likely that the YTG will call a formal public meeting on the subject once the bylaw arrives at the offices of Community and Transportation Services for consideration. There is still time, then, for people to make their wishes known.

Newest Dawson Lots Due this Summer

by Dan Davidson

The next two phases of the Dome subdivision expansion are due to become available later this summer, perhaps as early as late July, but more likely in August. A total of 26 lots, varying in size from .8 to 1.5 hectares, are being prepared this summer, but only 18 of these will actually be available to the general public, since 8 will be set aside for development by the Dawson Indian Band.

The two phases involve different classifications of land. Phase three, higher up the Dome Road is actually part of the Band's Land Claims settlement lands. Neither the City of Dawson nor the Band wishes to see a Band enclave developed high on the Dome, however, so the two parcels have been blended as far as the offering to the public is concerned, with the proviso that the Band gets a number of lots equal to its C2 land in the final selection.

Doing Unto Others (from page 1)



rehab. clinic learning therapeutic techniques to use with her daughter when she comes home. It is hoped that William will join the twosome this week. Donations can be dropped off at the Westmark Hotel, the Eldorado, the Midnight Sun, the Downtown and in the Bank of Commerce. On Saturday Mrs. Dann was exuberant about the outpouring of emotional and financial support that the Dawson community had already displayed. She wants to thank

everyone involved for their kindness.

What do the good Samaritans who were partly responsible for making this a happy ending think? The Sirts were following the rule of the road in the North,

where great distances and often low temperatures require compassion for motorists in distress, but they were also following the Golden Rule. "We are not heroes," said Mr. Sirt, "but I want to emphasize to your readers something, 'Do not pass any vehicle in a ditch without having a good look ... One day it could be you.'"

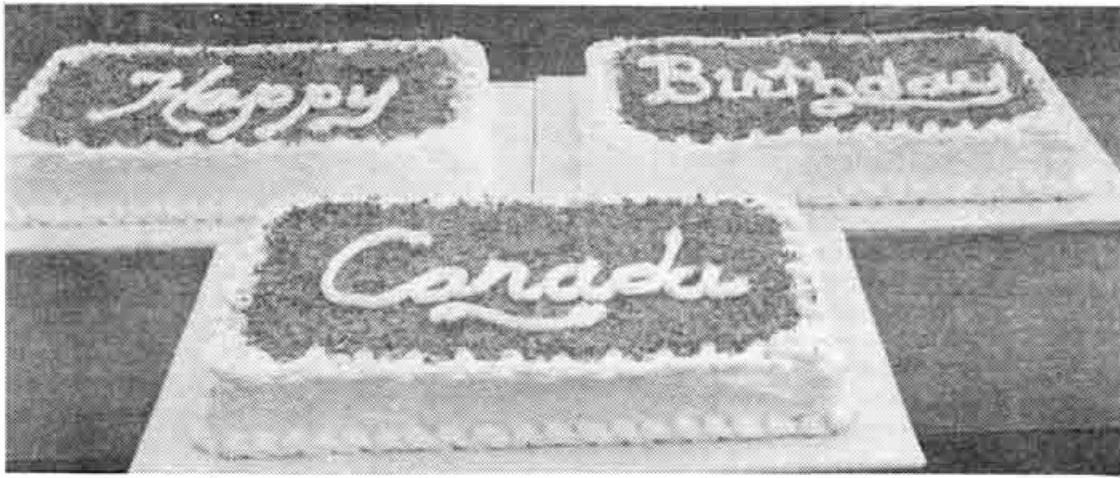


Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

Happy Birthday Canada!

by Dan Davidson

For children, the highlight of a hazy Canada Day ceremony at Minto Park was probably the arrival of a helicopter loaded down with candy, which bombed the field after it had hovered long enough to capture everyone's attention. This was an unannounced treat, but the rest of the day went pretty much as planned.

Things got under way at 11 a.m., with the singing of "O Canada" led by this year's Diamond Tooth Gertie, Lori Valleau, who arrived on the back

of a fire truck. Host Peter Menzies, Dawson's Recreation Director, welcomed the crowd which listened politely to a short speech by M.L.A. Art Webster and were probably just as pleased that Mayor Jenkins didn't make it again to give his speech. It meant they could stop being solemn sooner. While it was a moment to think of Canada, there were things to do which were more fun.

A special certificate was presented to Dawson's youngest cit-

izen, six week old Eve Derry.

For kids there was a watermelon eating relay, a balloon shaving contest, flags, hats and canteens to be collected and free books to pick up from the Dawson Community Library's display.

For everyone there was a slice of birthday cake (free) and a concession stand (not free) for those who decided to stick around and watch the Yukon Goldpanning Championships, which began at 1 p.m.

Later in the day it rained heavily on and off, but since this cut the smoke haze and gave a promise of clearer days to come, it was welcome.



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates



Photo by Dan Davidson



Photo by Jennifer Williams



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

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Top left: Three special cakes for the party.

Top right: Sally and Eve Derry receive the "Youngest Dawsonite" certificate.

Center right: The Honour Guard arrives, composed of a uniformed R.C.M.P. escort, Legion members and a colour party from 896 Pioneer Squadron Air Cadets.

Above left: Minto Park is bombed by a candy dropping helicopter.

Above right: Diamond Tooth Gerties kicks up her heels as she arrives in the park on the back of the fire truck.

Editorial: A Pair of Burning Issues

by Dan Davidson

Now that we have a firm date for the meeting on the official town plan for Dawson City (that being July 31), it makes it a little easier for the public to figure out what to do next. The first thing is to get yourself a copy of the draft plan which we printed as an insert in our February issue (What do you mean, you haven't been saving back issues? This stuff is history in the making!), find out what changes have been made in the wording since then, and give the whole matter some thought.

You may find you like the ideas or you may not. You may have the sort of specific and philosophical concerns that are mentioned in our M.L.A.'s column. You may be one of the residents who has a point of view to express about the proposed extension of the city's boundary (see our story in this issue) in the light of this plan. Any and all of these concerns would be fair game at such a meeting.

Most importantly, you should be there. Your point of view will not be heard if it's hiding behind a brew in one of the local watering holes or safely ensconced in a lazy-boy in front of the idiot box. Community attendance at those bi-weekly council meetings has dropped drastically since the good weather arrived. In one sense, this is understandable, but in another, it must be realized that the mills of government continue to grind, come rain or shine.

Be seeing you at the meeting, I hope.

After finally nailing down a time and place for an interview about forest fires (see elsewhere this issue) I have to say that I came away from it impressed with the amount of coordination that goes into the battle and the amount of cooperation that everyone in town who needs to seems to be giving the local coordinators of the effort.

Hotels, grocery stores, local and territorial government employees, and even our tourist visitors deserve a pat on the back for helping to keep the source of all the smoke at a safe distance from the town. It's pretty clear that things could be a whole lot worse without that effort.

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Renewal

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor & Staff

I was absolutely delighted to receive my copy of the Paper in yesterday's mail, and to read the article about Joan (Bilton). While I don't know the name of the writer (Kathy Jones Gates), I had to drop her a note to thank her for the splendid job she did with it. I don't know as I've ever read anything that has touched me more.

This article was written with thoughtfulness, and I suspect with a lot of love for a special sister of ours, and I can't thank you enough. I know Joan tackled everything she did with zeal and enthusiasm, and wouldn't let things pass that she thought should be the norm. I wish she could have been here to thank you for the appreciation shown in this article for doing the jobs she was so involved with. While she was with us, she used to tell me of the work everyone did in Dawson, and was so enthused about it all.

It's been many years since I was last in Dawson City, but I have many fond memories of the days spent there, and there are many names I read about in the paper that I can still remember. I enjoy reading about all the activities going on, and look forward to each new edition that comes.

Keep up the good work - you have a super paper.

Many thanks again,

Marvin Nichol

Vegreville, Alberta

To the Paper Crew -

Inclosed is my check for \$17.12. I enjoy the paper very much and pass it along to the other Old Yukoners, and I don't use the word "Old" lightly.

We read every word of it, enjoy Palma and Sue's comments especially, maybe its because I know them. Anyway, Good Luck and keep up the good work and it's work - as an old K.K. member, I know.

Lots of luck,

Lil Monroe

Richmond, B.C.

To all of you wonderful

volunteers:

The Klondike Sun is like a breath of fresh air! It's wonderful to see the Community Spirit kept alive through the sharing of real events and concerns about Dawson and the surrounding communities by you. You are proof that individuals can make a difference to what goes on. Involvement counts!

Count my subscription in for as long as your paper is published. It's appreciated by many.

Thank you

Yvonne Wabersich

P.S. I always remember the postal code this way -

Yukon Oh Boy I Go!

Nice thought. Yes?

Dear Editor;

Enclosed find my change of address card. I do not want to miss any copies of your very interesting paper.

Your recipes are very good and tasty. May 9th issue contained Cheddar Cheese Bread and Old South Barbeque Sauce - among others. Very Delicious.

I like the Klondike Kids page. What with swimming pool, slo-pitch, Porter Creek Junior High School band and many more interesting items. It makes good reading.

John (VanEvery) and Linda (Christiansen) tell me I would hardly know Dawson City - it has grown noticeably from 1983.

Time to go back and check it all out!

I will enclose a recipe for your paper.

Bacon Fried Rice - by Grace DeLorme

8 slices bacon cut into 1/2" pieces
Fry until crisp.

Remove from pan.

Drain off all but 2 tbsp. fat.

Saute 1/2 cup chopped onions

1/2 cup chopped green peppers,

Stir in 1 - 10oz. can mushrooms

(drained)

2 tabsp. soya sauce,

3 cups cooked rice

and bacon bits

Season to taste.

Serve hot.

Keep up the good work.

Yours truly,

Grace L. DeLorme

North Bay, Ontario

I do love colour.
Really I do.
I love pink and purple,
Yellow and blue.
But our FINE CITY,
They are trashing
With copious amounts
of Glaring Hue!

Or is it all part
Of a Master Plan?
To lure the tourists
to our fair land,
Imagine their
Surprise and Shock...
When out of the four-
Bus they walk-
And sail forth
Into Disneyland North!

Signed: Is anyone else
perturbed?

An Open Letter to Dawson City Firemen:

Back in the good old days I tried my best. For years and years and years I had applied myself. I worked extra hard to overcome the shortcomings of Buffalo, Socks, Lugs and Bowie, just to name a few of the cads, to further the just and noble cause of the Dawson City Volunteer Fire Department.

And what did I get in return? No medals to adorn my chest and no pedestal on which to place a fitting statue. Abuse, that is what I got, tombstones in my yard, wheels off my car, piano players breaking into my treasured home in the wee hours of the morning scaring the living soul out of my dearly beloved.

I knew all along, that I could not get peace of mind, that I could not close this sordid chapter in my life - the Dawson City Fire Department Experience Chapter - unless I found an appropriate way to reciprocate.

I have found that way. As I write this letter, my revenge, alias Pat Cayen, is on his way to Dawson. He is your new Fire Chief, but that is just a disguise. In reality, he is coming up to settle my score. So beware, old timers of the Dawson Fire Department, your comeuppance is coming up!
Andre Carrel
Rossland, B.C.

Editor's Note:

Andre was our City Mangler/manager.

Dear Sun,

In your last edition of the Klondike Sun was an article that I wrote advertising a speaker that was to be in town. The speaker was Rudy Reyes and he was sponsored by Crossroads Treatment Centre. There was very little other advance notice of the engagement and I would have suspected that a speaker on the topic of alcoholism on a beautiful summer's evening would not be a great public attraction. Instead there were 30-40 people in attendance and I am sure that it is largely a result of your wide and thorough readership. My distinct impression is that a lot of Dawson and its suburbs read the Klondike Sun from cover to cover as soon as it hits the stands. And this produced the diverse turnout.

I hope that this letter will encourage potential advertisers to use your newspaper as an information resource and I wish you continued success in your very worthwhile efforts.

Yours truly,

Bonnie Lyn Nordling

Community Addiction Worker



by Audrey McLaughlin

Young People Speak Out

In the last year Canada has experienced many growing pains but on July 1, no matter if you lived in Dawson City, Halifax, Kamloops or Lloydminster, this was a day to put our differences aside and look with hope for a better future.

Celebrations were taking place in various parts of the world -- even in Tokyo where more than 1,000 Canadians celebrated the first Canada Day in more than a decade at the new Canadian Embassy.

Throughout the weekend at the Canadian Showcase in Ottawa, various entertainers from across Canada demonstrated their talents, including Yukon's own "Rinkbinders". Band members Bernie Phillips, Manfred Janssen, Barbara Chamberlin, Ivan Zenovitch and Scott Lyle brought a little of the Yukon to the nation's capital.

Canada's 124th birthday marked a new beginning for many. Citizenship ceremonies were held across the country as Canada opened her arms to new Canadian citizens. In the Yukon, 38 people representing 14 countries received their Canadian Citizenship.

I hope Dawsonites and visitors had a very happy Canada Day.

Over the last year, I received many letters from Yukon children who expressed their concerns on numerous topics. Their comments were most enlightening. The same fresh approach can be found in a separate report of the Citizen's Forum on Canada's Future entitled "Young People Speak".

Their comments range from sensitive to humorous but the all have one thing in common: the sincerity of a youth that wants to share a common future.

You can feel the anguish in comments such as the one from a grade 7 student in Mississauga, Ontario, "I go through the day thinking and hoping my parents won't come home jobless."

There is also wry humor. A grade 12 student from Rocanville, Saskatchewan asks "If Quebec leaves, does Brian Mulroney go with it?"

Grade 5 and 6 Yukon students, from Carcross, compared Canada to our human senses. "Canada is a beautiful country that has two territories and ten provinces. Most of the lakes are clean and have fish in them. There are big

Report From Ottawa

green trees that sway in the breeze. When you look around you see vehicles, but that doesn't spoil most of the beauty. There are many religions in Canada, (such) as, Jewish, Muslim, Christian, etc. When you smell the air you could smell the forest, the food, animals and nature. The feels you would feel could be branches, snow, pavement, and (the) ground. If you tried to taste Canada you could taste the beauty and uniqueness of this special place."

Just as there are four cycles in life, grade three students in Whitehorse saw the four seasons of Canada "Dear Canada Dressed in red and white, the heart of your face has a pleasant maple taste. On your birthday, July 1, people will be celebrating you. In the summer, you smile. In the winter, your complexion becomes white. In the fall, your maple leaf quivers. In the spring, you seem ready to take a shower every time it rains."

The last message I want to leave you with is from a grade 7 student from Grand Falls in Newfoundland. In a few sentences, this youth sunned up frustrations about the current way adults are handling youths' inheritance.

"Meech Lake, the war, taxes, Hibernia, and the list goes on. Yes, (it is our) future you are messing up. What do you think we are going to do: sit back and watch? We want to help but it seems the grownups have or had it under control. That's why we had a war and that's why we almost lost Quebec and that's why there's tax on a can of Pepsi!...."

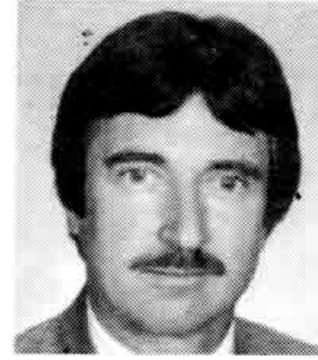
In my August 1990 column in the Klondike Sun I gave examples to illustrate the importance of an Official Community Plan, and urged all residents to get involved in the process to develop one. Fortunately many of you did participate by offering comments on the draft plan for the physical, social and economic development of Dawson City. Following the last public meeting on December 13, 1990, a Proposed Plan was released for review, and as a result of several interventions received by the Yukon Municipal Board, the Board has decided to hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 31.

While I personally have many concerns with the Proposed Official Community Plan, I want to focus on two which should be of interest to all residents.

The first relates to the economic health of our community; specifically the promotion of tourism. The Plan correctly notes that additional commercial services and facilities must be made available to meet the increasing demands of visitors if tourism is to realize its potential to play a stronger role in our local economy. There are, however, some elements of the Proposed Plan which may not contribute to achieving this end.

Take for example the third principle of the section entitled "Tourism Development". It reads: "New commercial developments which cater whole or in part to tourist users shall ensure adequate parking facilities." This introduces conditions which may present major practical difficulties for the establishment of new businesses. After all, most commercial developments in Dawson "cater whole or in part to tourist users", and what constitutes "adequate parking facilities"?

Similarly, principles 4 and 5 under the section entitled "Transportation and Parking" state: "New development shall



Words From Webster

provide sufficient parking to meet demand during non-summer periods", and "New commercial developments which cater whole or in part to tourist users shall ensure adequate parking facilities are available for recreation vehicles." Again, how much space will be required to provide "sufficient parking", what are "adequate parking facilities for recreation vehicles", and who decides? Is it necessary for summer only tourism operations to provide parking during winter? In summary, a host of yet undefined requirements for new businesses to provide parking do not offer much certainty or incentive for prospective investors to give serious consideration to starting a business in Dawson City.

The second area of concern relates to public parks. Late August I suggested in my article that the land use designation in the "North Slide" area should permit the creation of a public park "to further advance the establishment of a parks system extending to Crocus Bluff and into the Klondike Valley, all connected by walk/bike/ski trails." In the Proposed Plan, however, the North Slide is identified as a "Special Planning Area" which may permit commercial uses without a guarantee of public input in assessing proposals for such development. And despite public calls for protection of Crocus Bluff, most of it is designated as "Rural Residential".

Judging from comments made

at the December 13 meeting and from my conversations with residents, the vast majority are opposed to these proposed uses for the two areas in question. Consequently, I would argue that redesignation of the North Slide areas "Public Institutional" would be more appropriate since it would allow for the possibility of a public park. For the same reason, I believe it would be appropriate to classify the entire Crocus Bluff area as "Open Space".

What do you think? Should we resolve our parking problem now with a fair solution whereby existing and new businesses, as well as the municipal government, all share responsibility for providing parking for visitors and business customers? Or do we put the full burden of meeting commercial parking requirements on new businesses by means of the Official Community Plan? Should our Official Community Plan accommodate the municipal park system which residents have proposed, or should it close the door forever on that possibility?

What you think about these and other matters related to the Proposed Plan is of critical importance. Remember that your future is in our community, and that the direction for the future growth and development of Dawson City is established by the Official Community Plan. Attend the public meeting on July 31 and express your opinions.



Band Hall Renovations Begin

by Brent Morrison

On Monday June 17th work began on the rebuilding of the Tr'o-Ndik Indian Heritage Centre which had caught fire on Friday, December 16, 1990 in minus forty weather. The Dawson Firefighters prevented the building from being totally destroyed but there was still extensive damage. It was decided that the building, used for several community events, would be restored rather than torn down and rebuilt.

L.G. Oliver Holdings Ltd. was given the contract with mid-September being the estimated completion date. Work began with workers gutting the building and preparing it for further work. The man power will at least double once the project is full underway with

approximately 80% of the construction being done by members of the Dawson Indian Band.

While huge holes had to be torn in the building's side to fight the blaze, damage appears to be less than originally thought. The mural on the north wall by Halin deRepentigny seems virtually unharmed and damage seems confined to one area. The four man crew will continue to haul out the charred remains and prepare the building for more extensive work until early July when the new floor can be installed.

If all goes well the Hall will resume its role as a major asset to the D.I.B. and the town before the first snow fall.

Photo by Brent Morrison



Victory in Gardens Planning Scheme

by Dan Davidson

A long delayed plan to construct a Victory Garden in Dawson has finally received council approval after two community organizations indicated they would be willing to contribute to the annual operations and maintenance costs. The Dawson City Museum and Historical Society and the Royal Canadian Legion have each pledged \$500.00 in annual subscription to help with the upkeep of the new park once it has been constructed. The government of the Yukon will pay the initial capital construction costs of approximately \$55,000.00.

Plans for this garden at the Fifth Avenue and Church Street location, just beside the north end of the Old Territorial Administration Building (home of the Dawson City Museum) and in front of the Father Judge Nursing Station, go back to at least 1983. Capital funding for the project on the order of \$50,000.00 has twice been set aside since the N.D.P. government took power in 1985, but the City of Dawson has balked at the possible cost of the O & M, which it felt might be too heavy for it to bear alone.

During the last eight months a committee made up of the two organizations already mentioned,

plus the Yukon Order of Pioneers, the International Order of the Daughters of the Empire, the Klondike Centennials Society and the committees responsible for Discovery Days, the Gold Show and the Dawson City Music Festival have been meeting to formulate a new approach to the project and gain approval for it.

Chris Sorg, a local businessman who chairs this ad hoc committee, says that the other organizations have also indicated a willingness to contribute funds for yearly expenses, but could not be tied down to a yearly contribution as could the museum society and the Legion.

With these assurances in place, YTG has, through the Minister of Tourism (and Klondike M.L.A.) Art Webster, renewed its offer to provide "sufficient funds to reconstruct the Victory Gardens" in the 1992/93 territorial budget.

City council responded to all this urging and support by not only voting in favour of doing the gardens, but indicating that council would finance the construction work for it this year if YTG would agree to pay back those costs out of next year's budget allocation. This second

resolution was a move to have the facility ready in time for the Alaska Highway's 50th Anniversary traffic next summer.

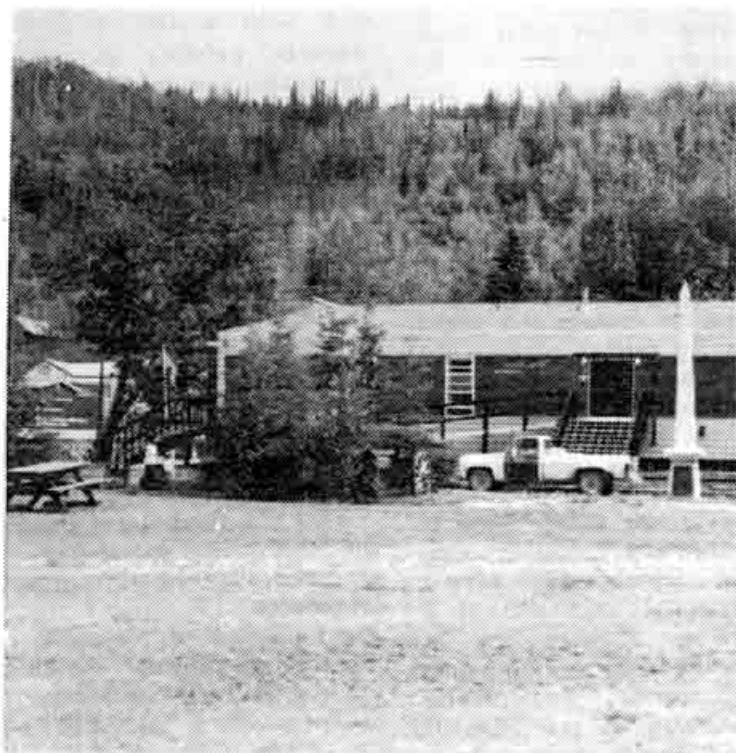
Sorg is very pleased at the outcome of the June 20 council meeting.

"It's unfortunate that it's taken this long, but it's good to see a project for which there is such a broad base of support going ahead." His committee is writing to the YTG to endorse the city's request to begin the work this summer.

He is excited about the nature of the cost-sharing partnership involved and hopes that it can be the basis for other projects.

The gardens, when reconstructed, will assume the basic shape of a square, with a criss-cross path dividing it into four quadrants, centered by a large circular flower garden. One quadrant will be devoted to the existing war memorial cenotaph, while the others have yet to be planned in any detail.

Sorg says a public meeting will be held soon to discuss various plans and arrangements that might become part of the final plan.



This area in Front of the Nursing Station is the place where the old Victory Gardens used to be, and where it is hoped the new one will be made.

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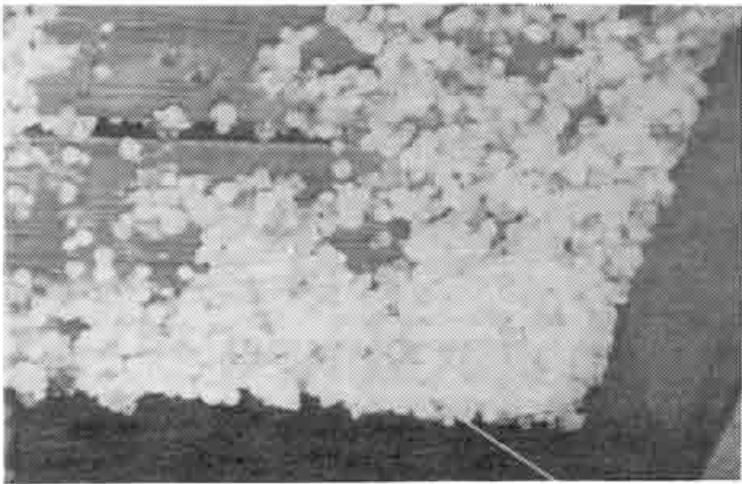


Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

by Brent Morrison

At approximately 5:35 pm July 4th Dawson was hit by a brief but intense hail/rain storm. Severe storms producing golf ball sized hail stones have been recorded in Eastern Canada during the last few weeks, so the Dawson storm was mild by comparison, but still spectacular.

The storm had been building for most of the day and came with a sudden fury, appearing

simply as a thunder shower at first. Within minutes the noise of the storm made it obvious this was more than just rain as tiny pea sized chunks of ice pelted the town.

By 5:45 the worst of the storm was over as it slowly tapered off to mere rain. Piles of the hail stones were to be found, but they seemed to have caused no damage. The rain came and went during the evening, but by Friday the sky had cleared for another hot summer day.

They Just Keep on Rollin':

Antiques From Alaska

by Jennifer Williams

Most visitors travel to Dawson by automobile but judging from people's stares when four Model A Fords cruised into town - some vehicles are more noteworthy than others.

Even in areas with milder climates it is rather unusual to see a 1931 Model A pick up, a 1930 Model A Town Sedan and two 1929 Model A's (one a Tudor sedan and the other a roadster) casually clustered together in a parking lot.

However the cars looked right at home in front of Dawson's historic buildings and the drivers seemed quite unperturbed by all the attention when they rolled into town on June 25th.

They and their families, an entourage which totalled 12 people and included one support van, began their 1000 mile round trip in Anchorage, stopping in roadhouses such as Gakona Lodge on the way. Although they hail from various regions in Alaska all the drivers are members of

the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska, a chapter of the Antique Auto Club of America.

The idea for the tour stemmed from a similar 'drive-about' that Ken and Peg Stout joined in Missouri last year. Driving a 1926 Model T Ford they were one of 60 antique cars that covered over 2000 miles in 17 days.

Despite the age of the vehicles there have been few mechanical difficulties as the convoy made its way along the Top of the World highway. The cars are well taken care of and a great deal of time went into preparing for the long drive.

Hank Raymond, the owner of a 1931 Model A pick up that used to belong to the Territorial Road Commission (before Alaska became a state), began working on his engine in February. Betty Dickenson, the person in charge of planning the itinerary, gently ribbed him about his last minute fine tuning.

The night before departure



Hank had yet to put a new roof on his prized auto but he assured Betty that the engine was "90% rebuilt". When the group arrived the next morning to pick him up Hank was holding the carburettor in his hand. Without a missing a beat he grinned at his friends' reminder and said, "You guys were late, what took you so long?"

An eclectic and fun-loving bunch with a variety of backgrounds (the group includes an airline pilot, a full-time homemaker, two teachers, retired military personnel, a State of Alaska Highway Dept. official and several students) they all agreed on two things; Dawson is a great place to visit and it is their qualified opinion (formed through hard earned experience) that Canadian roads are far better than their Alaskan counterparts.

In any case, in this day of cellular phones and air-conditioning it's great to see people going the extra mile with historic authenticity.

Dawson's Approaching Water Crisis

by Dan Davidson

Ask Mayor Peter Jenkins about expenses in the Dawson City budget, and he comes to the point very quickly. The point is sewer and water. Out of last year's budget of about \$4 million, the sewer and water system ate approximately half. This year, with an operational budget of \$5,244,855.00, the budget couldn't keep up with the need for expansion of and repairs to the system, and so Dawson has borrowed \$1.6 million from the YTG to cover new capital expenses plus repairs.

The repairs will be focused on three main streets, Third and Sixth Avenues and Front Street, where eight inch mains constructed of inadequate pipe are collapsing to the point where a six inch ball passed through the line in what is called a "pigging test" will not pass.

The crisis for council is the need to get the repairs done before the declining guarantee built into the agreement that gave Dawson ownership of the system runs down too much further.

The other urgency in the system has been created by Dawson's unprecedented growth.

"We're ten years ahead of growth," Jenkins told a recent council meeting. "We've reached where the YTG said we'd be at the turn of the century."

That means that the well is too small, the pressure in the water lines (on a system designed for the use of bleeders) is diminishing and the sewage treatment facilities are inadequate.

Jenkins is very blunt and graphic about the diminished pressure and capacity. He says that water volumes are getting so low that the fire department would have trouble fighting a major fire in either the Westmark Hotel complex or the Old Territorial Administration Building, which houses the Dawson City Museum.

Sources within the volunteer fire department, who would prefer not to be quoted, indicate that with the system's capability for diversion of pressure and flow, even those buildings could be

handled successfully.

The problem is real enough, though, even if the example is a bit extreme, so the city is digging a new well, and putting a second story on the water tower.

Some at the council meeting suggested that these moves, while needed, weren't enough, that it was time to look at water conservation.

Byron Shandler made a number of suggestions, which included raising the fees for commercial establishments, and installing meters in them for a year first, to get a true picture of water use.

One of Dawson's problems is the system's design, which has to maintain a minimum flow of water in order to avoid freezing up. In the winter that means bleeders and an average flow of 40 litres per second. In the summer it drops to between 20-27 litres per second. That's still a lot of water. How much is really necessary was something no one at the meeting seemed to know.

Shandler, Councillor Tim Gerberding and even the mayor seemed to think that finding out might be a good idea. For one thing all three men agree on, if nothing else, the problem isn't going away and it's going to get worse before it gets better.

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4th Saturday of every month.

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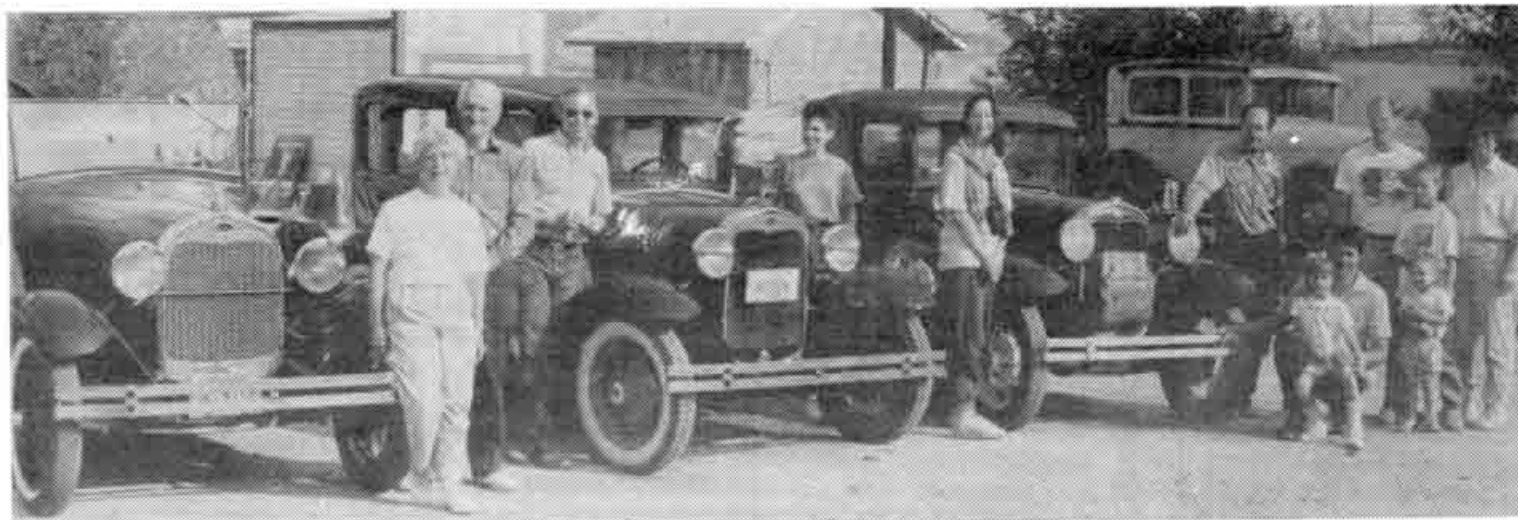


Photo by Jennifer Williams



ELLA'S TRAVEL TIPS

By Ella Patay

The liability of an air carrier, as well as a tour operator, does not extend to those events over which it has no control. Such events, frequently called "acts of God", involve three prerequisites: The event must be unpredictable, unpredictable and irresistible. This list is not an either/or situation -- all three conditions must be present simultaneously. The universal examples of "acts of God" include earthquakes, legal strikes, snowstorms, etc. Other examples are Civil War and Revolution. A very recent judgement analyzed the events and law concerning a flight to Haiti.

Just prior to the return flight, the President of Haiti resigned and all kinds of political problems occurred. On the day

scheduled for passengers to return, there was violence, barricades and general social unrest throughout the country.

Considering there was a shortage of fuel in Haiti, a semi-Revolution around the airport, and that the ground staff had advised the pilot that if the plane landed they would no longer be on duty, the court came to the conclusion that the carrier had done everything possible to fulfill its obligations. It could not be held responsible because it had been impossible to land. As a result, the Plaintiff's action for damages could not be upheld. On the other hand, since passengers had not used the return portion of their trips, the court ordered the carrier to reimburse one half the cost of the ticket.

From a legal perspective, it is

also interesting to note that reconfirming departure times is the passengers responsibility. It is highly recommended that a passenger reconfirm, dates at least 72 hours in advance of their flight. The reason for this, especially in view of international flights, is that when there are schedule changes they are usually radical and may change by days.

HOTS TIPS

Seat Sale announced in Western Canada. Example fare - Whitehorse - Vancouver rtn/ midweek travel \$301.00 base fare, must be booked before July 22 / expiry 08 September.

performance talent but it is a shame her villain character, one of the most important stock characters of a melodrama, was not dramatically developed in the script. Miss Heath tries to develop a build to the evil deed but it has taken second place to the love themes and one line jokes running throughout the play.

The love theme is much stronger this year and there are jokes pushed to the limit, pushing our imaginations to the limit.

I did have many hearty laughs and goodness does triumph over evil and the hero gets the girl - most of the main ingredients for a standard melodrama, and an enjoyable evening. The Gaslight Follies runs from Wednesday to Monday, alternating the Variety show with the Melodrama.

Editors' Note: Mistakenly we left a line out from the review "A Variety of Entertainment in Dawson" last month. The article about The Gertie's Show should have included, "This marks Julie's fifth year as dancer and she is Dance Captain." Our apologies to the writer and also to Julie.

Just For Laughs

Melodrama opening Thursday
June 6th, 1991

Gaslight Follies, Palace Grand Theatre

by Patricia Henman

There is nothing deep, nothing heavy, nothing dramatic about Stillwater Willies' Production of 'Who Got the Gold' or 'There'll Be a Hot Time in the Out House Tonight'. It is pure entertainment and that is what it is meant to be.

The show has been re-written to a certain degree by Craig Moddle, the producer, and the members of the cast. Last year's Land Deed Theft is this year's Gold Poke Theft.

The opening sequence of exposition has been lengthened (or seemed to be) and is far too long before it hits its 'gag'. Kim Norman, playing Nell Out, has her timing down, she just didn't have any help from the prolonged prologue.

Bill Hosie, playing Warren Out, has comic timing and vocal expertise that is a pleasure to

experience. He has an endearing way with the audience. Grant Hartwick only has enough in the show to let you know that if he had a bigger role he'd really entertain us. Edward Belanger was very comfortable with his Stan D. Upright character. As the young lovers, Mr. Belanger and Miss Norman have two duets. The first duet is a lively up-tempo love song - a real contrast from the standard duet the Gaslight Follies have been using in the past few years.

You have to hand it to Bill Costin, the musician, and his co-writer lyricists. Most lyrics are very witty. Mr. Hosie's solo has been rewritten from last year with more sophisticated phrasing.

Kim Tuson has a solo to showcase a strong chest voice. Her song did seem to come from nowhere, even more so than most musical comedies. With very little acting credits behind her, Ms. Tuson managed to pull Miss Carry D'Way off as an adrogeous character with likeable qualities.

Zoe Heath as Velma Von Vermon, has obvious

Dawson City Museum



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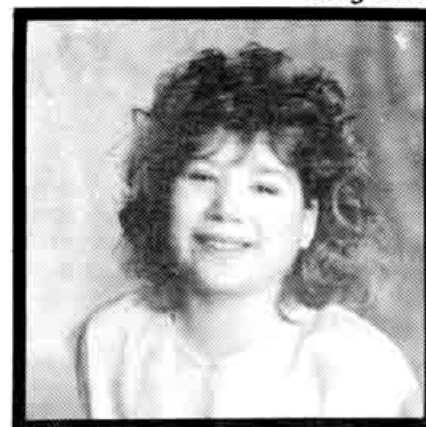
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July 20th 1991



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WE OFTEN SPEAK YOUR NAME,
ALL WE HAVE ARE HAPPY MEMORIES
AND YOUR PICTURE IN A FRAME,
OUR HEARTS STILL ACHE WITH SADNESS,
OUR TEARS STILL FREELY FLOW,
FOR WHAT IT MEANT TO LOSE YOU
NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW.
YOUR ABSENCE LEFT US MISSING
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Facts on AIDS

HOW PEOPLE GET INFECTED

A person is infected with HIV when the virus gets into the blood. People get infected:

1. Through sexual activity,
 2. Getting infected blood into their blood stream,
 3. From mother to baby.
- During sexual activity, the virus can be passed along through the semen or vaginal fluid.

Coming in contact with infected blood most often happens through the sharing a needle for injecting drugs.

A pregnant woman who carries the HIV can pass the virus to her baby during pregnancy or birth.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

People who have more than one sexual partner are more likely to come in contact with the virus that leads to AIDS. Sexual activities that include the mouth or anus are dangerous. Any skin or tissue damage could allow the virus to enter the blood.

Your choices are:

1. To not have sex,
2. To have only one sexual partner.
3. To not use intravenous drugs; or
4. To make sure all needles are sterilized and to not share needles.
5. To use a condom every time you have sex. Condoms are not a sure protection but they can reduce the risk of passing the virus between partners. The best condoms are latex with a spermicidal lubricant.

YOU CANNOT GET AIDS FROM:

- touching, shaking hands, hugging, or kissing;
- sharing dishes and cutlery or eating in restaurants;
- using pools, toilets, drinking fountains, public washrooms, hot tubs or saunas;
- sneezing, nose blowing or coughing;
- mosquito bites;

In Canada, blood is examined by the Red Cross and the risk of getting AIDS through blood transfusion is very low.

For further information contact the Father Judge Memorial Nursing Station, they can answer questions or direct you to printed material. There is also a Toll Free AIDS Hotline at 1-800-661-0507.



AIDS Lecture Controversial

by Jennifer Williams

Combine the question of information control in public school with the issue of AIDS awareness, mix in some discussion on teenage sexual activity and you have a guaranteed recipe for controversy. Such was the outcome of an open forum held on June 18th at the Robert Service School when Lisa Tremblay, the Yukon AIDS Program Coordinator, gave a presentation.

The talk consisted of a straight forward explanation of what AIDS and HIV are, how people can and cannot contract the HIV virus (the precursor to AIDS), what the symptoms are, how the virus runs its course and how people can protect themselves.

"Abstinence is the only guaranteed way to avoid contracting the virus through sexual contact," said Tremblay. However, she was quick to add that Dawsonites who are sexually active should be practicing 'safer sex' (as opposed to safe sex), which means using condoms and spermicidal gel.

Tremblay asserted that "as adults we need to: provide explicit factual information, acknowledge the high level of sexual activity among adolescents, provide information and promote infection-avoiding behaviour, make condoms accessible, promote tolerance for homosexuality and compassion for people with the virus."

The point of contention at the meeting rested on the concern expressed by several individuals that encouraging safer sex and distributing free condoms would appear to students as endorsing sexual activity among teenagers. These same individuals also felt that the failure rate of condoms was not stressed enough in the AIDS information material available.

Responding to the concern about the safety of condoms Tremblay stated that the failure rate was rarely product failure (there are strict quality control regulations in Canada, only 4 failures per 1000 tested are allowed and the average is 2.3). More often condoms are ineffective at preventing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (S.T.D.) because people do not know how to use them properly or they cannot do so because they are too drunk or high, according to Tremblay.

She feels it is more important to act upon the findings of a study done in 1989 by Queens University which concluded that compared to their peers across Canada Yukon teenagers have sex earlier and have more partners.

While acknowledging that condoms are not foolproof, and definitely not the answer in themselves to what is a social rather than a technical problem, she feels they are an important part of slowing the spread of the AIDS epidemic. To date there are 50,000 people in Canada who

have tested HIV positive, and 4000 individuals diagnosed with AIDS. Approximately 20% of those with AIDS were infected during their teenage years.

There is some proof that the ready availability of condoms may diminish rather than spur sexual activity among teenagers, as their presence serves as a regular reminder that unprotected or careless sex can have devastating consequences.

Tremblay cited an article that appeared in the Edmonton Journal this April which discussed the results of a study done on a high school that had installed condom machines in its bathrooms. Apparently the overall level of sexual activity dropped among the Grade 11 and 12 students surveyed and 25% of the sexually active students were more likely to use condoms.

One point everyone seemed to agree on was that self-esteem and assertiveness training should begin in elementary school so that kids would be better able and prepared to resist peer pressure. Simple exercises such as role playing how to say 'no' might foreseeably go a long way in helping adolescents make decisions they feel comfortable with.

Lisa Tremblay has a university degree and a background in adult education, women's and social services. She has been in the Yukon for over three years and was first hired by the Territory to work on AIDS education two years ago. Bonnie Boyde has recently joined Lisa in the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre in Whitehorse where the Yukon AIDS Program has its headquarters. The objectives of the program are twofold: the main focus is education and prevention, spreading information to slow the spread of the HIV virus; the other goal is to start planning support services for infected Yukoners.

"The biggest obstacle," said Tremblay, "is making people aware that AIDS isn't a disease that is found only in big cities, Outside and to someone else, although acceptance is slowly growing."

Attendance at the meeting was poor considering the importance of the topic. A decision will be made in the Fall by the Council (of whom 3 members were present at the meeting) as to whether the students should see Lisa's presentation. Last October Ms. Tremblay had been invited to Dawson by the School Council

President Robert Van Rump to meet with parents and answer any questions they might have about AIDS. Extenuating circumstances, such as snow storms, forced her visit to be postponed until June.

Between meetings Rump learned that Tremblay would be in town for several days and after consulting with the school principal Carol McCauley he asked Tremblay if she would also animate a discussion with the students. At the next School Council meeting it was discovered that the majority of the members felt uneasy about the arrangement and since there was no longer time for letters of permission to be sent home the decision, and the possibility of a presentation on AIDS was postponed until next academic year. This situation has angered some residents who feel that the summer is when information on the latest and deadliest S.T.D. is most needed. One mother of grown children said that she had taught her children to make "informed decisions." When interviewed over the telephone late last week Rump was philosophical, "this issue has been dealt with in the past and will be dealt with again."

Lisa Tremblay : Yukon AIDS Program Coordinator

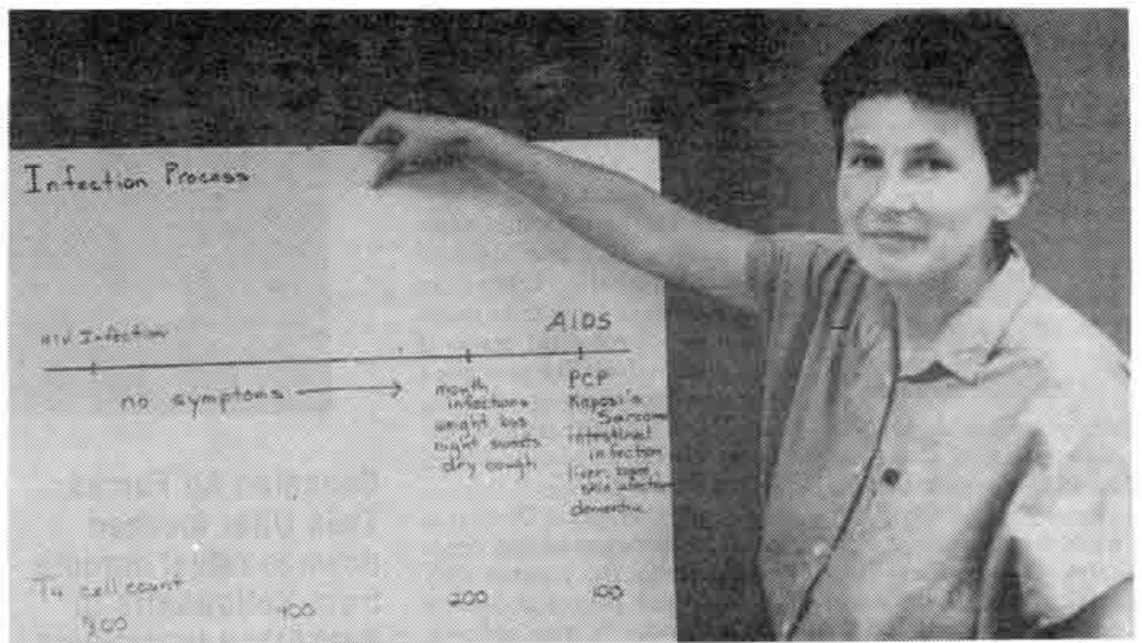


Photo by Jennifer Williams

Nursing Station Offers HIV Testing Dawson Not Immune to AIDS Threat

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is not a disease that exists only on the Outside or just among the homosexual community. To date there have been four individuals in the Yukon who have tested HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) positive, two of whom have developed full-blown AIDS and one of those two has since died. Despite Dawson's relatively small population base there is cause to be careful. It only takes one indiscreet person

to visit or return to the area with the virus to start a devastating chain reaction.

Once the virus is here, if it is not already, it could spread rapidly, as was the case after the introduction of chlamydia to the area. There is a relatively high percentage of people with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in Dawson, says Nurse Charlotte Thompson, which would suggest that a number of sexually active residents have more than one partner.

Just as in big urban centres there are also intravenous drug users in town who put themselves at risk of contracting and transmitting AIDS by sharing needles.

For these reasons, among others, the Nursing Station began voluntary AIDS testing last fall. Like STD testing this service is free and confidential.

**See next issue
for more information**

Returning to the Scene of the Child

by Jennifer Williams

After 75 years and travelling all over the world Mrs. Ruth Lewis (nee Ahlert) returned to visit her birthplace. Born in a log cabin on the A.C. (Alaskan Commercial) trail, she lived in Dawson City between 1906 and 1916.

New Klondiker in the Camp

Fred Ahlert of the grocery firm of Ahlert and Forsha is the most important man in Dawson today. He is the father of the newest Klondiker. The little one is a daughter. The new arrival reached the city at midnight last night under the careful direction of Dr. Robertson. Dad is busy today attending to the happy details of life as a father. Cousin Thelma is overjoyed, and Uncle Carl Forsha is presiding at the smoke box on behalf of the health of the new relations; mother and babe are in the best of condition. (Dawson Daily News, Friday March 2nd, 1906, page 1)



Photo by Jennifer Williams

Her father, Fredrick Ahlert, and her uncle, Carl Forsha, ran a grocery store, in the building still standing at the corner of Third Avenue and King Street, now Klondike Kate's.

She admits to experiencing some disappointment over the changes to the town she knew as a child, but had prepared herself for such feelings. In the Dawson she recalls there were few empty lots and the Palace Grand was a movie theatre.

Mrs. Lewis received a formal and informal education in Dawson. She attended the Dawson Public School for three years and her first teacher was

Laura Beatrice Berton, author of *I Married the Klondike* and whose son is the famous Canadian writer Pierre Berton. One year illness forced young Ruth to miss classes and she fondly remembers a rotund pony named Dolly with whom she explored the town - a learning experience in itself.

When she was ten years old her family returned to Pasadena, where she still resides. She strongly recollects the day in 1918 when the devastating news arrived by the evening paper that the Princess Sophia had sunk. In

one blow she lost many schoolmates and family friends.

However over the years Mrs. Lewis managed to maintain ties with Dawson City, through friends and memories. Finally the tug of her first hometown proved irresistible and she visited this summer in early June, accompanied by her cousin Dorothy DesLaurier whose mother Thelma Forsha was also born in Dawson City. Mrs. Lewis is a delightful lady whose story is part of the fascinating collection that is Dawson City's history.

Whitehorse Sails on the Trip South

The (steamer) Whitehorse got away at 1:30 p.m. this afternoon for Whitehorse. The following passengers were aboard:Mrs. J.H.F. Ahlert, Ruth Ahlert (Dawson Daily News, Wednesday, October 4th, 1916, page 1)

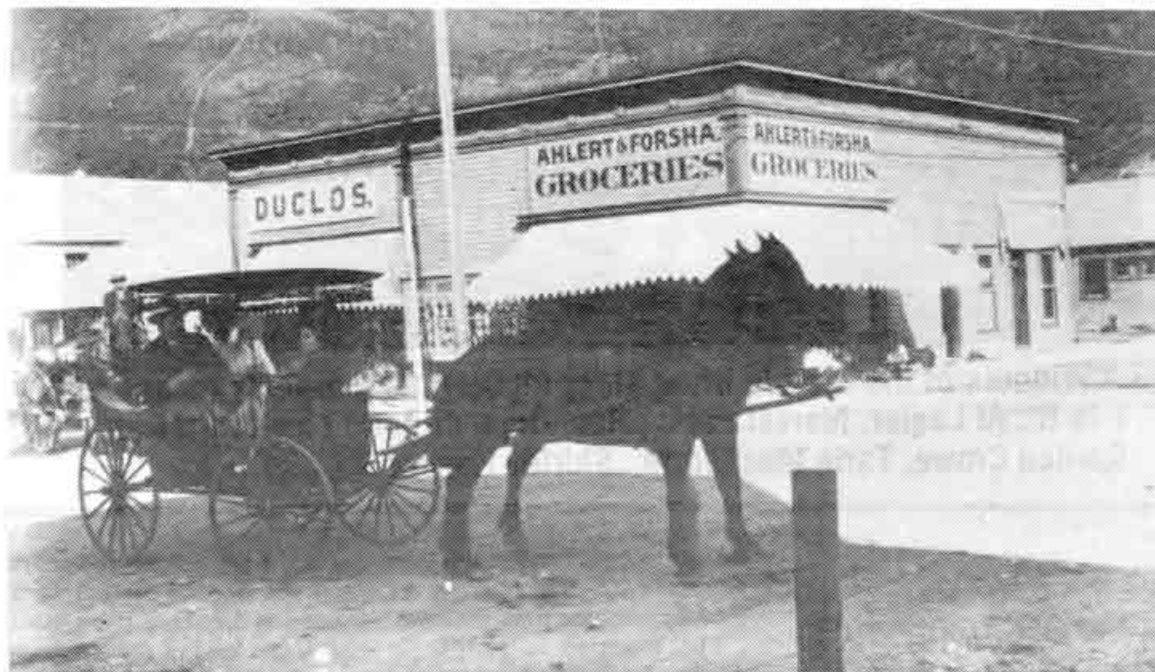


Photo Credit: Yukon Archives #762 - the Ahlert and Forsha Grocery Store 1904.

KLONDIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES ATTRACTIONS 1991 SEASON

PALACE GRAND THEATRE

SCHEDULED TOURS

May 23 - May 31 3:00 p.m.
June 1 - June 10 1:00 - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
August 28 - September 15 1:00 - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. daily

CONTINUOUS TOURS

June 11 - August 28 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily

INTERPRETIVE SPECIALS

June 24 - August 23 1:30 p.m. daily
Talks, Slide Shows, Movies, Walks

MATINEE SPECIAL

July 01 - August 19 3:30 p.m. Wed. - Fri. - Sun.

MOVIE: CITY OF GOLD

May 23 - September 15 2:30 p.m. daily

GASLIGHT FOLLIES: VARIETY SHOW / MELODRAMA

May 24 - September 08 8:00 p.m. No show Tuesdays

STEAMER KENO

WALKING TOURS

May 23 - September 15 : Will be included as part of the Town Core Walking Tours.

OAK HALL

MARIONETTE PUPPET SHOW

July 02 - August 24 3:30 p.m. Tues. - Thurs. - Sat.

OLD POST OFFICE

MAIL DROP, STAMP SALES, INFORMATION

June 06 - September 03 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. daily
By Contract

HARRINGTON'S STORE

PHOTO EXHIBIT

May 24 - June 17 1:00 - 5:30 p.m. daily
June 15 - August 31 Included in Walking Tour
September 01 - September 15 Included in Walking Tour
By Contract

ROBERT SERVICE CABIN

TOURS / READINGS

June 01 - September 15 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Readings : 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Closed 12:00 - 1:00

DREDGE #4 - CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

CAMPGROUND VISITS

PROVIDING INFORMATION ON PARKS, ACTIVITIES
AND ATTRACTIONS : June 11 - August 28 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

VISITORS RECEPTION CENTRE Y.T.G. / PARKS

INFORMATION, SLIDE SHOWS, MOVIES, EXHIBITS
May 23 - September 20 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. daily
Y.T.G. starts May 18 - September 15

GUIDE ORIENTATION - TRAINING June 03 - 05

COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE

Tours Scheduled May 23 - September 15 on Ft. Herchner
Walking Tour : 1st and 2nd floor ; Displays and Photos

FORT HERCHMER WALKING TOUR

Start at Commissioner's Residence

TOURS - May 23 - June 10 4:30 p.m. daily

TOURS - June 11 - August 28 11:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.

TOURS - August 29 - September 15 4:30 p.m. daily

DOWNTOWN CORE TOUR

Start at Visitors Reception Centre

TOURS - May 23 - May 31 1:00 p.m.

TOURS - June 01 - June 10 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

TOURS - June 11 - June 30 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m.

TOURS - July 01 - August 28 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m.

TOURS - August 29 - September 15 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.

1:00 p.m.

FRENCH WALKING TOUR - Start at V.R.C.

TOURS - June 17 - August 31 10:30 a.m. daily

BEAR CREEK

TOURS - June 15 - August 25 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SHOULDER SEASON TOURS

PALACE GRAND, WALKING TOURS, SLIDE SHOW

MOVIE - See Schedule.

LEASES

MME TREMBLEYS DRESS SHOP

June 1 - October 31 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

MME TREMBLEYS SMALL SHOP

May 1 - September 30 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

WINDOW EXHIBITS / DISPLAYS

MME. TREMBLEYS - Ladies Fashion

May 15 - September 30 Full Time

OAK HALL - History on Site and Men's Wear

May 15 - September 30 Full Time

K.T.M. - Mining Items

May 15 - September 30 Full Time

V.R.C. - Showcase, Rifles, Items on the Store in Shelving

May 10 - September 25 Full Time

RUBY'S - History on Site and Ruby

May 1 - September 30 Full Time

DAWSON DAILY NEWS - History on Site and Activities

May 1 September 30 Full Time

DOWNTOWN HOTEL - May 1 - Year Round Full Time

AIRPORT - Year Round Full Time

OFFICE LOBBY - Year Round Full Time

COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE - Photos / Furniture

As per Fort Herchner Tour May 23 - September 30

B.N.A. BANK - Part of Town Core Walking Tour

May 23 - September 30

PALACE GRAND THEATRE - Bar Area / Kate's Room

May 23 - September 30 as per Palace Grand

LOWE'S - Window Display May 15 - September 30

ENVIRONMENT WEEK - June 03 - June 08

PARKS DAY - July 21

GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIP - July 01

Singing His Praise

by Jennifer Williams

Harry Rusk has overcome many misfortunes in his life but refuses to accept any of the credit. At an open meeting June 22nd in the Y.O.O.P. hall this charismatic evangelist filled the air with songs and stories expressing his wonderment at the works of his God.

In a testimony brimming with wit and conviction he shared with the audience just how he felt God had guided his life. Born in Fort Nelson B.C., and a member of the Slave tribe, tuberculosis took a terrible toll on his family. By the time he was 16 years old he had lost his father, mother and only brother to the disease. Years spent in a sanatorium left him with a weakened body and little formal education.

Equipped with only the lingering advice of his father (who had been a trapper) to "learn all you can because it isn't heavy to pack around" Rusk embarked on an odyssey in his

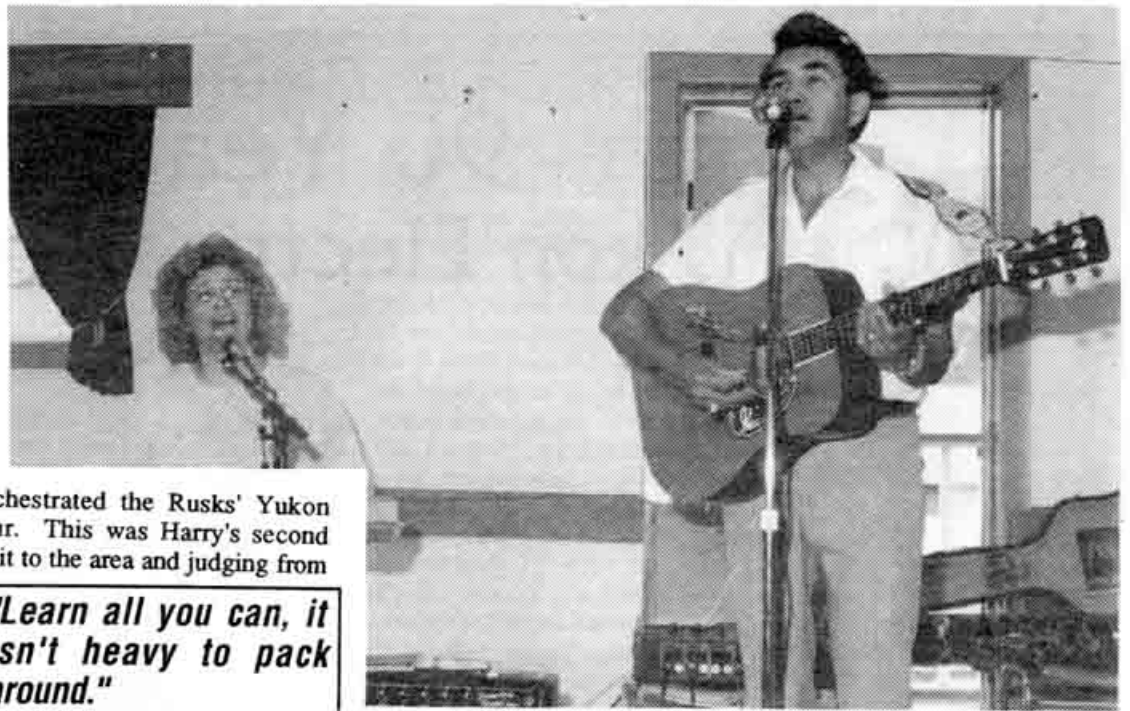
mid-teens that ultimately left him spiritually disoriented. After a series of jobs he was able to realize a dream and turn his longtime hobby of guitar playing into his livelihood.

Unfortunately, the music business proved to be no more of a reprieve for his soul than his previous sojourns into boxing and the army, and he became a heavy drinker.

In 1975 Rusk made an "about face" that he describes as nothing short of miraculous; he accepted God as his "Lord and Saviour". He is quick to point out that he does not affiliate himself with any organized religion or any particular denomination.

For ten years Rusk has been touring, spreading his message across Canada and overseas. Now accompanied by his wife Gladys on keyboards and in his travels, he seems to be at peace with himself.

Dawsonites Ed and Lee Combs



Cynthia and Harry Rusk's musical tribute inspired from above.

orchestrated the Rusks' Yukon tour. This was Harry's second visit to the area and judging from

"Learn all you can, it isn't heavy to pack around."

-Edward Etsuka

his enthusiasm he will return to sing His praise, again.

Appropriate Housing Needed for Second Physician

by Jennifer Williams

Inadequate accommodations for a second physician are thwarting Dr. Parsons' attempts to find someone willing to stay in Dawson City permanently.

In a letter to Mayor Jenkins Parsons states that he believes "it is in the best interest of the community to have a second physician available for longer periods" but that "recruitment and maintenance of a second physician has been impossible to date" due in part to the housing situation.

After five years of solo practice, with intermittent locum physician services during the busier seasons, Dr. Parsons has decided to try to find a full-time partner. He feels that it would be beneficial for the community if individuals had a choice of physicians. Ideally Parsons and his partner would have compatible but different patient management styles which would better suit the diverse needs of all the members of the community.

According to the latest figures available through Yukon Health and Human Resources the average population/physician ratio in the Yukon was 763/1 in 1987, while the Canadian ratio was 539/1. Given that the population of Dawson City



Lone Physician: Dr. Gerard Parsons, Dawson City's only doctor

during the winter has reached 1,800 it is not difficult to imagine the heavy caseload that falls on the shoulders of the only doctor in town.

In the last four months Parsons says he has worked harder than at any other time in his career, including medical school, which is part of the reason why he is willing to split his present salary in order to share all his responsibilities with a permanent partner. Visiting physicians do relieve

part of the workload but because of the time invested in their recruitment and initial orientation to routines and to the community the arrangement is unsatisfactory in the long run.

One of the greatest strains according to Dr. Parsons is being on call twenty-four hours a day. This duty can not be divided even when there is a temporary physician present. At times of crisis patients tend to call the doctor they know best. No matter how reliable the locum physician is it is rare that they will get the telephone calls at all hours of the night and day. The bottom line for Parsons is the sharing of "call" because an over-tired physician will ultimately compromise the health care given. Therefore both the community's and Parsons' well-being will be served by a speedy remedy to the housing problem.

The recent arrival of Dr. Steven Howells and his wife Janet, from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia has made the housing question even more pressing. They are temporarily living in a bachelor suite at the Federally operated nursing residence but such cramped accommodations hardly encourages an extended stay.

"Securing appropriate accommodations is necessary before doctors will commit to staying for longer periods," says Parsons. He adds that by "appropriate" housing he does not mean "anything luxurious" but "something comfortable and attractive".

At the City Council meeting on June 20th there was a formal acknowledgment of Parsons' concern and it was agreed that letters would be written to both Federal and Territorial agencies requesting funding.



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Project Identification: **Project Identification:**

Period Exterior Painting
Oak Hall Clothing Co.
Dawson City, Yukon

Period Exterior Painting
Black House
Dawson City, Yukon

Project Number: **Project Number:**

K4595-91-0006 K4595-91-0008

Project Identification: **Project Identification:**

Period Exterior Painting
Madame Tremblay's Store
Dawson City, Yukon

Period Exterior Painting
C.O.'s Residence
Dawson City, Yukon

Project Number: **Project Number:**

K4595-91-0007 K4595-91-0009

SEALED TENDERS ADDRESSED TO:

Superintendent
Klondike National Historic Sites
P.O. Box 390,
Dawson City, Yukon
Y0B-1G0

Will be received until 4:00 p.m. local time,
July 18, 1991

Tender Documents may be obtained from:

Klondike National Historic Sites
Administration Building
Front Street and Turner
Dawson City, Yukon

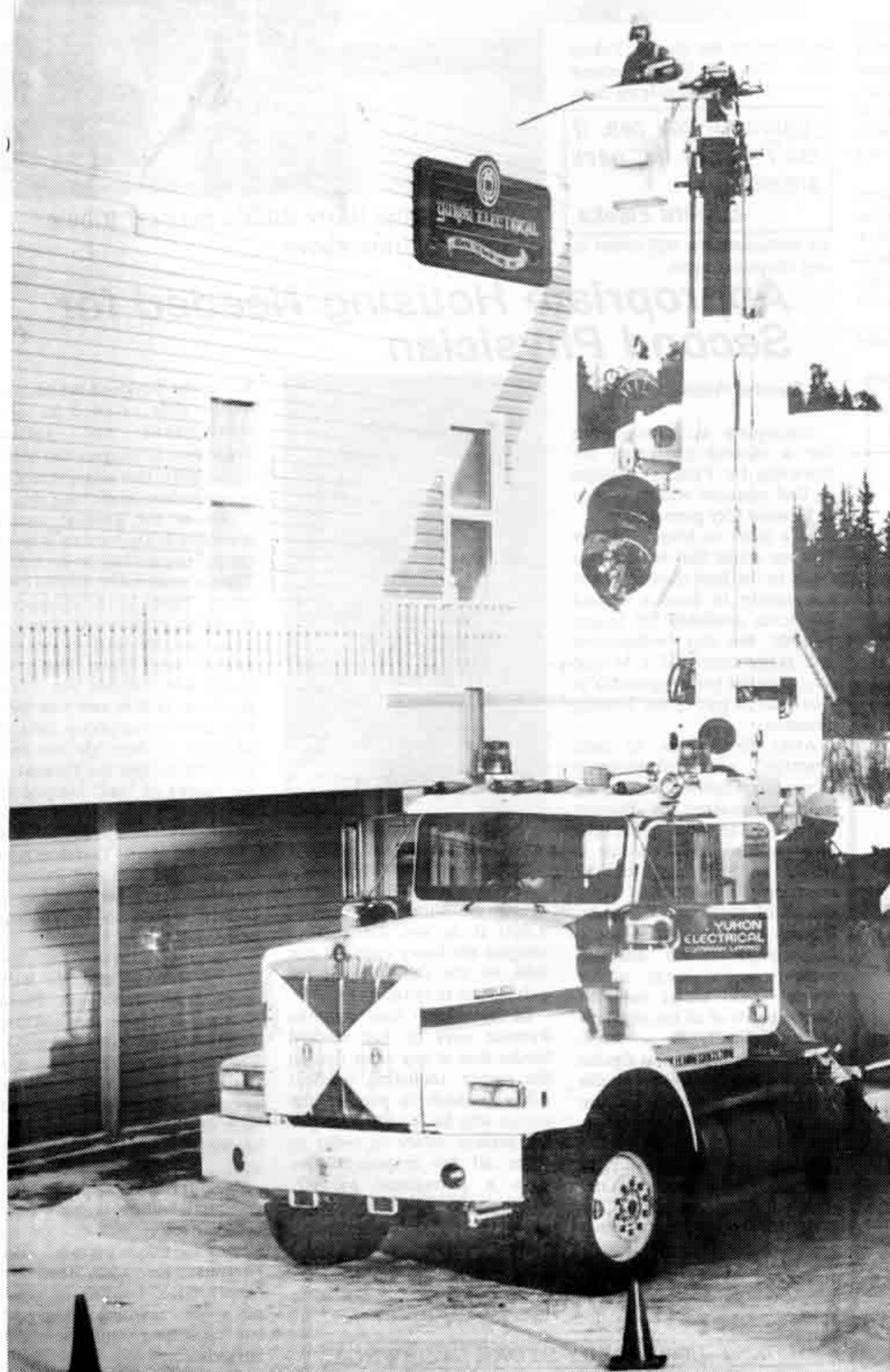
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90 Years North The Yukon Electrical Company Limited



In 1901, when many southerners were still reading their bedtime stories by candlelight, some Yukon residents were having their first experience with electric power. Still considered a novelty by many, electricity certainly helped ease some of the hardships that characterized the "north of 60°" lifestyle.

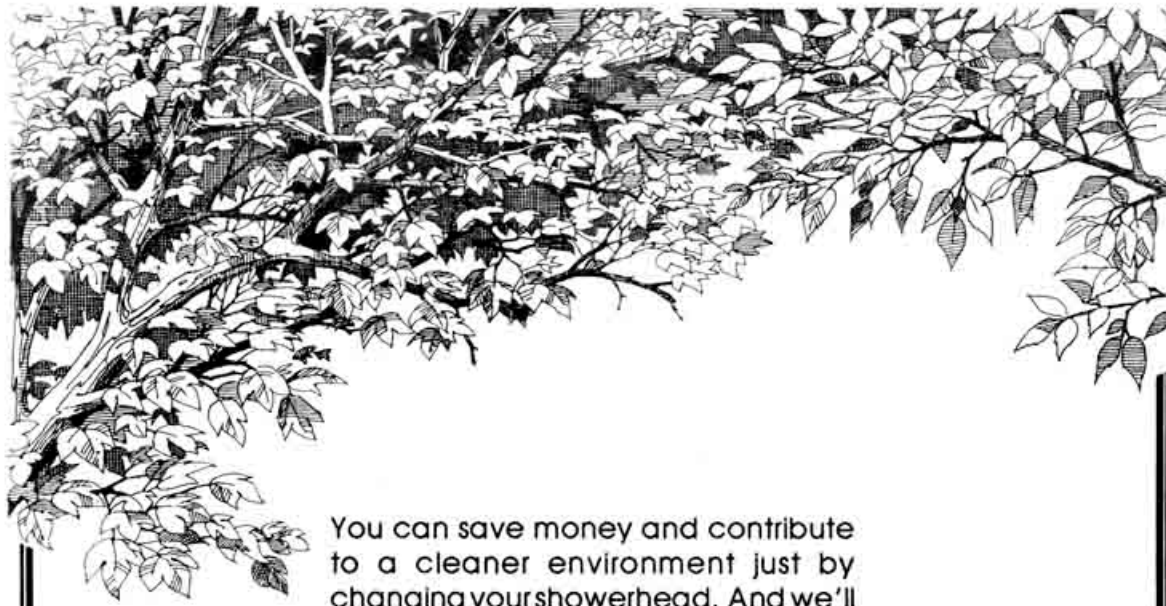
Incorporated on July 2, 1901, The Yukon Electrical Company Limited (YECL) has come a long way since its modest beginnings at the turn of the century. Today, the investor-owned electric utility serves more than 10,600 customers in 18 Yukon communities. The Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC) owns most of the generation and transmission facilities in the Yukon, while YECL, which also owns some facilities, operates and maintains the total system.

While we've certainly changed a great deal over the last nine decades, what's remained the same is our commitment to superior customer service. In those early days of the first electric service, customers enjoyed the benefits of electricity from dusk until midnight. Now, employees are on-call 24 hours a day to serve customers.

Thanks for allowing us the privilege of serving you for 90 years. We look forward to another 90 years of continued service.



1901 - 1991



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LOW-FLOW SHOWERHEADS SAVE ENERGY & MONEY

The Yukon Energy Corporation has invested in a hot water saver program to help customers save money on power bills. We've purchased a number of hot water saver kits, which include a top quality, low-flow showerhead, faucet aerators and tap washers. The kits have a retail value between \$35 and \$45, but until November 30, 1991, you can purchase them for only \$10.00. So, for a \$10 investment, you can save hundreds of dollars over the next few years.

POWER SMART

The kits are available from the Dawson Hardware Company.

YUKON
ENERGY



*Save
a little
Green!*

CREATURE COMFORTS

by Shelley Hakonson



OKAY! I've had enough b.b.q. jokes to last a lifetime. This month's column will be a brief one as I'm a trifle busy. Talk about Spring cleaning! Since desserts are my favourite items to prepare, here's a few summer specials.

Lime Sour Cream Pie (cool and fresh on a hot evening)

CRUST -

1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
1/4 cup butter, melted

Stir together the crumbs and butter in a bowl and press the mixture into the bottom and up the sides of an 8 inch pie plate. Bake the crust in the middle of a preheated 350 F oven for 8-10 minutes. Let cool.

FILLING -

1 1/2 tbsp. freshly grated lime zest
1/2 cup fresh lime juice
1 cup half and half
3/4 cup sugar
2 tbsp. soft butter
5 tbsp. cornstarch
3/4 cup sour cream
Lightly sweetened whipped cream and lime slices for garnish!

In a metal bowl set over a saucepan of barely simmering water, whisk together the zest, lime juice, half and half, sugar, butter and cornstarch and cook the mixture whisking for 5-7 minutes or until it is thickened and opaque. Let the mixture cool completely, fold in the sour cream and pour into the cooled crust. Chill the pie covered for an hour or so and garnish with whipped cream and lime slices.

Fresh Fruit Tart (colourful and impressive)

CRUST -

1 cup unbleached white flour
1 tbsp. sugar
1/8 tsp. salt
5 tbsp. chilled shortening
3 tbsp. chilled butter
3 tbsp. (about) ice water

Combine flour, sugar and salt in a medium bowl. Add shortening and butter and cut in until mixture resembles coarse meal. Mix in enough water by tablespoonfuls to form dough that just comes together. Gather it into a ball and flatten into a disc, wrap in plastic wrap and chill for 30 minutes.

Roll dough out on lightly floured surface to 1/8 inch thick round. Transfer round to a 9 inch diameter tart pan with a removable bottom. Trim and crimp edges. Chill 30 minutes.

FILLING -

1 - 8 oz. package cream cheese at room temp.
1/4 cup sugar
2 1/2 tsp. fresh lemon juice
1/2 cup chilled whipping cream
3 kiwis peeled and sliced
Fresh strawberries hulled and halved
fresh blueberries
fresh orange segments, well drained
(or any other mixture of fruit you wish)


1/4 cup apricot jam or preserves
1 tbsp. water

Preheat oven to 375F. Line tart with foil and fill with dried beans or pie weights. Bake 15 minutes. Remove foil and beans and bake until golden, about 10 minutes. Transfer to a rack and cool completely.

Filling - using electric mixer, beat cream cheese, sugar and lemon juice in a large bowl until well blended. Add whipping cream and beat until light and fluffy. Spread filling in tart shell, cover and chill overnight.

The next day, arrange fruit in concentric circles atop filling (this can be done up to 3 hours ahead). Refrigerate. Bring preserves and water to a boil in heavy small saucepan and strain

into bowl, cool it a little and brush over the fruit.



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Book Review:

by Michael Gates

90 Years North, The Story of the Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. by Flo Whyard and Allen A. Wright; published privately by Y.E.C.; soon to be available in the Dawson Community Library.

Companies which are still operating and can trace their formation back to the goldrush or the early years following the quest for Klondike Gold are more numerous in Whitehorse than in Dawson. One such company, the Yukon Electrical Company Ltd., celebrated its 90th anniversary on July 2nd with the privately published book chronicling the company's innovative history.

Noted Yukon historian, the late Allen A. Wright, was originally commissioned to write the history. The author of *Prelude to Bonanza* had amassed many notes, a rough draft and had first three chapters pretty much together before his death. The company shelved the project temporarily before approaching another successful Yukon author and former editor of the *Whitehorse Star* Flo Whyard, to complete the manuscript. Whyard reports that her greatest pleasure was spending two winters reading through the master files of old *Whitehorse Stars*.

The 500 copies of this hard-bound, company sponsored book are to be distributed to past and present employees, as well as to schools and libraries in the territory.

It's a great private enterprise story that started in 1898, when three visionaries, John Boyd, Arthur Gordon Smith and Jay Reilly started a company in Whitehorse to supply electrical power. They were incorporated with their competition, the Electric Power and Waterworks Co. and the Y.E.C. Ltd. was formed on July 2, 1901.

The company supplied downtown Whitehorse with a steam-powered generator. With little population demand at the time, the rate was \$1 for the first kilowatt hour and 40 cents per kilowatt hour after that. Compare that with today's price of .07 - .07 1/2 per kilowatt hour.

The company was owned in its early years by Whitehorse lawyer Willard Leroy Phelps. In its early years the company weathered the uncertainties of a frontier town heading into the 20th. century, coming into its own during World War 2 and the building of the Alaska Highway. Switching from cranky steamed power generators to hydro in the early 1950's, it now serves 12,000 customers in more than 20 Yukon communities.

In 1958, the company was purchased by Canadian Utilities Ltd., a subsidiary of Alberta Power. Following the construction of the hydro plant at the Whitehorse Rapids in 1958 by the federal owned Northern Canada Power Commission, the

Power Company history

company distributed the power. Plants, or distribution facilities, were constructed in 12 other Yukon and Northern B.C. communities.

In April of 1987, the Yukon government signed a contract with the Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd. that created one power system. The Northern Canada Power Commission facilities throughout the Yukon were acquired by the Yukon government under the auspices of the Yukon Energy Corp. and the Yukon Electric agreed to operate them in addition to its own facilities.

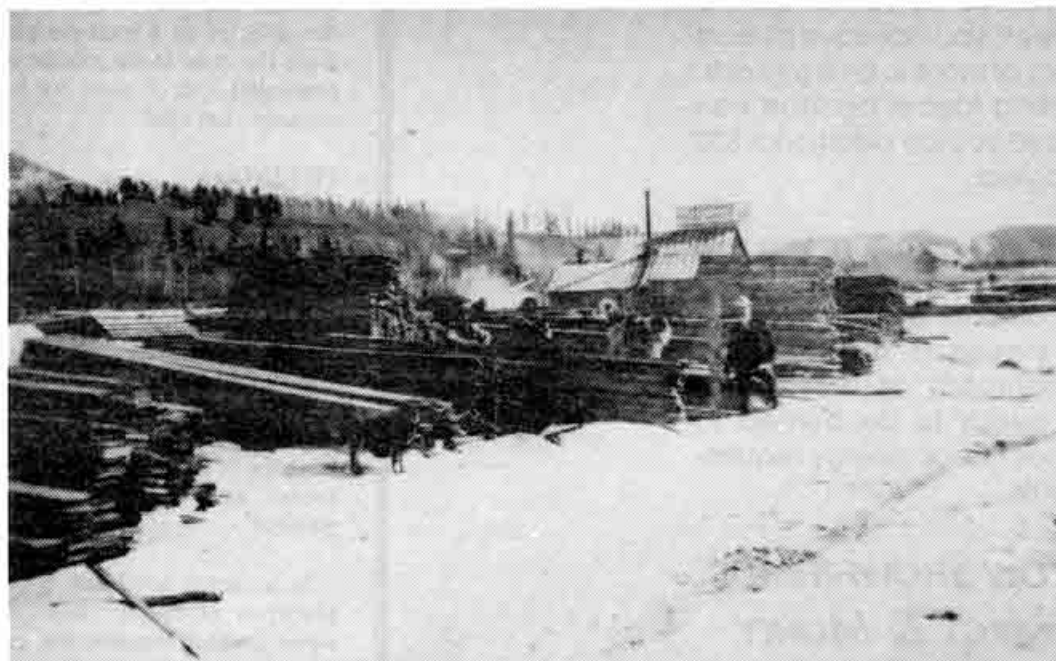
The most important message which comes out of this story is the fact that this is a family company, with the employees its prime asset. Second and third generation family members proudly continue working for the firm today. Under the man-

agement of the Canadian Utilities Co. a succession of young engineers were sent to the Yukon to head the operations. All went on to greater responsibility within the industry, but all reflected upon their Yukon tenure as being the high point of their careers.

Should the Yukon Electrical Company decide to publish more copies of this very entertaining history, it is hoped that a revised book would take care of a number of omissions and errors that appeared. A good map of the current distribution system or the hydro facilities in Whitehorse would have been helpful. An index is a must in any historical publication. On a more serious note, co-author Wright's middle initial is "A" not "E", and misspelled names of A.N.C. Treadgold and Joe Boyle (not

Bugle as the book suggests) as well as the freighting company of Pickering and Greenfield (not Green) are important if only from the historical context. Nor was Treadgold involved in the development of the Canadian Klondike Mining Company; he was associated with its primary competition, the Yukon Gold Company.

Mistakes notwithstanding, the book was made all the more enjoyable by the personal anecdotes, and the very descriptive passages telling of the many challenges, under less than ideal conditions surmounted by this 90 year old company. For once, it was great to read about a company which, over the decades, managed to continue to drop the price of its product!



Shelter Update

Well with summer under way and all the wonderful warm weather, the Shelter's garden is flourishing with an array of organic delights. This communal garden has proved to be a successful volunteer project that gives local women in the community an opportunity to show their support to the Shelter, as well as take advantage at harvest time, when the garden crop will be distributed equally amongst those that helped out.

While on the topic of support, the Shelter will hold its 4th Annual Walk-a-thon on August 3. People are encouraged to participate in this fund-raising event; sponsor sheets are available through the Shelter, with the proceeds going towards the purchase of a vehicle. As the Shelter is a non-profit organization we have a registered charitable tax number that allows us to issue official receipts for income tax purposes. Please show your support, call the Shelter at 993-5086 to make a contribution or mail your donation to: The Shelter, Box 784, Dawson City. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated!

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Library Pages

by John Bilton

Statistics Climb

The months of May and June have disappeared for another year but not before many interesting events happened. Your local library set a record of sorts by circulating a total of 1608 items during the month of May. This was 201 more than the previous high and it shows that more people are using the library than ever before. Even with the hot, hot days of June we were attracting new people to the library to sit and read or just browse.

Summer Helpers

With the end of the school year the Library Board hired two High School students from Robert Service School under the Challenge 91 Programme to work the summer holidays in the Library. The smiling faces of Kelly Burns and Renee Brickner will greet patrons of the Library for the next few weeks as they toil away as Assistant Librarians. Both young ladies are going to be a real asset to the Library over the summer as they are presenting a summer program for Junior readers and story hour. For more information on these programs drop in to the library and talk to either Renee or Kelly.

Reading for Seniors

Another program that we are beginning in July is a reading hour to seniors at the MacDonald Lodge. John Bilton will be arranging this event with the co-operation of Joanne Smith, Supervisor of the lodge, and it will be done weekly.

Bookends

by Dan Davidson

Yukon Journey by Frank McLaughlin, Scholastic Books, 99 pages, \$3.95

Andy Ferguson is anything but a brave boy, or so he thinks. He is terrified of the Indian boy, Charlie, who beats him up on the way home after school. He seems to be afraid of everything. He also doesn't see himself as being terribly bright in a lot of ways. He was failing in two subjects at the Ross River School. He was carrying a load of self-imposed guilt big enough to crush any spirit.

His bush pilot father, Ray, wasn't really much better off. He had never really recovered from the death of his wife years before, and had never understood how to reach out to the boy who admired him so much. Instead he would find himself lashing out at his son, being hyper-critical of his trials and errors instead of praising his efforts for what they were.

The third member of the household was Andy's grandmother, Nedda. It didn't help at all that she had suffered a stroke and was not always fully

We're Plant Sitting

Visitors to the Library will see some new plants that arrived with the closing of the school. We have the very nice task of babysitting these plants for the summer months and giving them the tender care that we give our own plants. Unfortunately we will have to give these back to the rightful owners upon their return to school in August. Take heart, we will endeavour to find new plants for the library and hopefully some that will flower.

Book Sale

The BIG event for the month of July is going to be a book sale at your Library on Saturday, July 20th from 1 - 4 pm. All proceeds will go towards purchasing new books, cassettes and videos for Dawson Community Library. We expect to have books from nearly every spectrum of the reading world including Fiction, Romance, Science Fiction, Mystery, Fantasy, Non-Fiction you name it! There will be paperbacks and hard cover books at this sale and we guarantee the prices will be reasonable. So come on out for a great time and some great reading material.

Many of these books have been donated to the Library and we

cannot accommodate everything that we receive, so this is a way that we can give others a chance to read at fair prices and earn money for the Library. If anyone does not want their donated books to be used in this manner please notify your Librarian at the Library.

Summer Hours

With the summer holidays comes the chance to open the Library for longer hours. Our summer hours are as follows:

Monday and Tuesday 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
Wednesday 10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Thursday and Friday 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday - Closed All Day

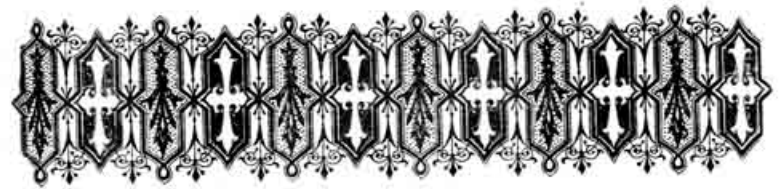
Thanks to Donors

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated books over the past few months. The majority of these books have been sent to Whitehorse for cataloging and processing for our Library and should be returning here in the near future. That's all for now. Good health and good reading.

McLaughlin's young adult adventure starts out by naming an impressive list of Yukon helpers, including Joe Muff of Alcan Air, Monty Alford (author of Yukon Water Doctor) and Moe Grant, bush pilot. McLaughlin consulted with all of these people to get the details of his book authentic. As far as the details of flying and bush survival are concerned, it rings true. The atmosphere of the small town school is true to life as well.

There are a few problems, though. McLaughlin is writing of a time when the highway system in the territory wasn't what it is now, when bush planes were, as he puts it in his preface, "integral to the Yukon". While air transport is still pretty important, it is no longer accurate to say that "a handful of gravel roads connect" such isolated places as Pelly Crossing, Beaver Creek and Old Crow, especially the latter, which doesn't have a road yet.

Those quibbles aside I found the book an enjoyable read, and my children seemed to like it as well.



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Visiting Father's and Grandfather's Old Town.

by Palma Berger



Photo by Palma Berger

Valerie and Dr. Doug Hamilton

Doug Hamilton posed outside what used to be "Mrs. Kirk's boarding house", where his father Reg Hamilton used to board. The house has been Joyce Caley's home for twenty-one years, but in the '30's it belonged to Mrs. Kirk.

Doug was visiting Dawson on June 23rd to tread where his

father, grandfather and grandmother had walked before him.

His grandfather Walter Hamilton came here in 1898 and worked for a miner on Sulphur Creek and then worked in the Post Office in the winter. Walter also wrote the book "Yukon Story". In 1905, school

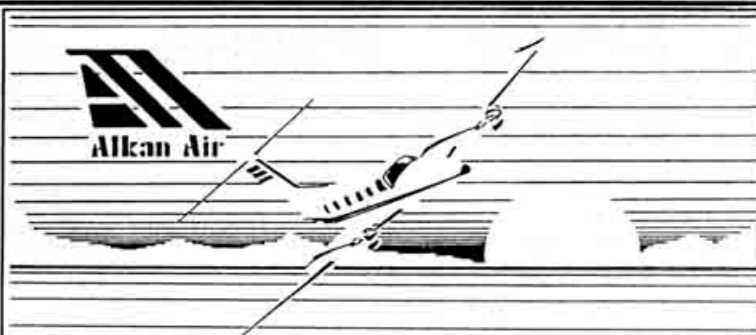
teacher Ida Hastings arrived in Dawson. She and Walter formed a romantic attachment but Ida's father told her to come home for a year, and if Walter was still interested then they would have his blessing and could get married on the Ontario farm. This she did, and Walter still was, (interested that is), and they were married in 1906. Walter left Dawson then and he and Ida returned to Whitehorse. Their son, Reg, was born in 1908 in Vancouver.

Incidentally, when Ida Hastings resigned as school teacher in Dawson her place was taken by another school teacher who became Pierre Berton's mother.

Reg Hamilton taught in the school here from 1934-1938 and boarded across the road at Mrs. Kirk's Boarding House. When Laura Berton went outside for a winter with young Pierre, her husband Frank also boarded at the same place with Reg Hamilton.

Reg and wife Frankie settled in Vancouver. Reg has passed on now. (Still another Dawson connection... Frankie Hamilton and our own Sue Ward went to school together in Vancouver.)

Doug and Valerie enjoyed wandering around Dawson before returning to their home in Kingston, Ontario. They felt it was too short a visit and ought to return another time. We look forward to it.



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THE CLEARING HOUSE

by Fran Hakonson & Evelyn DuBois

Who writes The Clearing House column, or is it a secret?

We thought you'd never ask. No, it isn't a secret, and our names will now be put on the column each month.

No one has asked for our advice on personal finances, but since I just read the book "The Wealthy Barber" by David Chilton, which I've been hearing about for some time, I thought I'd pass on a recommendation that our readers read it too.

The author says it was written for Canadians aged 20 - 45, but I think there is something in it for everyone.

It is an easy book to read; two sessions were all I needed. There is enough of a story line that a character realized his education hadn't given him any information on finances when he couldn't answer any questions on a magazine quiz. He went to his father for advice, and was directed to the family barber, who had become wealthy by following his own conservative investment and savings advice, and he was happy to give a group of young people a series of talks while he gave them their haircuts.

One of his first talks was about the magic of compound interest (and this is one reason the book is especially of interest to young people). His example was 22 year old twins starting a RRSP. The first put in \$2000.00 a year for 6 years and then stopped remitting. The second twin waited til the seventh year and then put in \$2000.00 a year for 37 years and with both earning 12% per year, at age 65 both RRSP's were worth \$1,200,000.00! As the Barber says, it is not the amount you put in that matters as much as the interest rate, and the length of time it can accumulate.

(You use the rule of 72 to calculate your return. At 12% your money doubles in 6 years, at 8% it doubles in 9 years etc. I saw interest at 18% once, so money doubled in 4 years! And an RRSP is ideal for these savings as it accumulates with no income tax payable til the RRSP is cashed in, presumably when you are earning less.)

The key to the Barbers plan is to "Pay yourself first"; that is to invest 10% of your wages, and he tells you exactly how and where to invest (mutual funds), utilizing professional management, diversification of stocks, dollar cost averaging and no timing. This

is to enable you to use the \$100,000.00 tax free capital gains the Government allows, and even after that to pay tax only on 75% of the gain rather than paying on 100% of interest earnings. This savings plan is for luxury items later - a summer cabin, a boat, etc. Your RRSP will take care of your living expenses.

He discusses wills, life insurance, (insure only those people you depend on e.g. don't insure children), RRSP's, Real Estate, Mortgages, Saving & Investment of Income, Children's Education and Emergency Funds.

I have reservations about two points - I wouldn't have both my RRSP and 10% savings all invested in Mutual Funds, and he partly addresses that by having a friend in the barbershop who keeps his RRSP in interest bearing vehicles and only buys equities if the stock market has been down two years in a row.

The other is that I am a believer in having a small portion of your savings out of the country, and some gold, rather as insurance. With the Government making the rules about our savings it is nice to have some they can't access. That is a personal feeling though - Barrons wrote that lately holding gold had been an

ideal hedge against capital gains! On the other hand, it has paid off for people in many turbulent countries over the past few years.

(I wonder if the Government read "The Wealthy Barber" and started the GST as a "Pay yourself first" plan too?)

I hope some of the young people in town will read the book, and use the information to get investment and RRSP accounts working for them. And we're available if you have questions.

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News from K.N.H.S.

The summer season is now in full swing. All our summer Visitor Activities are fully staffed and the sites open. PLEASE CHECK AT THE VISITOR CENTRE ON KING STREET AND FRONT STREET FOR ALL THE LATEST SCHEDULES OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES. All Klondike National Historic Sites Visitor activities are Free.

July 1st was the opening of our new Matinee show - Dang Dog productions . . . more "Klondike Kapers". Bill Costin, Dale Cooper and Zoe Heath have put together a delightful entertainment full of song, dance,

music, and fun. The matinee is every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at the Palace Grand Theatre until late August.

Opening July 2nd with a whole new cast of marionettes is "Fools Gold Review". This show was written, produced, costumed, set designed, staged, advertised and performed by several staff members at Klondike National Historic Sites. We'd like to give special mention though, to Glenda Bolt and Jay Armitage for taking the idea and building it into this years show. Do come join us at Oak Hall every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. for the show.



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Uffish Thoughts

Great Balls of Fire!

by Dan Davidson

There's a man standing next to a pick-up parked at the side of the road. He looks official and so I slow down to hear what he has to say. For a wonder, though, he isn't requiring us to stop. He's just there to keep an eye on some of the smoldering underbrush along both sides of the Dempster Highway.

"Fire's jumped a line and we've got some people in there putting it out," he tells us. He shrugs, as if to indicate that it's no big deal, small stuff compared to the reports down by Gravel Lake. Well, I don't have to drive down that way before Monday, so perhaps things will get better.

I can see why a localized fire jump might be a small concern at this point. In fact, the massive out-of-control Dempster Highway fire of earlier in the week seems like pretty tame stuff in the aftermath.

Truly, it did hit both sides of the road for a short stretch and must have been pretty hot stuff while it was going, but it left a lot behind it. You expect to see hectares of matchstick-like trees poking blackly at the sky, and you just don't.

There are helicopters whupping by overhead, carrying loads of water or retardant off to drop on some of those big campfires that can be seen from the road. The sheer scale of things on the Dempster quickly plays tricks of my sense of perspective. I'm sure those aren't campfires, but they look like it from where I am.

I drive on. After about 20 minutes of driving at a normal speed through some badly singed evergreens, the damage peters out. By the time we get to Tombstone Campground on Saturday afternoon the air is clear, the forest is green, and there is no sign that there ever had been a fire. It's almost eerie to think that about 60 km south of us things were that bad just that short a time ago.

Fire moves pretty swiftly, though, cresting through the treetops like the grassfire I tried to start on my lawn a month ago. That one burned so fast it left half the dead grass behind, untouched, and zipped past a small piece of cardboard before it could ignite it. Similarly, there's a lot of scorched but not consumed timber lying in the wake of last week's blaze. Good firewood, I'm told by those who use the stuff.

Before this little picnic excursion, my awareness of the fires was limited to an abundance of smoke. Long days of perfectly splendid sunshine and soaring temperatures always seem to bring lightning somewhere along the way, so it was no surprise when the thunder storms began the weekend that school was about to end. What was surprising was how fast the fires started. Ten, twenty, thirty, thirty-five...the toll jumped quickly, but the news was all second hand and seemed removed from reality.

Then the wind shifted and the smoke came to town. Heading to work one morning I found that a sprinkling of ash has joined the dust on the hood of my car. Evenings were cooler and sunsets took on a quality and colour I associate with my time in Toronto and Hamilton.

On Friday evening we had decided to take in the melodrama at the Palace Grand and found ourselves torn between the fate of Warren Out and the scene on the mountain across the river.

About 6 in the evening a thick column of smoke belched up from behind that hill and then mushroomed out to form an enormous grey cumulus cloud in a sky otherwise dominated by high cirro-stratus wisps. The fire, we were told by travellers who attended the show that night, was about 20 kilometers away and visible from the Top of the World Highway. We later

supposed that the sudden drama was the result of it being hit by a series of water bombers. The cloud dispersed as the evening wore on.

A day before the smoke eruption, it had rained a bit, and that had cleared the air substantially. This evening, though, there's a bit of a campfire smell in the air and film on things that has to be more than dirty glasses. The fires are still around; new ones spring up, old ones rekindle.

The whole situation strikes me as a metaphor for our constitutionally overheated country. You just never seem to know where the next brush fire will spring up. As Canada Day approached, what we both needed was a cooling draft of rain. At least the fires got a bit of what they needed on July 1st.

Buckle Up or Pay Up

by Jennifer Williams

The RCMP would have it known that not only is the new seat belt regulation in effect as of July 1st, it is being enforced.

Drivers caught without their seat-belts on will be given a written warning for their first offence. Warnings will be kept on record and the second time anyone is caught unbuckled while their vehicle is in motion they will receive a \$40 fine.

On July 2nd alone forty warnings were handed out by the Dawson RCMP detachment. Says Sergeant Crowe "a lot of people have an excuse like, 'We're only going a few blocks,' but it doesn't make a difference in the eyes of the law." "Anyway," he continued, "the law is there for a reason, to save lives".

If you decide not to wear a seat-belt you may end up paying a high price, one way or another.



Photo by Dan Davidson

Dawson City Chamber of Commerce We Mean Business!

by Darlene Caley
Office Manager

Happy belated Canada Day! Hope everyone is back into the swing of things after a long (relaxing??) weekend!

A reminder to members to please send in your membership directory forms as soon as possible. The sooner these forms are submitted, the more your business will be advertised. Don't pass up this opportunity - IT'S FREE!!!

Any members interested in displaying brochures at the new

Chamber of Commerce office are welcome to drop them off at anytime during office hours.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 7, 1991 at 12:00 noon. Members will be contacted in advance as to the location.

Non-members - join the majority and become a member of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce!! WE MEAN BUSINESS!



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