

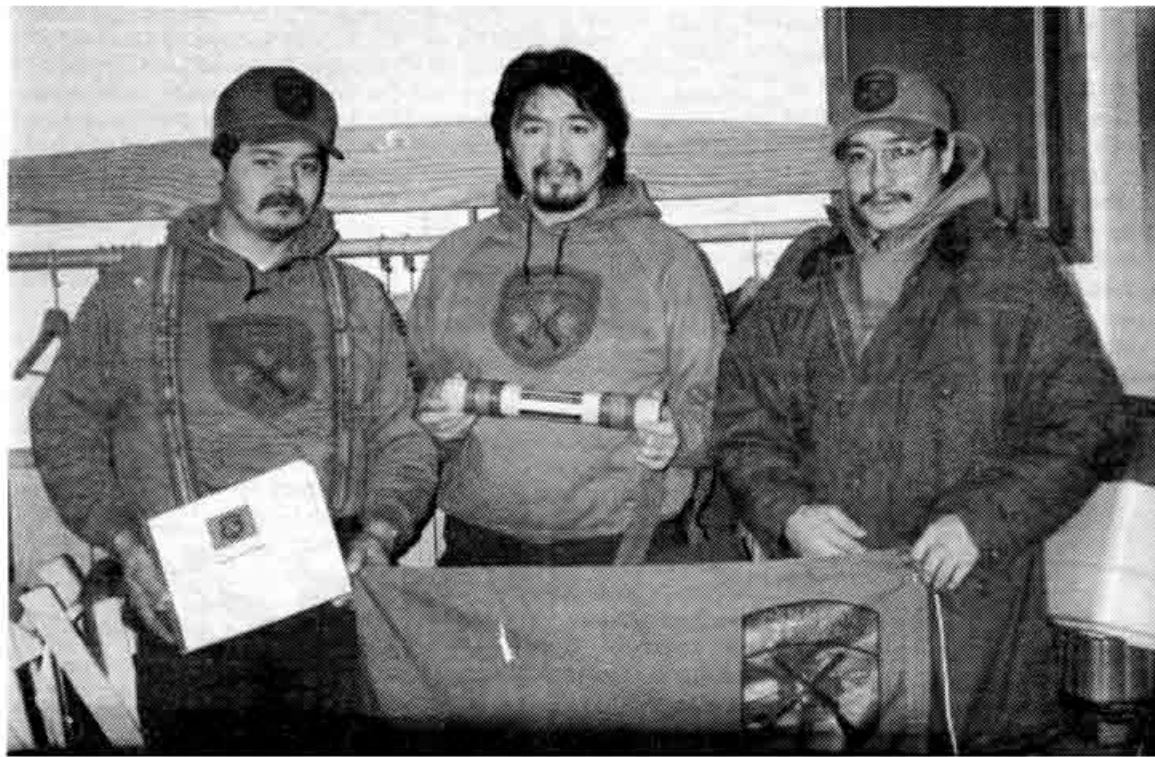
THE KLONDIKE SUN

DAWSON CITY, YUKON

VOL 3, NO 10, MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 13, 1992

60 CENTS



Left to right, Bruce Taylor, Alan Anderson and John Anderson displaying Ranger paraphernalia.

Photo by Brent Morrison

Passing the baton

by Brent Morrison

To celebrate their fiftieth anniversary, and the 125th anniversary of Canada, the Canadian Rangers have begun a baton relay that will take them from Victoria, B.C., to St. Johns, Newfoundland, via the Arctic. The baton is a twelve-sided maple wood creation, representing the ten provinces and two territories of Canada. Near each end of the baton are windings of red and green cord, the colours of the Rangers.

The baton left Victoria's Esquimalt C.F.B. on the 13th of January and has headed north since. The baton was received in Dawson by Rangers John and Alan Anderson. Also with the baton is a log book recording the places and modes of travel the baton has gone through. Both the book and the baton are carried in a special Rangers' satchel. Somewhere in the N.W.T. the book will be fitted with a seal-skin cover bearing the Rangers' crest.

On the 30th of January, in a wild wind storm, the baton was taken by snowmobile to Moosehide, then brought back to Dawson by John Anderson and his eleven member dog team. Also on hand was a film crew filming the baton's progress for a CTV documentary that will be aired in Jan. '93. Dawson was one of five locations chosen for the

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Water License application opposed by two Councils

by Dan Davidson

The City of Dawson expects to spend from \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00 on at least four interventions against miners seeking water use licenses or renewals in the next few months. For council it's a matter of water quality and control over the future of the watershed. While past interventions against some of the businesses involved haven't been successful, councillors believe that the recent water quality studies done in the Klondike Valley will give these attempts more weight.

Grizzly Placers has been operating near the Dome Road at the edge of the town's boundary for the last several years, and residents in that area have complained of silt in their wells. The town has also complained about effects on its main well. This mine is owned by Lee Hall and operated by a second party. The license is in Hall's name.

A second Hall operation, this one under the name of Richard Hall, is proposed beside the Klondike River about 8 miles south of Dawson.

The third license is in the name

of 9740 Yukon Limited, and is for the Lousetown area which was mined by Gary Crawford on a lease from Berglund Resources last summer. Behind 9740 Yukon Ltd. is Eric Bergvinson of Berglund Resources, Ltd., the company which backed away from a Lousetown operation in the 1980's.

Lousetown is also known as "Klondike City" in the history books, and is the site where the Han Indian Band was living when the Gold Rush started. As

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Spring Carnival Queen for 1992

It's just three months to Spring Carnival 1992! Does your business or organization have a Queen of Dawson City candidate chosen yet? Your candidate may be any age between 16 and 60+! She will, if chosen, reign over Spring carnival and also be named Miss Dawson City, with the opportunity to represent Dawson City throughout the year!

The deadline for your entry is

February 21, 1992. The candidate may be an employee, co-worker, family member or friend. As a sponsor you will have some responsibilities and benefits. Along with your candidate, you will share in the fun we have planned for the "judging", help support Spring Carnival by the sale of raffle tickets, benefit from the publicity, and choose a charity that will receive 10% of your ticket sales.

Alaskan chooses Dawson as final resting place

by John Gould

Many people come to Dawson for many reasons. Some can't help it, they are born here. Some come for a visit, like the place and decide to stay. Some because a member of the family has a job here. But last week Doris Vogler of Fairbanks came here to be buried. She died in Fairbanks Alaska where she and her husband had lived for many years. She apparently did not want to be buried on American soil. She was laid to rest with a grave side service in the public cemetery on the hill overlooking the Klondike valley. Those in attendance were Mr. Vogler and the pall bearers. Earl MacKenzie, Jim Leary, Frank Ahearn, Eric Blattler, Henry Hanulik.



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Water License applications opposed by two Councils

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a result it is of special interest to the Dawson First Nation, which has applied for reserve status there as well as planning to intervene in the water license application.

In a Jan 29, 1992 letter to the Water Board, the First Nation cites continuing aboriginal title, the reserve request, Land Claims, City of Dawson concerns, water quality issues, the Klondike Valley Land Use Plan, and aesthetic considerations as reasons to refuse 9740 Yukon Ltd.'s application.

There was a local uproar last summer when Crawford's operation destroyed much of the flora in the Lousetown area, dug up the ground to a considerable extent and imperiled Klondike era artifacts at the site. The Dawson City Museum assisted Heritage Branch in trying to make some sense out of the mess at the time. Crawford operated without a water license for much of the summer until he was finally shut down for failing to control his silt discharge. The 9740 application is for much the same area, only on a larger scale.

The Dawson First Nation is also intervening in the licenses of the Hall brothers' operations, citing municipal concerns as well as those created by Land Claims.

The fourth intervention is against an application by Don Sandberg to discharge into an area near the mouth of Bonanza Creek by the old road to Lousetown. The Sandberg and Bergvinson applications appear to be connected according to Councillor Tim Gerberding. He notes that some of the claims on the two applications overlap and that the third water disposal option on the Bergvinson application involves piping water that 9740's settling ponds can't handle over to the Sandberg operation. The Dawson First Nation will also be intervening in this application.

The Yukon Historical and Museums Association has also expressed an interest in filing an intervention on the two applications which touch Lousetown. Michael Gates, curator with Klondike National Historic Sites, indicates that a decision will most likely be made about this after a conference call this coming Wednesday.

The documents in these cases are all public and can be obtained from the Water Board. Hearings for the Hall and Sandberg applications, and possibly the Bergvinson operation, will be in Dawson on March 4 and 5.



Don't Touch that Dial!

by Dan Davidson

Next to problems with dogs, Mayor Peter Jenkins says the greatest number of calls on his answering machine deal with television. Dawsonites generally appeared consumed with concern on the first weekend in February, when a persistent rumour had it that some of the channels currently enjoyed by the community were to be cut off.

Not so. In fact the rumour was the direct result of an unnamed DJ at CFYT-fm/DCTV putting a message to that effect on the rolling ads channel when he misunderstood something, according to radio society president Peter Menzies. The notice was removed as soon as Menzies realized it was there.

While it remains true that certain of the offerings on the community's airwaves will probably make the Canadian Radio and Television Commission sit up and take notice some day, the mayor says that none of them are "pirated" anymore, and none of them are in immediate jeopardy.

Problems during the first week of February with the sound on one channel were the result of problems at the t.v. shack on the hill, and city manager Carol Murray says it appears that the building was entered by some unknown person who caused the problem, which has since been repaired.

FIRE AT MOOSEHIDE

In late January, the newest cabin in Moosehide rapidly burnt to the ground. Built last summer by Jim and Nancy Titus, the log structure was destroyed by a unknown origin. Propane may be a suspect.

The following week, citizens of Dawson cooked meals and baked goodies for a buffet dinner that was top of the line. Over 100 adults and children attended the feast with all proceeds going to the Titus's.

Later that evening, the Westminister Hotel hosted a benefit dance for Jim and Nancy.

They plan to rebuild their home this summer.



NC
(NC)—In the 1986 census more than four million Canadians said they were bilingual. The number of bilingual Canadians has been increasing at the rate of 10.2% a year since 1981. The increase is fastest among non-Francophones and younger Canadians.

Passing the baton

CONT' FROM PAGE 1

filming, and the crew and its producer were very enthusiastic about filming the dog sled section.

In town for the event was Major Grant S. Rust of the national Defence Headquarters in Ottawa and Captain Dale Dryden, the man in charge of the Yukon Rangers. The Rangers were formed on March 3, 1942, in the wake of a Japanese threat to the Northwest. There are six patrols consisting of 170 people in the Yukon.

On the 31st of January the baton was taken up the Dempster highway by Bruce Taylor and John and Alan Anderson where the baton was handed over in Eagle Plains.

The baton is scheduled to reach St. Johns on July 1st.

Wanted:

by Dan Davidson

Nobody in Dawson City wants to be stuck with the label of dog-catcher. While there were three individuals doing this job just a month or so ago, two have since quit and one was let go, and now the city administration can't find anyone to take it on.

Mayor Jenkins told the Feb. 6 council meeting that he had already taken the step of informally raising the bounty per dog to \$50.00 from the present \$30.00, but that he hadn't been able to find any takers. This leaves the city stranded with a new, tough, animal control bylaw and no one to enforce it, hardly an ideal condition in a town where the number one cause of complaints the mayor finds on his answering machine is packing and nuisance canines. Since late fall the City has warned that any and all loose dogs may be considered dangerous and may be destroyed. One councillor who was attacked last fall says he carries a baseball bat in his vehicle

One Dog Catcher

just in case.

The problem, it almost goes without saying, is the extremely negative treatment received by anyone who has ever held the job. While it's a necessary evil, known dogcatchers have been threatened, verbally abused, cold-shouldered and generally treated with all the kindness accorded a plague victim. They tend to keep their nocturnal activities a secret and have even been paid through a blind cash system that has no one but the mayor officially aware of who they are. In spite of that, in a town this size things don't stay secret long.

So city council is thinking of bringing in outside faces, appealing to interested parties from other communities who might be paid a fee to come to Dawson and do a few day's clean-up work on the evening streets. Since people here don't seem inclined to take much responsibility over their pets' roaming habits, such extreme measures may be an answer at this time.

DOGS ON THE RUN



"OK, SPIKE. YOU TAKE HARPER, CHURCH AND TURNER TONIGHT."

Being a Victim of Crime Hurts and Facing the Legal System Can Add to the Trauma

But you're not alone.
There's a new program to help you get through it all — Victim Services.

Victim Services is free. You tell us how much help you want and we'll be there for as long as you need us.

We will:

- help you with the court system and keep things simple.
- help you prepare a victim impact statement that tells the court in your own words how the crime has affected you.
- make sure your statement is filed with the court.
- answer any questions on the process from start to finish.
- show you what other services you might want and make a referral to the right place

Yukon
Justice
Margaret Joe, Minister

VICTIM SERVICES
Main Floor, the Law Courts
2134 Second Avenue
Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 5H6
(403) 667-8500
1-800-661-0408 (toll free)

CITY COUNCIL NEWS IN BRIEF

by Dan Davidson

Decentralization still under question

While Mayor Jenkins remains convinced that the YTG's decentralization project will merely restore to Dawson its former quota of territorial employees, both MLA Art Webster and Decentralization Coordinator Cathy Quinsey believe that the case is a lot better than that.

Researching the employment records for the last 8 years, Quinsey has produced a report for Dawson's council which concludes that "the number of Yukon government employees has clearly increased, not declined, since 1984, and in 1991, Dawson had more Yukon government employees than any other Yukon community, by a significant margin." (It must be assumed that she is referring to communities outside of Whitehorse, though her letter does not say that.)

Her records indicate that Dawson had 135 YTG employees in November, 1991, as compared with 101 in December 1984. There have been periods within that 7 year span when the actual number of employees has been up to 142, but she notes that these periods coincided with special projects under way in the Dawson area.

In his most recent column for the Klondike Sun, Webster emphatically agrees with Quinsey's conclusions, and takes on the mayor's contention that decentralizing entire departments would be more secure than just individual positions. That could not be done, Webster writes, without having an impact on the overall ease of program delivery to all Yukon communities.

Jenkins still doesn't agree with Webster, and isn't entirely convinced by Quinsey either,

though he did appreciate her efforts to research the matter. He still wants to take the comparison back a few more years, to 1977-78, to see how the per capita comparisons and actual figures compare with the present ones. He has previously stated that any town which has grown as much as Dawson has since that time (more than doubled in size) could have expected a commensurate growth in its civil service jobs, but that this did not happen here until recently.

Councillors Pennell and Gerberding wondered if there was any point in pursuing the paper and number chase back into the period when Dawson also served as a distribution center for the Clinton Creek asbestos mine. Jenkins denied that he was simply after the last word in the dispute and explained that he wanted to get as much of a government commitment on paper for Dawson jobs as it was possible to get without actually winning the departmental decentralization that he would rather see.

While he isn't denying the NDP government's political will to decentralize, he still maintains that the success of the program is too dependent on its funding source, and that when the funds begin to dry up, the jobs will slip away a lot more quietly than they arrived.

At the end of its second year, the decentralization process will have brought 11 full time and 4 part-time positions to Dawson City. There were 6 positions transferred here during the first year of the program, and 7 more in the second year. These figures come from a government press release put out in the fall of 1991.

Water rates to increase

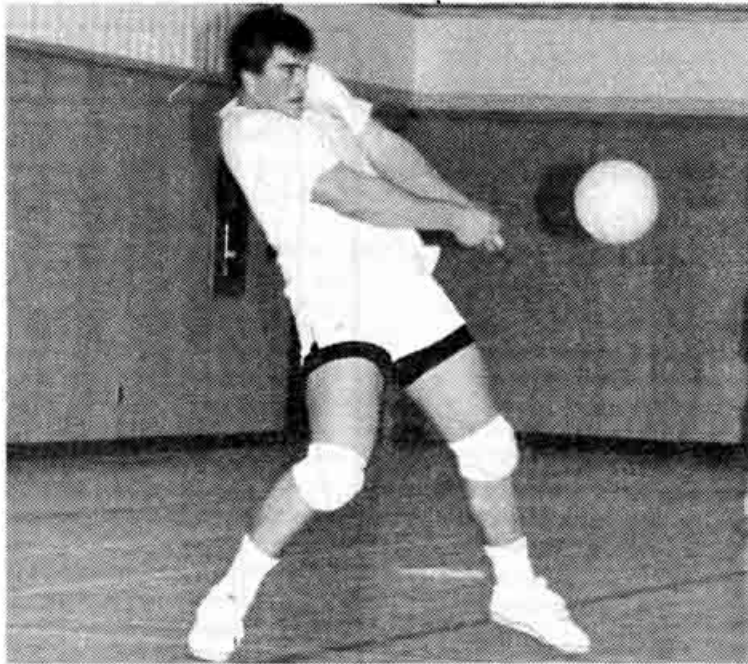
Residential water and sewer rates will increase to \$420.00 this year, up from last year's \$375.00. According to the explanatory notes appended to by-law 91-25, the rate increase is due to the cost of last spring and summer's intensive examination of the system and the replacement work which subsequently had to be carried out. This bylaw was prepared to bring bylaw 88-07 up to date.

According to the 1987 sewer and water agreement with the territorial government the rates in Dawson must be set at the same level as those in Whitehorse. The present rate in the capital city is \$33.28 per month or \$399.36 per year. Dawson's bill is sent out as a flat yearly fee and residents who pay off their S & W charges before the deadline on the bill receive a \$21.00 discount, bringing their total bill to \$399.00. By contrast last year's residential bill, after discount, was \$356.25.

Other rates are in effect for

other types of buildings. Hotels, bed and breakfasts and hostels pay \$115.44 per rentable room. Government buildings are charged \$506.36 per room per year. Restaurants pay \$482.88 per washroom and a service station would have to pay \$1,152.00 to operate a car wash, in addition to \$420.00 per washroom. Trailer courts must pay \$220.56 for each space.

Sewer and Water costs, says Mayor Jenkins, are the single highest item on the Dawson budget, including, as they do, electrical costs, repair costs, treatment costs circulation costs and several other factors. He indicates that the actual cost of this service is much higher than the sewer and water bills would indicate. While this is a major source of revenue for Dawson, consumers actually pay about 30 cents for every dollar's worth of service they receive. A "user pay" bill would be somewhere in the range of \$1400.00 for a regular residence.

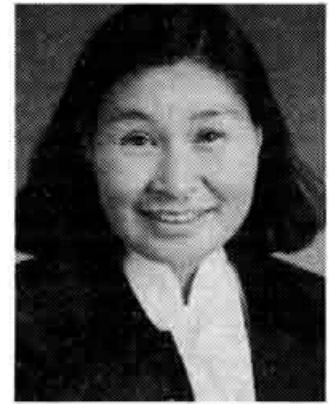


Gary Zeller in Fine Form.



(NC)—The languages of communication in Canada. English and French are the principal ones used by virtually all Canadians, whatever their ethnic origin or other languages they may speak. Only 1.2% speak neither English nor French.

Northwestel



Ann Hanson

Northwestel Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of Ann Hanson to its Board of Directors.

Mrs. Hanson is a freelance journalist based in Iqaluit, Northwest Territories, and recently served as Deputy Commissioner of the N.W.T. Mrs. Hanson hails from Lake Harbour, N.W.T. and was educated in Iqaluit and Toronto. She has worked extensively with CBC's Iqaluit Bureau and is actively involved in Baffin Island community affairs.

Northwestel provides complete telecommunications services to the Yukon, northern B.C. and western Northwest Territories. Northwestel has applied to the C.R.T.C. to provide telecommunications services in the eastern N.W.T.

Photo by Michael Gutter

FIRE HALL NO. 1.



Helping Hands

Sheila Jones Sally Derry
Michael Gates Bonnie Barber
Jan Kaplicky (Sp?) Anne Bilina
Brent Morrison Cheryl Mitchell
Roberta Humberstone

HAIR CABARET

Open 9:00 - 6:00

10% off all products till the end of the month

Phone 993-5222

Editorial: Work in Progress

by Dan Davidson

"Where are all the BIG stories of yore?" you ask. What's happening to our medical services? What about the boundary expansion? We wish we could tell you, but none of the latest meetings on these issues are scheduled to take place until after we have to put this issue to bed.

This is Sunday, and this editorial has to be written today so we can check off page 4. Tonight there will be a meeting dealing with some of the medical matters. If any of those who attend are willing to talk about it, we may be able to squeeze in a few paragraphs by Monday night, but we can't count on that.

Tomorrow night will be the big meeting on the boundary expansion bylaw, in which the City of Dawson gets to explain itself to paranoid Valley residents. That one should go on for quite a while, and will finish too late for any of us to be able to write up a story on it for this month. This paper needs to be pretty much finished and ready for the printers by as close to midnight as we can make it.

Our merry band of keyboardists and paste-up artists started actual physical work on this issue early the week before it was due to appear. (In fact, one of our pages has been ready for longer than that, but that's another story.) Fifty or so ads had to be examined, touched up or totally re-done, depending on the requirements of the customer. Most of the material written by people other than our staff had to be typed up, proofread, fixed, measured and prepared to go on the layout sheets.

Before that, decisions had to be made about what ads were to go on what pages, and approximately what types of articles would be located just where. Film has to be processed and pictures selected to go with various articles. We have one of the highest ratios of pictures per page of any paper we know.

But none of that helps us at all when reality refuses to cooperate. Think what coverage of the community we could provide if people would just plan their major events and announcements around our publishing schedule. If exciting things were only allowed to happen during three weekends of the month, leaving us the fourth one to write about them, we could do a really super job.

That's not a serious suggestion. The "sound bites" you hear on the radio and t.v. each night are planned and timed that way by the various levels of government and business that issue them. Stage managed reality is all too often the name of the game in public forums and in the media. Reality tends to happen all around us, no matter what the actual plan may have been when we started out. At the level of this community and this paper, we are better off to be a little bit disorganized and a lot more real. If that were the case across the country, it would, no doubt, be a major improvement.

New this issue: our darkroom people have been scrambling to use our new equipment to prepare all our photographs so that the paper is completely "camera ready" when it leaves us. This will be a first, and we're all nervous about it. If it works, it will mean we are 100% made in Dawson, which has been one of our goals all along.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editors:

I have just had a letter from Iris Warner with the photocopy of the Klondike Sun's reprint of the Edmonton Journal's article regarding my Christmas story of Dawson City. [Ed. Note: See Dec. 1191 issue "Dawson City Santa"]

Needless to say, I was extremely flattered to read that someone had actually been looking for me! My husband and I moved to the Okanagan last summer, and, after many years of looking at prairie scenes, we are now happily perched on a mountain with a view that goes on forever. So we have come full circle since we left the Okanagan to move to Dawson City.

Iris, of course, knew who the Dawson City Santa was, but, whether from modesty or the fact that she already has a subscription to the Klondike Sun, she very kindly gave me the opportunity to tell you who it was, it was Iris Warner!!!! so

now you have it.

We spent Christmas in Edmonton with our children, now adults, and spent some time reminiscing about our time in Dawson. They convinced me to write more about life in Dawson 30 years ago so they can tell their children about it. We have lived all over Canada but our Dawson experiences remain with us as the most interesting, which is the very nature of Dawson, I think. If I ever do this, I could send you copies if you are interested.

Sincerely,
Flora MacArthur
Vern., B.C.

(Editors Note: We welcome Mrs. MacArthur to our subscription list as our thank you for her wonderful story. Also thanks to Pete & Brownie Foth, wintering in White Rock, B.C.

who phoned to suggest that the Dawson Santa just had to be Iris Warner. O.K. Iris - you can stop blushing now!!!!)

Letters CON'T

Dear Editor:

Pertaining to the Town of Dawson City Boundary Expansion Bylaw 91-11. As a victim of this proposed expansion, I am wholly against it.

1. The Town of Dawson City has shown no encouragement towards its growth and development, but in course, managed to incite potential land owners to seek land outside their limits instead of joining the community. (eg. the whole town under historic control). This is fine and dandy if you are sitting there with a pocketful of money, or excellent credit ratings. But what about the majority of workers in this area who are seasonally employed? No thought or consideration was given to these people. Move a trailer into Dawson? No way! Build a simple, affordable house? No way! Why? Not everyone who cannot afford an \$80,000 house wants to live in Yukon Housing or go into debt forever. There are still those people out there who want something of their own. Their pride still exists, and a lot with affordable housing, including trailers, is their dream. Dawson has done nothing to support these people. So where do they go, but outside city limits to claims, squatting or leases.

Now Dawson wants a larger tax base, so what does it do? It inflicts itself on the very people it rejected in the first place. To what benefit, but only to fatten themselves, and give the new tax-payers nothing but more taxes and regulation. I do not find any comfort in that idea, I would rather pay YTG. At least I get some service from YTG.

2. Does the town of Dawson support its current tax-payers? Well, they do clear the streets of snow and drain water in the spring. But what about the last controversy in town re: dentist and doctors? The tax-payers of Dawson have paid for a beautiful waterfront building, the pride and joy of Dawson. To my knowledge, that building has never been fully utilized; actually the white elephant of Dawson. Could not the City of Dawson say to hell with the government, and offer affordable rent to the doctors and dentist in the waterfront building? Maybe get some use out of it, and satisfy their tax-payers.

The planned additions for the town are: indoor pool, larger school, etc., all seem to be beyond the capabilities of a community of 1,800 people (that's including the valley and surrounding areas). It can ill afford projects of that

magnitude, let alone maintenance costs and upkeep, when cities ten times larger than Dawson cannot support such luxuries.

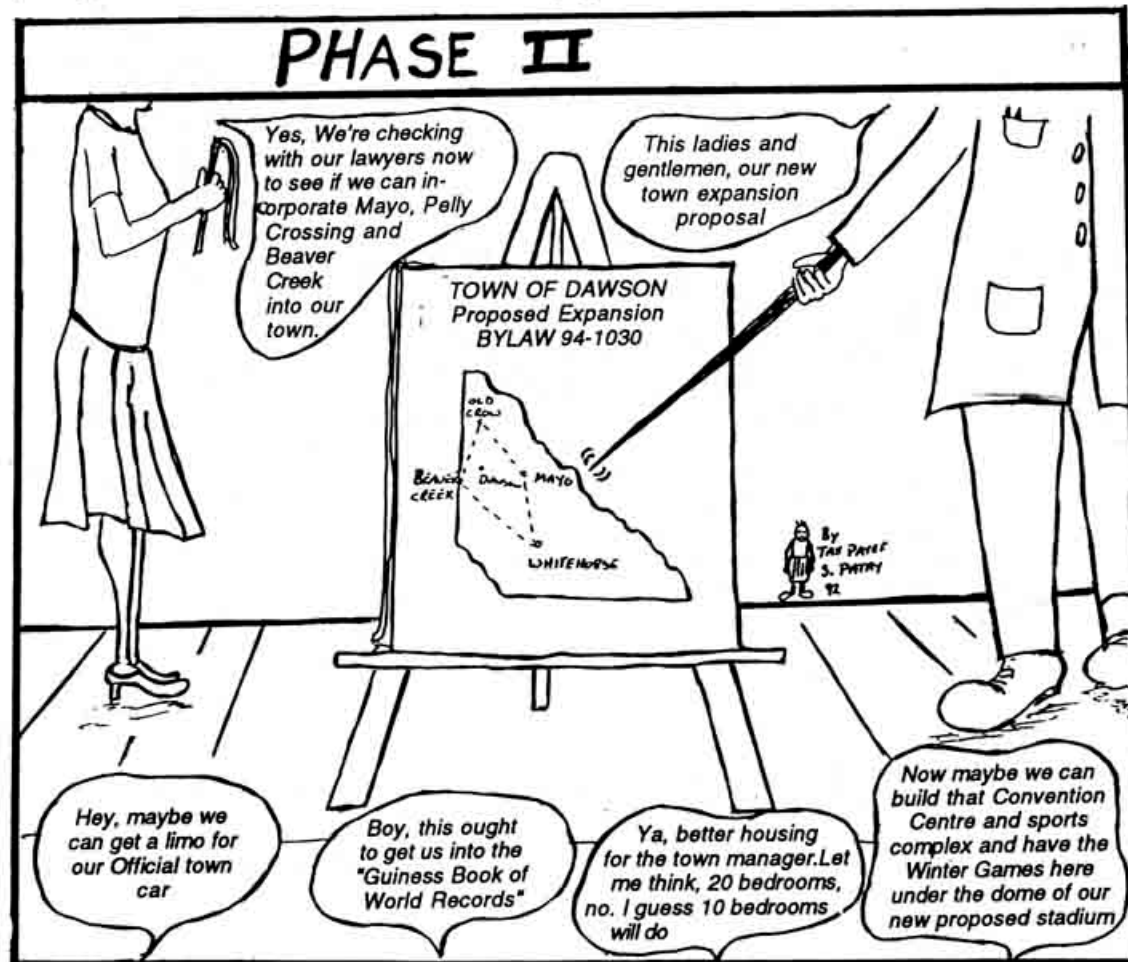
3. To preserve the water quality of the Klondike last I heard there were federal agencies established strictly for that purpose?

To me it seems more dreams than reality. As for activities in town, make it user pay. A large population of Dawson is exempt from taxes, and this places more strain on the tax-payers already. Yet many non-taxpayers use the facilities as much, if not more, than outside residents. So a user fee puts everyone on an equal base, plus reducing the drain on the tax-payers.

The list can go on and on, but from what I have seen of town operations, I'd rather not be a part of it. This community should not be allowed to expand, but force to rethink its way and try to encourage growth within its boundaries, instead of just expanding as they see fit. Who knows where Dawson will extend its boundaries next?

P.S. There is more to life than the tourist dollar.

Stan Patay,
KM 1 Dempster Hwy, to be exact 28 miles/46 km from Dawson in proposed no-services-high-tax zone.



The Klondike Sun

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John Gould

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German Seeks World of Jack London

by Sue Ward

"The pen is mightier than the sword." In this space age of instant oral communications one may wonder who is making time to soak up the printed words. Who has time? When prolific writers were on the scene fewer people could read. Take Jack London, as a case in point. He spent one winter in the frozen Canadian North, where, in the isolation of his cabin, his mind conjured up tales which, when translated, captured the hearts of young lads in Germany. Come what may, quite a number of those fellows planned for the day when they would break the bonds of the Fatherland and seek the frigid, pristine, far-flung empty land of the Klondike, where more gold than could be dreamed of lay buried, deep in the frozen muck.

A century ago, it would be wooden ships, rattling railroads, frozen mountain passes, that would challenge the traveller, rather than transcontinental jet planes, 4-wheel drive wagons, and float planes, wearing skis during the winter.

Three summers ago when the riverboat Anna Maria planned to bring back river travel from Whitehorse to Dawson City, a team from Channel 2

"Adventures and Legends" (ZDF) West German T.V. booked passage but were forced to make other plans when the Anna Maria cruised only as far as Carmacks, leaving two hundred miles to journey's end. The crew laid plans to continue to Dawson City by road, then to film old-timers, and of course, the search for gold. The scribe was asked to don the old hat and leather jacket while panning in the sluice at Claim 33. The end results were viewed at the Yukon Order of Pioneers Christmas Dinner at -40°C and everyone agreed that the effort had been worthwhile though time consuming on a gratis basis for those involved.

The event left a deep hankering with the crew to return to the Land of Jack London in the dead of winter, this time the Director would be Herman Feicht who was the chief Camera Operator last time. Peter Pfleger and Rolf Leitner handled the camera this time while Gyula Lozcy is listed as Sound Designer and Klaus Gretzmacher wears producer.

Klaus Gretzmacher is proof of the power of Jack London's Yukon based stories, as one trip convinced him and his wife to

immigrate and they now operate a fishing lodge at Kluane Lake so he is the Yukon tie-in for the production. The film which will run 105 minutes will be viewed by 8-10 million watchers in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and North Italy. The format is in story form, which was hatched when Herman met Klaus at Ruby Lake Lodge in 1989. "The stranger wants to experience the New World of Jack London."

Alex Van Bibber plays the role of the Trapper, Dick North shows the Jack London Exhibit in Dawson City, Sourdough Sue Ward invites him to meet the crew of the Klondike Sun in action, who in turn writes of his visit. Four copies of this issue will be sent to Mainz, in Germany, to add reality to the story-line. Gene Dubois the dogmusher shares moose dinner and tells stories about trapping and bush life. "Stovepipe Dave" Hendrie demonstrates how to get a car started at forty below.

Dick Stevenson once again resurrects the Sourtoe Cocktail.

The story moves to Whitehorse where Moe Grant, Ted Harrison, and several other "characters" round out the Yarn of the New North.

When in conversation with Herman who, with Klaus, speaks English, I mentioned how our World Walker had said he found Dawson City the friendliest town he had known. Herman agreed. There is no doubt about it, we all go the extra mile in promoting this unique town. As Klaus puts it, "The whole team enjoys Dawson City and its wonderful people very much and would like to thank everybody for participating in the venture."

Though the tape will be narrated in German, the photography will present the characters doing their thing. Herman has promised at least one copy of the finished product, though it will arrive again in the depth of winter 1992 when we can have a chuckle or two.

"Aus wiederschen my dears" as that beautiful melody returns once more.



Ski Hill Looks For Financial Aid

by Dan Davidson

It hasn't been a great year for the Dawson Ski Association. Both the groomer and T-bar lift have developed mechanical problems that have resulted in the hill not yet being open for the season in spite of the many hundreds of volunteer hours that have gone into getting it ready for use. For the association the last financial straw was an overdue insurance bill.

The club had taken out liability insurance as a rider to the City of Dawson's policy last year, but has yet to pay the city the \$1,000.00 that cost, and by late January it was almost time for another bill.

So members of the association came to the Jan 23, 1992 meeting of council to ask for help, aid, grace, whatever could be found.

"We're broke," said Dina Cayen, summing up the club's problems. It's also been a difficult year for fund raising, with many activities calling upon the community's limited pocket-books.

Interestingly, there was never any question about whether council would do something for the association, it was simply a matter of what and how.

"An extremely worthy cause," said Tim Gerberding.

"It's a small nucleus of people who work their hearts out," Hugh Gouthro noted, adding that a recent recreation survey showed that Moose Mountain was the "second most used sports facility in the town" during the winter."

Neither Shirley Pennell nor Henry Procyk disagreed with any of that, but both were worried about the precedents that might be established if the city simply forgave the \$1,000.00 debt and then went on to carry the next year's premiums. How soon would it be before other organizations wanted the same sort of deal?

The compromise was to extend the due date on last year's bill, forgive the club the interest on the bill, and pay the 1992 bill in advance, thus allowing the association to get its year under way and actually generate some revenue so it could begin to pay its debts. The association has to repay the city for the 1991 insurance bill by the end of this April, and on the 1992 bill by Feb. 1, 1993.

With final repairs soon to be in hand and the liability insurance covered, the sound of shooshing should soon be heard on the south slopes of the Dome.

Spring Carnival

Tentative Program

February 21st - Deadline for entry Candidate, Sponsor & Committee Meeting March 2nd

March 3rd-23rd - Ticket Sales & Contest Preparation

March 23rd - Candidate Sponsor & Committee Meeting

March 26th - Tea & Judging at MacDonald Lodge

March 27th - Start of Spring Carnival 1992 and Miss Dawson City's reign

You may enter your candidate's name by calling KVA at 993-5575 by February 21st. Should you require further information please phone Dina Cayen at 993-6009 or Lynn Stewart at 993-6225.

Budget Preview

Numbers are far from certain at this point, but it appears from discussion around the table that city council is looking to trim just over \$1,000,000.00 from its budget in order to balance the books for the coming year.

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Spring and summer are busy months, so to avoid disappointment, phone us today!



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Photo by John Gould

German film crew film for posterity all the hard work Palma puts in at the Sun office

THE SOURDOUGH a report from Robert Service School

by Carol McCauley, Principal

Exams

Second term examinations are just around the corner. Slated for February 20, 21 and 24, these examinations are crucial for students from Grades 7 - 12 as they provide an important evaluation tool at the end of the second third of the year. If your child is experiencing difficulty in any subject area, now is the time to get in touch with the teacher to arrange for extra assistance. Phone the school at 993-5435 today!

SÈVEC Trip

An excited group of twenty students and two teachers left Robert Service School at 1:05 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31, bound for St. Raymond, Quebec as the first part of

a student French exchange. (Students from Quebec will visit Dawson at the end of May.) Getting there was an adventure in itself as the group flew from Dawson to Whitehorse, Whitehorse to Vancouver, Vancouver to Toronto on the "red-eye express", Toronto to Montreal and Montreal to Quebec City. The official word was that all had arrived safely. When the students got to St. Raymond, a town about thirty minutes from the provincial capital, their host families were there to greet them and provided a reception for them before taking our students to their homes. During their stay, Yukon students saw the city of Quebec, went skiing, participated in sports and recreation and met the Bonhomme, the mascot of the Quebec

Carnaval, among many other things. The next edition of this column will capture some of the highlights of this trip.

Heather Burns to Terry Fox Centre

The student exchange group is not the only trip for Dawson students this February. Grade 12 student Heather Burns was chosen to represent the Yukon at the Terry Fox Centre in Ottawa and will travel to the capital city for the week of February 23. Heather, along with representatives from all over Canada, will participate in "Encounters With Canada" which will be featuring the subject of business and entrepreneurship while she is there. It will be an excellent learning experience for Heather and we wish her well on her trip.



Weather information

Weather Information for Dawson City for January 1992 provided by Art Vickers, your friendly Flight service Specialist at the Transport Canada Flight Service Station located at the Dawson City Airport.

Hi again, everyone! Hopefully the holiday season treated everyone as well as the weather has this winter. Mighty fine weather!!!

Usually by the end of January, almost everyone you meet or talk to is grouchy, edgy or just plain suffering from cabin fever due to being forced indoors most of the time due to c-c-c-cold temperatures. Not this year! Most people have managed to

retain a good chunk of their sanity and also their sense of humour. What a treat!! The round yellow bright thing in the sky has once again showed up and the days are noticeably getting longer & longer & brighter & brighter. Enjoy!! It just keeps getting better from here on out.

Now for the statistics for the month. The bracketed temperatures are Fahrenheit.

	1992	1991	30 Yr Avge
Max Temp	-7.6 (18.3)	2.6 (36.7)	
Min Temp	-38.9(-38.0)	-47.1(-52.8)	
Mean Max	-15.7(3.7)	-21.9(-7.4)	-24.9(-12.9)
Mean Min	-23.7(-10.7)	-31.5(-24.7)	032.3(-26.1)
Mean Temp	-19.6(-3.3)	-26.7(-16.1)	-28.6(-19.5)
Rainfall	Trace	Nil	Nil
(Freezing drizzle)			
Snowfall	37.4(14.7)	33.6(13.2)	20.6 (8.1)
Depth of Snow			
On the Ground	60(23.6)	59(23.2)	
Number of Days			
With Precip	25	17	10

Well, there you have it, folks. All in all, it was a super January for Dawsonites. Hopefully, February will continue this trend toward warmer-than-normal weather.

I'll leave you with the statistic that made all the difference to the weather in January. Think warm and I'll be back next month.



(NC)—Nearly half of the money spent by the federal government on official languages goes towards the teaching of English and French in our schools. A quarter of a million

young people are enrolled in immersion classes. In 1989-90, 2.6 million students were learning a second language.

YES!

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(Next to The Chocolate Claim)

Dawson City Boundary Expansion Yukon Municipal Board Hearing

The public is invited to present their views regarding the proposed Dawson City boundary expansion to the Yukon Municipal Board.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, March 25, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ancillary Room of the Robert Service School.

Written comments will also be accepted up to and including March 20, 1992. Send your submission to:

Yukon Municipal Board
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

The bylaw proposing the boundary expansion is available for viewing at the Dawson Municipal Offices during regular working hours.

Yukon Municipal Board

RCMP NOTES

Parking Violations

With spring just around the corner the town of Dawson City will soon be swarming with tourists coming up to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Alaska Highway along with the many exciting events Dawson City has to offer during the summer months. Why not set a good example for the tourists and obey the traffic signs and regulations. This will keep the flow of traffic moving and not congested, on our already narrow streets.

Some of the more common parking violations observed are:

- parking on the left side of the street (against traffic)
- parking within 6 metres of a Stop or Yield sign at intersections
- parking within 6 metres of fire hydrants
- double parking (parking on the left side of another vehicle)

- ignoring the No Parking Signs
- backing into angle parking stalls.

Sections 174, 175, and 176 of the Motor Vehicle Act prohibit all of the above practices. The fines for these violations are \$25.00 each. These offences are also recorded on your Driving Record with the Motor Vehicle Branch, in the form of points against you. If your points reach a certain limit the Motor Vehicle Branch can suspend your licence.

Dawson City R.C.M.P. encourage the citizens of the town to try and keep our streets safe, especially for our "little people" -- they count!

When little children play, they make up the rules as they go along. Children forget about danger so it's up to us to watch out for them.

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•• DRIVE SOBER ••

DAWSON CITY MUSIC FESTIVAL

1992 T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Deadline: April 30, 1992

Prize: Two Free Weekend Passes
plus Salmon BBQ pass

Please mail entries to the Dawson City Music Festival
or drop them off at the
Chamber of Commerce Office in the Downtown Hotel
Call 993-5584 for more information

CANADA 125 CORP

by Vi Campbell, Director,
Board of Canada 125 Corp.

This year, 1992, will see the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Canada as a Nation.

The 1989 Speech from the Throne indicated it was of the utmost importance to prepare appropriately for this celebration. In this view the Prime Minister appointed in May 1989 the Secretary of State as lead Minister of Canada 125.

In light of the importance of 1992 for all of Canada a national consultative conference entitled "Towards 1992" was organized on October, 1989, by the Secretary of State and the Chair of the National Capital Commission. Over 400 people from all walks of life attended. This conference was designed to allow a meeting of the minds among distinguished Canadian citizens representing a wide range of activities and interests.

The recommendations from "Towards 1992" Conference were

the following: grass roots oriented events; promoting active participation and creativity; a true spirit of partnership between all levels of government, private sector, and citizen groups; a modest and forward looking approach; meaningful activities which were future oriented; encouragement of a deeper understanding of Canada's achievements; set as arm's length for the politicians; run by a non-profit corporation.

Following a review of the results of this conference, the Cabinet authorized the establishment of a "Canada 125 Committee" in April 1990. It was to be supported by a secretariat to coordinate all activities pertaining to the 125th anniversary of Canada. Initial funding was ensured by the Secretary of State.

This committee's co-presidents are Claude Dupres from Montreal and Frank King from Calgary, and there are 16 directors from across Canada.

The first action the Canada 125 Committee took was to survey Canadians to see if they wanted to hold a celebration in 1992 and what approach they would like to see taken.

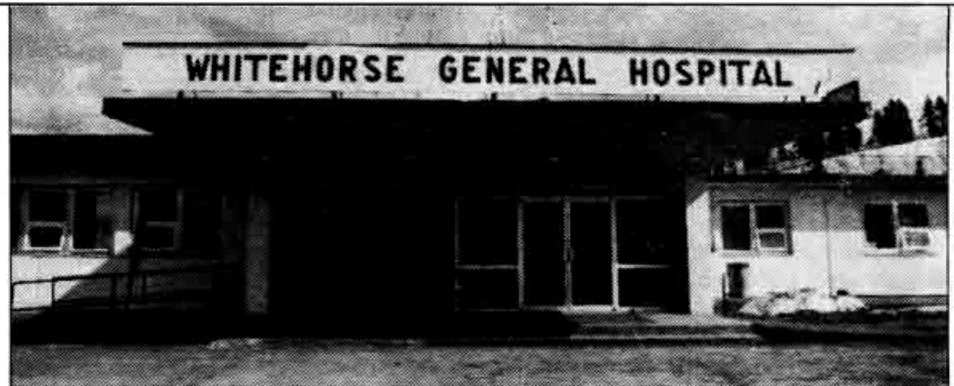
The results of the extensive survey show that Canadians have

indicated that they want to celebrate Canada's 125th anniversary in 1992 by organizing meaningful activities based on the values that all Canadians share.

Those values are seen to be: the freedom, opportunity and personal security we enjoy as citizens; a common concern for the environment; the desire to help one another; our wish to get to know one another better; and our many achievements in arts, sports and business.

We have a very comprehensive program, PARTICIPAction, to promote the organization of Canada 125 events and activities in 6000 communities across Canada.

PARTICIPAction, through its contact with Canada 125, will work in every region in the country. Its agents will cover five regions and 31 zones, with a presence in 25 cities. There will be 31 community advisers who will work with community groups, local volunteer networks and the local media. They will be contacting the Mayors of municipalities, the educational sector and the voluntary organizations in the coming months. Our community facilitator is Arlin McFarlane, 667-4125.



Call for Nominations...

The Minister of Health and Social Services is seeking nominations for candidates to sit as Trustees of the permanent Board of the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

As a trustee, you represent the collective interests of your community, and everything you do in your capacity as a trustee will be done because you have accepted, as a trust, the ethical, moral and legal responsibility for the proper management of your health facility and the quality of care provided to its clients.

The Board of Trustees needs men and women dedicated to the principles of ensuring quality care to people who require hospital services in the Yukon. Trustees must be willing to contribute lots of time and effort.

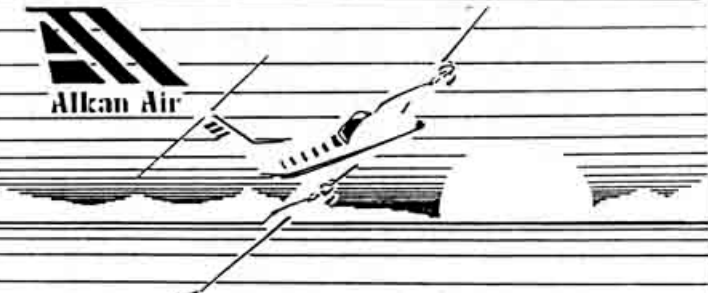
Members will be selected by the Minister from nominations submitted by First Nations, municipalities, and the general public.

Please submit nominations to Joyce Hayden, Minister of Health and Social Services, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6. When forwarding nominations, please include a short biography of the nominee which should include a past history of the nominees' community involvement, and what that individual can bring to the Board. Nominees must be willing to sit for a minimum one year term, maximum three year term.

An information package that outlines the scope of health governance and trusteeship is available by calling Dorothy Schiller, Director, Health Programs at 667-5302 (toll-free 1-800-661-0408, local 5302).

The deadline for submission of nominations is Thursday, March 12, 1992.

Yukon
Health and Social Services
Joyce Hayden, Minister



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Royal Canadian Legion, Branch # 1, Dawson Poster and literary contest



Back Row: Jeff Barber, Renée Brickner, Meaghan Berriman, Faith Godfrey, Onica Sprockreeff and Kelly DeWald
Front Row: Tara McCauley, Kevin McCauley, Craig McCauley, Larissa Bilodeau, Darren Bullen

by Kelly DeWald, Poppy Chairman

For most people over 60 years of age, the message of Remembrance is simple, direct, and needs no adornment. They have experienced war, to one degree or another, and can relate easily to the idea of Remembrance. Younger Canadians cannot. For them the message of Remembrance is not so immediate.

Hence, the idea of the Annual Poster and Literary Contests held across Canada. These contests are designed for students from elementary grades to high school. The contests are intended to prompt students to think about Remembrance the the freedom we all enjoy. Above all, these contests are designed to remind students of the cost of freedom.

The contests are held to select the most suitable essays/poems, and posters submitted by pupils in the Canadian school system. Contestants are challenged to write an essay/poem or create a poster on the subject of Remembrance.

The contest entries are judged at the local Branch, and then, in our case, the winners in each of the three categories (junior, intermediate and senior) are submitted to Ottawa for judging at the National level. There is a range of cash prizes for winning contestants in all categories. As well, winning senior entries at the National competition will each win a trip for two to Ottawa to represent Canadian youth at the National Remembrance Day Ceremony.

The executive and membership of your Dawson City Branch

were very impressed with this year's entries, both in quantity and quality.

The winners, first and second places are as follows:

Poster Contest

Junior:

First - Larissa Bilodeau - \$50
Second - Craig McCauley - \$25

Intermediate:

First - Samantha Jenkins - \$75
Second - Onica Sprockreeff - \$50

Senior:

First - Faith Godfrey - \$100
Second - Meaghan Berriman - \$75

Literary Contest

Junior:

First - Kevin McCauley - \$50

Second - Craig McCauley - \$25

Intermediate:

First - Tara McCauley - \$75

Second - No entry

Senior:

First - Renee Brickner - \$100

Second - Jeff Barber - \$75

Congratulations to all, and Good Luck to all the first prize recipients whose entries have now been entered into the National Competition in Ottawa.

Until next year then, thank you to all those who entered and thank you also to all the teachers and staff at Robert Service School.

Northwestel



William Hall

Northwestel Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of William Hall to the position of General Manager Operations. Before joining Northwestel in August 1991, he was employed at Coopers and Lybrand in Toronto as Senior Consulting Associate.

Mr. Hall has an extensive background with Xerox Canada in operations, planning and program management in the customer service environment. His career also spanned the manufacturing and distribution fields.

Northwestel provides complete telecommunications services to the Yukon, northern B.C. and western Northwest Territories. The company has applied to the C.R.T.C. to provide telecommunications services in the eastern N.W.T.

DEAR DAWSONITES:

A sincere thank you to all of you who supported me so vigorously in my efforts to maintain the present level of dental services in Dawson.

Without your encouragement I probably would have already walked away from this frustrating situation.

Unfortunately, the problem has not been resolved as of yet. I am still waiting for an answer from the officials.

Be reassured that when there are signs of a new development, I will keep you informed.

Again, a heartfelt thank you to all of you.

Helmut Schoener
Dawson Dental Clinic

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YOU
doing
about it?



Skookum Jim
Friendship
Centre,
Whitehorse
Yukon
668-4465

AIDS Hotline 1-800-661-0507

PLEASE PASS THIS ON

Dawson Teens Organizing Yukon wide Youth Conference

Pam Lawrie
Youth Conference Co-ordinator

On Thursday, February 27th, at approximately 6 p.m., sixty-five teenagers will begin the "One Voice Conference For Youth", strengthening their voices, and learning from others. They will be talking on a variety of social issues that affect them as teenagers, and will continue to affect them as they become tomorrow's community workers, parents and leaders. This first time Dawson event will last three nights and days, ending Sunday March 1. It is sponsored by the Family Violence Initiative (Department of Health and Welfare Canada), and is being co-ordinated by myself.

Much of the work and organizing however, is being done by our own Dawson teens, and

Grant Hartwick, Social Skills Workshop Instructor at Robert Service School. The teens involved are Meredith Couture, Paula Farr, Alexander Fras, Faith Godfrey, Tim Grenon, Lucas Hawkes, Jason Henry, Kim Joseph, Jason Mann, Ann Mendelsohn, Ryan Peterson, Amanda Purington, Margaret Purington, Bonnie Rear, Sandra Roberts, Amy Semotiuk, Heidi Semotiuk, Christina Shulda, Tundra Sprokkreef, Rachel Taylor, Kylie VanEvery.

They have been involved in everything from planning the agenda, to poster and registration design, to choosing workshop facilitators and topics. The workshop headings are: "Alternatives to Drugs and Alcohol", "Tribal Justice", "Anger

Management", "Dating Violence", "Traditional Healing", "A.I.D.S.", and "Yukon Land Claims". The agenda is packed with exciting events such as dog-sledding, snow-shoeing, stick-gambling, a sweatlodge, improvisational theatre, and a Saturday night dance.

We have invited 12 Yukon communities to send teen delegates, and are looking forward to an action-packed weekend. If you are interested in getting involved in organizing this conference, please call me, Pam Lawrie at the Band Hall, 993-5385. We need skidoo's and drivers, cooks, security persons, and assorted volunteers to gopher this, and gopher that! Thanks.

"K.E.A.P."ing a Community Calendar

by Dan Davidson

"K.E.A.P." stands for Klondike Events & Activities Planning, and is an initiative set up jointly by the Chamber of Commerce, The Dawson Indian Band, the City of Dawson and the Klondike Visitors Association to attempt to harmonize the scheduling of events in Dawson as the community moves closer and closer to anniversary days.

Chamber of Commerce manager Glenn Mullen says that K.E.A.P. aims to create and keep current an up to date calendar of events and help various groups either avoid conflicts or learn to work together to enhance each others' projects.

In the short term, this could

eliminate some scheduling problems that have arisen over the last few years and give everyone a clear sense of what to plan around. In the long run, Mullen says the project aims to make everyone more familiar with what other groups are trying to do, and perhaps more willing to form networks to help make things happen to the best effect.

About a dozen groups turned up at the first organizational meeting on Feb. 6 and filled out the K.E.A.P. '92 forms that Mullen had available. Representatives from Run Dawson, the KVA, the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Dawson, the Dawson First Nation, the Ski

Assoc., the Legion, IODE, 125 Corp., and the Dawson City Music Festival outlined their plans for the spring and summer seasons. Those who could not make it can obtain forms from the chamber offices which are temporarily located in room 102 at the Downtown Hotel.

Did you know



STAY IN SCHOOL

Almost half of the youth population aged 15 to 24 with postsecondary qualifications were, in 1986, concentrated in two major fields of study: Commerce, Management and Business Administration; and Engineering and Applied Science Technologies and Trades. NC

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Tenders may be obtained from the Yukon Housing Corporation Office, 410A Jarvis Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2H5, or from the Dawson City Housing Association Office, tel. #993-5478.

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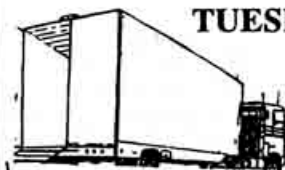
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INSIDE/ OUTSIDE

Rene and Val Mangold are happily living in a restored farmhouse with sons Konrad and Tyler in the village of Gossliwil, Switzerland. Rene is working as a machinist supervisor in a plant making industrial robots, and Val is busy being a mother and working part-time as a waitress in an exclusive restaurant. Both wish to dispel any rumours that they don't want to see any Dawsonites. "We'd love to have more visitors", they told Robbie and Pat who visited during their recent trip to Europe.

Goodbye to Axel Speer, manager of the C.I.B.C. in Dawson and his wife Denise, who worked at the Raven's Nook. They will be missed in this community where they have resided for four years. Axel has transferred to Sooke on Vancouver Island.

Michael Gates is back from a visit to Reno where he was visiting his aunt... he said! Where was Kathy? and Megan? and Mum?

Bill Hakonson gave up part of a warm winter in Dawson for a visit to Australia, landing in Cairns. But Bill could not take the heat and has happily returned to Dawson.

Back from spending a good part of the winter in Germany are Merlin Grade and sons Miles and Michael. She was joined later by husband Jim Williams. They loved Austrian trains as they had a special play area for children set aside.

Uta and Jim Reilly went to Victoria to visit Sandra and Greg Kehoe. While Jim had the good fortune to buy a lottery ticket and that won him \$1000.00. Some cheap holiday they had.

Jan Malfair and Steve Kormendy just returned from Hawaii. They look so tan and fit. They don't belong in Dawson in January.

Susan Gould and Ken Herrmann have returned from their holiday in Mexico and California.



by Palma Berger

Apologies. Apologies. Apologies. I have two apologies to make and might as well include the third. First apologies to Bob Sutherland. It turns out he did put up his Christmas lights. Nearly fell off the ladder in so doing. I missed them because it was so near Christmas Day itself that they went up, and I never made my tour around the loop at that time. Next year I will hold the ladder for you, Bob.

Next apologies to Tony Berger. I neglected to mention that he was home for Christmas. Well, Tony, I did notice an extra body around the house at Christmas time. You really were not overlooked. But I do not like to mention when people are not here because it is like announcing that their valuables are unprotected. You do have that valuable vehicle in the back yard you know. The one you paid \$650.00 for, then the garage spent all summer working on it to make it roadworthy, and charged you another \$650.00, wasn't it? Well, I mean, compared to your bank account, that is an awful lot of money! I do not broadcast things like that.



Peter Gould has not mentioned it yet (though he has every right to) but I haven't officially welcomed him to Bear Creek. Peter has been living in Denise and Buddy Norman's house for many months now. He had a lovely array of Christmas lights also. Well welcome to Bear Creek, Peter. Now it is official. Now it is done.

Mikin Bilina was away for January visiting relatives in Czechoslovakia. Anne stayed to look after things at home here. But she too suffered this creeping assorted problems of the back that is hitting the south side of Bear Creek. First it was Kennedy in the summer who had to have a back operation for disc problems. Then in the fall, Bill Harris got the news that he should not do any heavy physical work because his back is going to need some medical attention. Then Anne, has to go and slip on her front steps as she was descending and got herself badly bruised and was laid up for a bit.

Just hope that this problem stays on the south side, or better still, just goes away.

What else is new? Oh, Yes, the huge husky as the pet dog seems

to be disappearing. The Owen's have got a gorgeous-looking wee spaniel. But watch it, it is a protective little devil. The Kormendy's have an attack Pomeranian. A ball of black fluff with springs on its feet. It leaps left, right or straight in the air, yapping all the time. Who would dare go near that?

Welcome back to Joanne and Wayne Fraughton and daughters Elizabeth and Mary. They have just had an extended holiday Outside. First they took the leisurely ferry ride to Bellingham, and then spent some time with Joanne's relatives in Vancouver. Wet Vancouver. Then on to Nova Scotia to visit Wayne's relatives. They had a really enjoyable time. The girls are still assimilating all their impressions and for the moment are just happy to be back in their log built home among familiar surroundings and friends.

One last thought expressed on the City's reasons for expanding their boundaries. One stated reason was that the rural dwellers use the town's facilities, without contributing to their upkeep. Does that mean that Whitehorse now has an argument not to let other Yukoners use their facilities, also?

In the meantime the days are getting longer, Yay. The morning drive to work is under the increasing glow of a dawn. Yay. The evening drive home shows a faint touch of the sun's red in the sky. Yay, and again, Yay!

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THE BIRTH PANGS OF K.V.A.

by Sue Ward

The new buildings in Dawson have become old hat, but try to imagine the excitement when the original handful of residents learned that, not only would the Palace Grand Theatre be re-created, but the opening show would star Bert Lahr in a Broadway Production named "Foxy". The entire show would be shipped in and a nation wide promotion would bring thousands up the Alaska-Klondike Highways (he,he,he!) to share in the rebirth of the City of Gold. The village was reeling from the loss of the Territorial Capitalship, and Y.C.G.C. didn't plan to be around much longer either. Each July a City Tax Sale would offer lots for twenty-five dollars, provided the existing buildings would be flattened. They were fire hazards and Dawson's dinky fire engine and the iffy town water supply couldn't handle much of a blaze. Everything was going down, nothing was going up. Promoters arrived to tell of the Second Coming and folks were persuaded to buy up old buildings which could be rented out to the hordes as unique accommodation. Quite a number of Dawson lovers shelled out their savings, hopeful of winning on a long shot in a short summer in 1962.

One can't help but think that Mr. Lahr of Cowardly Lion Fame must have believed he was about to return to the Land of Oz. The cast were flown in but the costumes and scenery sets and lighting board came by truck, from New York. The story goes of the driver who arrived in Dawson Creek (Mile Zero of the Alaska Highway) tired and dirty at the end of many days of travel,

and pulling into a gas station, asked where the theater was. If you remember Dawson Creek in 1962 you will understand the blank stare on the face of the gas jockey. "Theatre? What theatre?" "The new Palace Grand in Dawson City," snarled the weary trucker. "Dawson City! Hell, man, this is Dawson Creek. You've got another thousand miles to go!"

Can you believe the whole promotion was centered on Eastern Canada, actually in our Land of Oz, Ottawa and Stratford, and the Eastern Seaboard States -- not California or British Columbia. So the days grew warmer and longer and Dawson's hardy band of Tourist Entrepreneurs prepared for the awakening. As they say "the rest is history". The show "FOXY" was terrific, by all accounts. But Mr. Lahr was not amused. Who could blame him? A comedian, more than any other performer, needs an audience. It is said that he was so ticked off that he demanded someone get out on the street with a fist full of tickets and drag in the passersby, some of whom had never seen live theatre and were en route home feeling no pain, if you know what I mean.

For some, who had gambled their shirts, that must have been the longest summer in Dawson's brief history. When it finally ended there had to be a government grant to cover the cost of getting the crew and cast air-fare home to the Big Apple. One can only imagine the tall tales they told of their Klondike Adventure.

But what about the old folks at home? And what about the debts? And what about next summer? There stood the empty

theatre, restored beyond her former glory at taxpayers expense of about \$250,000.00 There is one thing that can't be stopped. The ice will go out, the snows will melt, and adventurers will push on through rocks, mud, or dust, to the Land of the Midnight Sun. And that hardy handful of once-bitten-twice shy gamblers were ready and willing to give the old world a twirl of their own.

From here on I'm on a roll from a letter received from my



Lil Munroe

dear friend, Lil Monroe, who with her husband Mac, spent thirty-five winters in this town. Their son Bob made the trip down from Whitehorse as a toddler by riverboat when Lil, as an R.N., joined Mac who had replaced the deceased druggist. Daughters Heather and Carol were born in Dawson. Lil and Mac shared their home with me when I arrived in 1968 as a member of the cast for Fran Dowie's Gaslights Follies. The affection I received from the Munroes and other members of that happy band explains why I am still here, and possibly why KVA's Bob McConkey thought I might provide some knowledge of those unrecorded years of 1963-64. Here's Lil's answer to my enquiry.

To answer KVA questions -- I sure know what happened after

"Foxy" We were broke and to keep the Palace Grand open, volunteers had to put on a show themselves. We got a woman from Whitehorse to audition players and I landed on stage as an old drunk, Mac was the Stranger from the Creek, and Jack Butterworth was Dan McGrew. It was all done in mime to a record of the Shooting of Dan McGrew.

Ask Vi Campbell, she was on stage too, as the girl on the bar. We put the skit on after gambling in the P. Grand and a show "City of Gold" and then there was dancing. We did this about three times a week all summer for, I believe, two summers.

I'm not surprised that there's no record -- everyone was too busy and tired to write much!

P.S. We lived in that Government House on Front Street at the time, and at 9:30 I'd hike to the P.G. to go on stage. Mac had to be there by 7:00 to set up gambling and get ready to show the film. Carol was dancing in the Can Can line in 1963 and Hedy Mueller sang "Only a Bird in a Gilded Cage". The pianist

was Tony Kraber who had been Assistant Stage Manager of "Foxy" (There's more as Lil warmed to the task and made a few phone calls.) "Others on stage were Meg Hill, Shirley Ford, Marlene Wakefield, and Ag Shaw. Daisy Nordling says it was a show every night. She was on stage too, and Carol and Hedy both said it was on every night, and after the first year we got paid. Maybe a dollar each, for I can't remember getting anything!"

Lil has provided a couple of addresses which I shall forward to KVA. My only memory of all of this was that the cast had a couple of shots of whiskey to perk them up and chase away the butterflies. We'll let KVA continue its research to complete the files of our vibrant organization. It occurred to me that some of Lil's pioneer spirit and good humour could be lost in the retelling. At 84, Lil doesn't miss a beat and wonders what all the fuss is about. Of course Lil was one of the original 'Nuts' who published the "Klondike Korner" for thirty years. Wouldn't you just know it!

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(L-R) Peter Menzies, Shelia Jones, John Gould, Beryl Zaybowski



Coming of Age

By Sue Ward

What a grand time forty folk of various ages had at MacDonald Lodge on Thursday, January 23rd, as they celebrated the annual "Tropical Night". This event truly sparks Staff Members, Residents and Guests, as the festivity represents several days of planning and effort as menus are prepared, decorations are placed about the whole of the lounge-dining area, entertainment is requested and given rehearsal and costumes are originated. It may seem informal, but it doesn't just happen. Winter is forgotten from the moment boots and parkas are exchanged for leis, which, though plastic, are not unlike those popped around one's neck upon arrival at Honolulu Airport for many a long time, though this pinch-hitting scribe remembers when the real thing was the instant proof one had arrived at the enchanted isle.

The buffet was so tasty and colourful, with plenty of fresh fruit and spicy treats rounding out the ample entrees. All of this to the sounds of surf and sea. Supt. Joanne Smith took scant time to eat as she was constantly

focusing the video camera to keep the record straight.

Entertainment found Dan Davidson opening with a trio of familiar songs, followed by Peter Menzies, who pleased everyone with his original song honouring Art Fry, and enjoyed by wife Margie too. Their presence with Margie's sister Helen Boutilier, was special as travelling is not too easy. Sue Ward plunked a bass ukulele while asking "How does a Fly Keep His Weight Down?" and a nonsense poem, leaving the way open for Marie Gogo, who, as always took special care in costuming while crooning and swirling typical Island rhythms.

Winding up the whole affair was a Lip Synch-Mime trio of Brenda Baxter, Gwen McIntyre, and Peter Maxwell, adding a happy climax to the whole affair. Many thanks to one and all from one and all!

Happy Birthday Greetings Henry Hanulik, Mary Hanulik, Marie Lamontagne, Dick Field, and Lena Christiansen.

Amelia Grandy is A/Supt. in the absence of Joanne Smith, on a well-earned holiday.

Authors to Visit

by Dan Davidson

Two well known authors will be visiting Dawson in the next couple of months.

Lyn Hancock, noted writer and conservationist, will be here from March 3-5. She will be giving talks at the Robert Service School. Hancock's visit has been organized by the school's teacher-librarian, Betty Davidson and is financed partly by a grant from the Dawson City Recreation Board. Hancock's best known books involve animals in odd places, like *There's an Ape in My Hatbox*, but she has also written books and articles about the North West Territories. Hancock is also available for a public reading if a group can be found to sponsor it. Contact Betty Davidson at 993-5045 to arrange details.

Monica Hughes, as noted in "Library Pages", is expected to be here to help celebrate the National Book Festival in late April. Hughes is probably best known as a writer of juvenile science fiction, but her interests are broad, and one of her books, *Gold Fever Trail*, was set mostly in Gold Rush era Dawson.

Dawson City Fire Department

by Chief Pat Cayen



Every organization has dedicated volunteers who are the mainstay of each project and the Dawson City Fire Department is no exception. Our City, myself in particular, is lucky enough to have a whole crew of dedicated volunteers. These people are the ones who show up at three in the morning if that is when they are needed. They carry pagers and radios and are on call for what seems like most of their lives. They take the time to train for potential disaster and keep alert for safety hazards. Each year the Fire Department chooses firefighters that have performed in an outstanding manner.

The 1991 Firefighter of the Year Award was presented to Deputy Chief Al Fisk in recognition of the time and energy he devoted to the department and the City in the absence of a Fire Chief. The 1991 Most Improved

Firefighter Award was presented to Firefighter Jim Irwin in recognition of his firefighting knowledge and skills.

The 1991 Rookie of The Year Award was presented to firefighter Keith McMaster in recognition of his hard work and dedication as a recruit.

When you see our Fire Department volunteers on the street please take the time to say "thanks" because it is your safety that they have in mind.

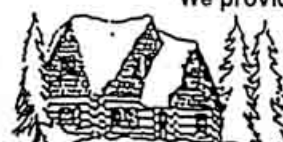
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