

THE KLONDIKE SUN

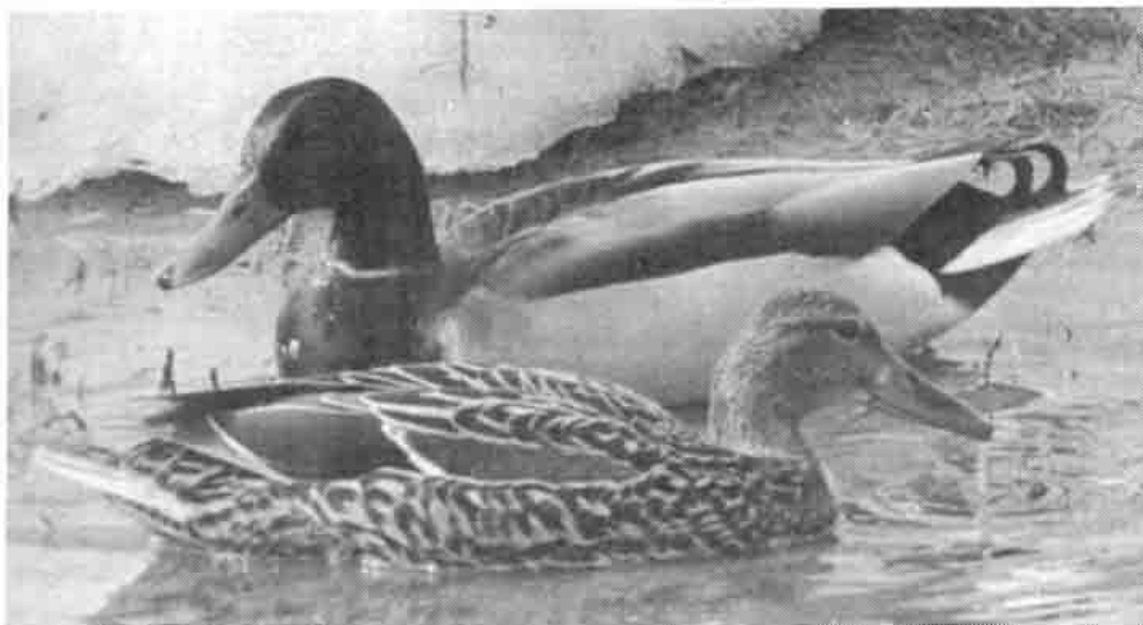
DAWSON CITY, YUKON

THE KLONDIKE SUN

Thursday, May 14, 1992

Vol. 4 No. 1

60 Cents



Spring is just ducky this year at the Commissioner's Residence. In spite of the malodorous weather 20 or so of these mallards stopped and dabbled awhile in late April.

Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

One Armed Bandits to invade Gerties

by Dan Davidson

Summer will bring the usual crowds of tourists to Diamond Tooth Gerties in Dawson, where they will mingle with the locals at the gaming tables, sip drinks with their friends and watch the floor show. But this year there will be a new sound in Centennial Hall, the click/whir of 52 slot machines, bringing in what the Klondike Visitors Association projects could be close to \$250,000.00 in fresh revenue to be poured into its projects around the town.

The KVA membership passed a special resolution on April 9 to borrow \$375,000.00 to get this new project off the planning papers and into the building. New project though it may be, KVA board secretary John Wierda says the association has wanted to move in this direction for a number of years. Now, as video slot machines begin to proliferate in eastern Canada and move into the prairies, the time has seemed ripe for the change at Gerties as well.

Wierda says that the territorial government is prepared to grant the association a license to operate the machines and share the revenue with the government

on a 25/75 basis. If his projections are correct this could net the YTG about \$146,638.00 per year out of a total revenue of \$576,150.00, leaving the association the rest to make its annual payments on the start-up loan and still make a handsome profit.

This move comes at a time when KVA income, which is still healthy at about \$250,000.00 annually, is beginning to drop off. For the last two years people have been drinking a bit less and leaving a bit less at the tables as tastes and social conventions change. Wierda's study of the literature indicates that the same thing has been happening in big gambling centers, where the income from machines has surpassed that of the live action over the last several years.

Perhaps people are in a hurry. Perhaps they don't want to take the time to learn the games. Perhaps the machines remind people of the now common lottery games. Perhaps it simply hurts less to be beaten by a machine. Whatever the reason, people seem willing to drop lots of quarters and loonies into one

armed bandits.

That's the type of machine that will be set up in Gerties, old style slots with the lever to pull and wheels to turn. The newer machines are more like video games and the KVA felt that they would not be in sympathy with the historic recreation intended in the casino.

The actual cost of the 52 machines (41 for quarters and 11 for dollars) will be \$312,000.00. The other costs include freight, new wiring, and a machine to roll and count coins. Major items include \$25,000.00 for cabinets to house the slot machines in a compatible fashion and the same sum for a new system of security alarms and cameras.

Wierda projects that the machines will generate between \$15.00 and \$20.00 of revenue for every hour they are running. The KVA may experiment with different hours for Gerties in order to get maximum use from them. The association expects to pay off its loan in 5 years if its esti-

Continued on page 2

Ice Pool winner is local: Yukon River provides a community show

by Dan Davidson

Many people had been expecting an early break-up for the Yukon River after a mild winter, but the temperatures dropped well below seasonal norms on April 25 and stayed there for the next two weeks. In addition the river was low and the pressure wasn't there to push the ice bridge out of the way.

So it was on Friday at 8:09 P.M., after two relatively sunny days and a false start on Thursday, that the tripod in mid-river finally drifted off down the river, tripping the clock in the old C.I.B.C. building. That made Bill Hakonson, who held a ticket for 8:08 P.M., the winner of the Annual I.O.D.E. Ice Pool, with a prize of \$2385.68.

Bill first walked across the ice

bridge 46 years ago, but this is the first time he has ever won. Oddly enough, his brother's wife won last year.

The prize was down from last year's \$3,313.47. I.O.D.E. treasurer Kathy Webster says that this year the group sold 3701 tickets at \$1.00 apiece. The local sale was normal but sales were down in Whitehorse this year.

I.O.D.E. used to stand for Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, but Dawson member Lenore Jenkins says the former acronym is just a name these days, after a decision taken by someone in Ottawa about 8 years ago. It's not a change she favours.

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Happy 4th
Birthday to
The Klondike Sun



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Local group wants to meet Minister

The Continuing Saga of Klondike City

by Dan Davidson

Mayor Peter Jenkins and Chief Steve Taylor have addressed a joint letter to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Tom Siddon, requesting a special meeting with him when he is here during the weekend of the Dawson City Gold Show. The chief item of concern on the minds of the councils represented by the two community leaders is the matter of proposed placer mining in the Lousetown area.

Both the Dawson City and Dawson First Nation councils have registered strenuous objections to the proposals by 9740 Yukon Ltd. and/or Arkona Resources Inc. (the legal identities are somewhat vague due to internal corporate power struggles) to mine large tracts of the Lousetown (or Klondike City) area just across the Klondike River from Dawson.

Recent Level 2 hearings of the Regional Environmental Review Committee on April 28 saw three different levels of government, along with the Dawson First Nation and the Yukon Historical and Museums Society, examine the possible ramifications of such a project.

The YHMS brief, submitted by local historian Michael Gates, took the view that at least 16 different features of potential historical significance would probably be destroyed if mining proceeded ahead of evaluation. These include the remains of a Cable House, a sawmill, remnants of rail cars, a steam engine, the Klondike Brewery, the Klondike Mines Railway, a portion of a Steam engine and several other items above ground. The exact extent of artifacts below the ground is not known at this time.

Lousetown is known to have been one of the settlement areas

for the Han Indians over a period of several hundred years, and Whites are known to have made use of the place as early as two years prior to the discovery of Klondike gold. As the Gold rush progressed, Lousetown became an important industrial satellite of Dawson City, then picked up the brothel trade, then declined as part of the general decline of the Dawson area from the mid-1920's, especially after the rail bridge to Dawson washed out in 1925. By the 1980's most of the remaining buildings were gone.

Gates' brief stresses that the area is a fragile historical resource and points out that some of the key areas may already have been ruined by the unrestrained mining activity that took place there in the summer of 1991.

In the view of the YHMA, mining should be restricted on this site until proper investigation can be done, the proponents of the mining plans should be made to bear some of the cost of the investigation work, and should be required to post a performance bond "to guarantee their good and honorable performance regarding the mining of Lousetown." The recommended amount is \$100,000.00, to be held in trust by the crown. Further, YHMA recommends that the companies give personal guarantees not to damage the heritage resources of the site.

The Dawson First Nation continues to be opposed to any mining in Lousetown pending settlement of its land claim, which should come within the next year.

The City of Dawson supports the Han intervention and has a few reservations all its own as well. Council has adopted the position that it must now intervene in all of these cases because of the cumulative effect the operations may be having on the city's water supply. Peter Jenkins criticized the narrow frame of reference within which the Water Board must operate, which forces it to take the applications one at a time, even when they are clearly related and overlap as in the case of the 9740 and Don Sandburg proposals.

Jenkins indicated that some of the major city expenses that have led to the need for a new well and increased reserve capacity can be traced to the impact of previ-

ous Water Board decisions. Jenkins intimated that rate payers here face a whopping increase in sewer and water levies this year partly because of the need to recover capacity which has eroded due to the long term impact of mining.

Interestingly, both councils see the Lousetown issue as being of premier importance at this time and their spokespeople have indicated that they are prepared to seek court injunctions against the operations if the licences are finally granted.

Chris Sorg, of the Dawson City Museum and Historical Society, feels, along with Michael Gates, that there are so many changes about to be brought up in the federal and territorial legislation governing mining, that the Lousetown proposals should be put on hold until they are enacted.

Continued on page 5



Lousetown, circa 1898, looking north. Dawson is across the river in the upper right of the picture.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to you about the toast to Canada Campaign that we have heard so much about. When any type of holiday comes around a small feeling of excitement comes over me that seems to make that day seem special. I am the type of person that hums Christmas carols at the first sign of snow. However this day seems to have no special meaning to me.

I sit at home and watch the news, I see our different levels of government beginning to dictate more to us now than they did when the Empire Loyalists headed to this continent to escape dictatorship. I find it difficult to celebrate my heritage for many different reasons; one being that we are in a society that finds it easy to take away other persons heritage to create our own.

We see in history books a country that has stood tall to defend what was ours, yet our people are prejudice to those who stand within this country for the same reason. I walk/drive around town and see American flags flying, I hear those

who are ignorant to our First Nation Land Claims speak out against something they don't even understand.

A small town in the North of a country as vast as ours seems to have not been able to escape the one disease that has started more wars and killed more people than any other prejudice.

Am I wrong in saying I am a Canadian but at the moment am not proud of it. Our country has managed to snow job the rest of the world into believing that we are the ones to be admired. How can I toast to a country if I don't even know what the future of it is? Shall I enter the minds of the province of Quebec and see what the future is, or shall I call the president of the United States and ask them what he has in store for us?

On this day, the toast to Canada day, I will walk onto my deck, see the American flag in my neighbours yard listen to the sounds of Japanese cars go by and do the one thing that is Canadian. "I'll wonder what a Canadian really is."

I'll toast to this country

when:

- Our government starts to invest in our natural resources, thus creating employment for the unemployed.

- When our government says enough is enough and stops bowing down to our neighbours. (You want to play hard ball, we'll play hard ball.)

- When our government stops its bureaucratic B.S. and settles its land claims with this country's First Nations.

- When our government stops spending money on studies when everyone else can see what the problem is.

I'll toast to the public when:

- The people stand up and say "No" you work for us, not against us.

- And finally I'll toast to our government when they realize the Yukon is not British Columbia and they start to process Unemployment Insurance cheques here.

Glen Everitt
Yukon.

Dear Klondike Sun Friends:

I continue to so enjoy your paper-when each issue arrives I shelve everything and read it cover-to-cover.

I fell in love with Dawson City when I was there in 1981, then more in love with your wonderful town when I was there in 1983. I must go back again!

Soooo enjoy Sue Ward's contribution, her very very interesting stories and her sweet poems.

All my best!
Sincerely,
Annie Laura Schell



The Klondike Sun accepts letters to the editor on local issues. All letters must be signed, preferably typewritten, double spaced and no longer than 500 words. Letters must be in good taste and may be edited for length or to eliminate potentially libellous statements.

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Where is Bella?

Bella is missing. You all know Bella, she's a beautiful dog. She was outside my house, wearing a tag, on the morning of April 22. Four witnesses saw the city van driving back and forth in the north end at that time and then saw it park in front of my house. Later that morning Bella was missing and hasn't been seen since. The city employee who is responsible for destroying stray dogs was in town at that time. The city will not say whether or not they killed my dog. I have made five enquiries to them, and the only response I have received is that they do not have to inform a pet owner if their dog has been destroyed.

My dog was not a stray. She was licensed, tagged, spayed, cared for and loved. Is it humane for this dog to have been killed if she was? Why can't I be told the truth, so I can at least stop wondering and worrying? It is difficult enough to lose a loved dog, to not be told if she was killed is patently cruel.

Dog lovers of Dawson, beware that this could happen to you and your dog too. Anyone who is willing to help me fight the city on this issue, please contact me, your pet's life may be at stake too.

Sylvie Boudreau
993-6939

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Editorial: Beginning Year Four

by Dan Davidson

"Happy Birthday to Us!" might seem to be the first order of business this issue. There were those who said we could never get it going, and those who said we could never last, but we're about to lay Volume 4, number 1 to rest, and it feels good. (Right guys...uh, guys?) We've got a pretty good organization at present. While I write these words on my Mac at home a lot of hard workers are doing the physical labour down at the Waterfront Building office. It's a far cry for the way we began.

Our first issue was keyboarded by Chere (Bear) Mitchell at this same desk, but on a Laser 128 Apple clone. It was printed in the next room, on my blocky dot-matrix printer. We fastened the strips to the layout sheets at our first office with rubber cement and ran all over town when we needed a photocopier to help finish the ads.

By the second issue we had our first Mac, with money borrowed (and all paid back) from Sourdough Sue Ward, one of our directors, but we still had no printer. I took disks from the Mac at the office and printed them off at the Robert Service School. The disks were so full of material that it took the printer there over half an hour to print the contents of the files. Once I had the run started, I retired to my classroom down the hall and put in time marking my final examinations until it was time to deliver the printed copy to where it belonged. This worked, but imagine the trouble we had printing corrections for typos. The next issue was the first for which we had our own laser printer, and it made a big difference.

As with our text nearly all of our photographs were processed in other peoples' darkrooms. Most were printed downstairs at the Gates' house, but Bob Mitchell did some in his darkroom, and some others came from the school. The results of sending a regular photograph to our Whitehorse printer, having it re-shot for half-toning, and then repositioned for us were often a little cumbersome and never quite certain.

In the course of time we threw out the rubber cement and started using waxers to do our layout, we bought our own photocopier, picked up a second (bigger) computer and another printer. We were forced to move to new offices and used that move to begin working towards our own darkroom. You've been seeing the results of that over the last three issues.

While a good deal of the material you read in these pages is still written by one of the people in the masthead box, we've branched out a lot from that, too. Sue Ward did a name count two issues back and found out that 28 other people had written material or taken photographs for that particular issue. That was a nice thing to know.

We still can't - and don't - do it all, though. Most of those 28 people were folks who had a specific interest and either asked one of us if they could write about it or simply sent us the material. That's the only way to be sure that your wedding, club or special event gets the space you feel it deserves. Every so often we have an employee or two (2 last summer and 2 this spring) for limited periods of time to cover special projects we've been able to justify to the U.I.C. or Challenge people, but a great deal of the work is still done by volunteers, most of whom have families and day jobs to answer to. We're always looking for more hands, brains, ideas and time. Come and talk to us about it at our First Annual General Meeting on May 25th. We'd love to recruit you or hand over one of our jobs.

Why, with twice the number of people involved, we could form two production teams and go bi-weekly ... NO! Kathy! Put down that exacto-knife! I'll go quietly.

See you next month, folks.

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The Klondike Sun

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

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Continuing saga

Continued from page 3

At that point a number of the loopholes that Gary Crawford used to pursue his operation last summer on behalf of Berglyn Resources (now fragmented into 9740 and Arkona) will be closed or clarified. They would like to persuade Tom Siddon to take this into account and take a stand in favour of heritage.

"We're approaching the 21st century and still have 19th century legislation," says Gates, who is a strong advocate of multiple use strategies for land. This concept doesn't rule out mining, but says that it must be weighed against other factors and developed in such a way as to get the most benefit for everyone. Gates feels that a mining proposal this close to Dawson which includes a bunkhouse/campsite in its planning can't be going to do much for the local economy, even in the short term, let alone the long term.

Sorg, who originally was more conciliatory, says that his change in attitude comes in part from his awareness that most of his contacts among the rest of the local mining industry see the Lousetown operation as "giving mining a black eye" and aren't in favour of it themselves. He still feels that it is possible to develop a compromise approach which will satisfy all the various needs in the area, and hopes to see a local committee put a proposal together. However, he does feel that the current projects cannot proceed until this has been done.

Local wins Ice Pool

Continued from front page

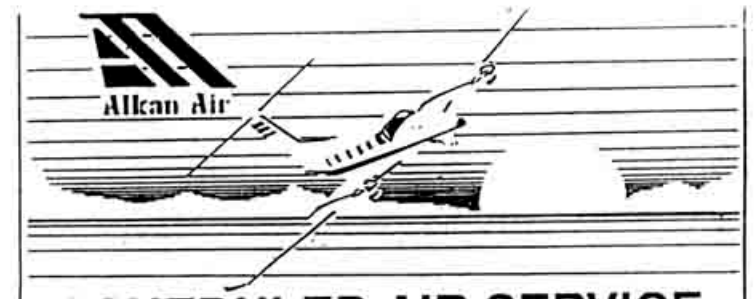
May 8 isn't really that late a date for the Yukon River to break up. While the last three

years have been April 29 and 30, 1987 was May 9, and ten years ago it was May 13. The ice has broken as late as May 28 and as early as Apr. 28 in recorded history, which dates back to 1896 with only two omissions.

While the nippy weather has discouraged the usual daily gatherings of river watchers, some of the more dedicated folk were there when the tripod moved, and several hundred people arrived on the dyke within minutes of hearing the fire siren. The river put on a show which kept peoples' attention for about an hour. Large pans pushed the smaller

cakes onto the shore line in the familiar angled pattern, while currents swirled every which way. Adults pointed at the movement of the ice and took pictures or videos while youngsters threw rocks at the moving and stationary ice and some of the more reckless older teens ventured onto the ice whenever it wasn't moving.

While the spectacle of the river in motion again after all these months is a draw for even regular residents, for Jackie and Albert Mela of Rio Del California it was a dream come true. The couple had arrived in Dawson three weeks previously to await break-up. Their story is found in John Gould's article elsewhere in this issue.



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Seniors check out the new bus in front of McDonald Lodge.

Photo by Sue Ward



Coming of Age

By Joanne Smith

TRAVELLING IN STYLE

At long last Dawson's seniors and persons with disabilities will have the opportunity to leave their residence to travel through town and enjoy out trips. McDonald Lodge is now the proud owner of a specialized bus that can accommodate 12 passengers plus 2 wheel chairs.

This bus has an hydraulic lift mechanism for entry and exit of wheelchairs to previously restricted areas such as boardwalks and some porches. The walk-on

step is low and easy to climb. A person can stand inside at full height and seats are wide and accessed easily.

Up until now the lodge has used a small vehicle which has been inaccessible to the majority of people who require assistance. Programming has been limited and with this new vehicle seniors can look forward to more services and fun out trips.

Plans are underway for regularly scheduled trips to downtown stores. One idea is to have one

afternoon for a grocery express trip and another afternoon for a leisure shop trip when you can be dropped off downtown and picked up at a later time.

Bus services will be available to community seniors, lodge residents and others who require wheelchair assistance. A small fee may be charged for community users.

Staff at the lodge and home support staff must obtain their class 4 licence to operate the bus with passengers. This will be complete by May 28 (in case you are wondering why it hasn't been in service yet).

This bus and the new lift bathtub at the lodge are items that have been in need for a long time. They will enhance the quality of care for our community for many years and the acquisition of these items have been met with great enthusiasm by our seniors.

Klondike National Historic Sites gears up for planning program

Can-can girls and honky tonk piano players will have to share the stage with a Canadian Parks Service (CPS) planning team this summer as Klondike National Historic Sites (KNHS) in Dawson, Yukon will undergo a review of its management program.

CPS manages historic resources in and around Dawson and is asking for the public's participation in reviewing how well the Service is doing its job.

"It's been a long time since we had a public review of our management policies. With the public's help, we want to take another look," said Al Fisk, KNHS superintendent.

The last time CPS asked for public input in the management of its resources in Dawson was 1977 when a Master Development Plan was approved for the sites. Shortly thereafter, the federal government adopted a policy of fiscal restraint which put a hold on many of the developments promised in the plan. The upcoming planning review will revisit the 1977 plan, plus incorporate more recent internal CPS planning documents. The result will be an updated management plan that will plot the future direction for KNHS.

Greg Thomas, a CPS heritage resources planner who will lead the planning program, has already outlined a number of issues that require resolution.

"For example, how well is KNHS commemorating the Klondike Gold Rush? How well is KNHS relating to the people of Dawson and what can be done to improve the program in the future?" Thomas said, "Another issue would be, how can CPS and the Yukon Government work together in interpreting the goldfields?"

Thomas encourages the public to come forward with any other planning issues. Interested people are asked to send in their names to be put on a mailing list to receive newsletters about the planning program.

To get on the mailing list, participants may phone, fax or send

their complete address to one of the following contacts:

Superintendent
Klondike National Historic Sites
Box 390
Dawson City, Yukon
Y0B 1G0
PH: 403-993-5462
FAX: 403-993-5683

- or -

Tim Krause
Public Participation Officer
Canadian Parks Service
Prairie and Northern Regional
Office

457 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 3E8
PH: 204-983-7513 (Collect)
FAX: 204-983-7522

In addition to the newsletters, the planning team will be hosting public meetings to discuss KNHS on the following dates:

Dawson, Yukon: 7 p.m. local time, Tuesday, June 16, 1992, Palace Grand Theatre;
Whitehorse, Yukon: 7 p.m. local time, Thursday, June 18, 1992, Village Boardroom of the Westmark Whitehorse (2nd and Wood Avenue).

Everyone is welcome to attend. Complimentary refreshments will be served.

PUBLIC TENDER LANDSCAPING

Sealed tenders, completed in accordance the Specifications of Tender on the forms provided and plainly marked "Old Territorial Administration Building, Landscaping, Dawson City, Yukon, 1992 will be received up to 4:00 pm PST, Thursday, May 14, 1992 at Contract Administration, (403) 667-5385. Technical questions may be directed to Michael Cowper at 667-5134.

Project description: recreation of the historical gardens and park at the Old Territorial Administration Building, known as "Victory Garden."

Tender documents may be obtained from any Territorial Agent or at Contract Administration, Department of Government Services, 2nd Floor, 302 Jarvis St., P.O. Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6 on deposit of \$50 cash, certified cheque or money order drawn in favour of the Government of Yukon. The deposit is refundable if the tender documents are returned, in good condition, within 60 days of tender closing.

Specifications are available for viewing at the office of the Yukon Contractors' Association, #6 - 106 Main Street., Whitehorse, Yukon and Amalgamated Construction Association, Vancouver, B.C.

The Yukon Business Incentive Policy will apply to this project.

GST does not apply to this project. The lowest or any tender is not necessarily accepted.

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Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

California Dreamin'

Jackie and Albert Mela, pose in front of stranded Yukon River ice blocks at Ferry Landing.

by John Gould

Every once in a while, we have visitors who come to Dawson early enough to watch the break up of the ice. In early May of 1974 during the first "Break Up Drama Festival", right after the first night's performance, a number of those who took part were in the Eldorado Lounge when the fire siren announced the break up. The lounge emptied as every one rushed down to the river, that is every one but those of us who had seen the ice go out many times and no longer got excited. It was old hat to us so we just stayed put.

Last year there was a Japanese film crew here, making a film on

the wonders of Canada. When they realized the break up was imminent, they wanted to film it but had to go to Old Crow. While in Old Crow, they phoned back to Dawson every 4 hours to check on the break up.

In February of this year, the Department of Tourism got a phone call from a couple in northern California asking for information on the dates of the break up. They wished to come to Dawson and see the ice go out. Albert and Jackie Mela of Rio Dell, California, arrived here 3 weeks ago. For a while, they were parked out at the Shell Station campground but were told they should move into town

where they could keep a close eye on the ice. For the last while, they have been parked in their motorhome across from the Commissioner's Residence. They keep a close eye on the ice, and if they see any movement they are out there with their camcorder, putting it on tape. While here they have met many people who have been very friendly. They said that the Dawson teens are a nice group - they have had a number of conversations with some of them. Also while here, their home town was hit by an earthquake; they were invited into a Dawson home to see it on the news. They phoned home to their family who told them that

the only damage was that the carport had pulled away from the house, but everything else was fine.

Albert has read many stories on the Klondike over the years. Many of these stories mentioned the ice break up, so they just had to come and see for themselves. He has recently retired from his job and was now able to make the trip. They will have many stories and pictures to show their friends back home, which incidentally isn't much bigger than Dawson, having a population of 3,000.

Maybe the ice break up should be something that could be promoted as a visitor attraction.

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POWER SMART

CASAR TO RETURN TO DAWSON

by Brent Morrison

The Civil Air Search And Rescue (CASAR) will be returning to Dawson City on May 24 to hold another training session. Last year, members of the 442 squadron from Edmonton's Namao base conducted a similar exercise which was attended by over a dozen people.

Once again the Hercules 151 will be flown in to be used for the training of "Spotters".

CASAR is a civilian branch of the National Defence Department. Since all emergencies (such as plane crashes) in the North are handled by the Edmonton base, the training of civilians in remote areas greatly improves the chances of rescue.

Interested persons will attend a seminar on survival techniques then get a chance to do spotting from the air.

Last year a crash site was set up on the Dempster Highway and all the participants were required to find the site and direct the pilot to it over the plane's intercom.

The seminar will be held Sunday morning at the library, although the exact time is still up in the air (pardon the pun).

This is a chance for new people to learn these important skills, and for last year's attendants to improve theirs.



This is a Hercules 151 Aircraft, used by CASAR in its training exercises

Photo by Brent Morrison

Trying to Find Something to Say

by Dan Davidson

Monica Hughes wanted to write from a very early age. At ten, she began a ritual which left her with a number of hardbound notes dutifully inscribed with catchy titles, the words "chapter 1" and very little else.

"I was doing something right," she told her Dawson City audience on Monday night. "Titles are important."

In her twenties she began to write seriously and collected a shoebox full of rejection slips before she moved to Canada in the 1960's. Continuing to write, she managed to place fourth and fifth in a number of novel competitions, but her attempts at adult fiction were not managing to get her into print.

It was when her youngest child went to school and she found herself with a block of free time that she decided to make a serious attempt to write once again. She decided to write regularly for a year and see what happened. Unfortunately she found out that what happened was that she could write about places quite well, but when it came to creating people and plots she was in terrible trouble.

Her first attempt was something she called "Monster From the Deep". It's never been in print and it never will be. She buried it. Then she tried to work with the characters she had created for it, and spent another 25,000 words beginning to get them to become somebody, by which

time she was completely sick of them.

Around that time a Jacques Cousteau television special on living underwater gave her the idea for *Crisis on Conshelf Ten*, which became her first successful novel. The central part of the plot concerned what it would be like to grow up underwater, and that premise gave her the starting point for her character's development as well. Let the person grow and develop and they will become real enough people to be interesting.

That book led to the surprise of being asked to write a sequel, which followed the same pattern except for being set on the moon. Hughes was now in a quandary; she had succeeded twice without having been able to figure out just exactly how she had done it. Would she be able to do it again?

Inspiration next struck her at the top of the Alberta Telephone Tower, and became the novel *Tomorrow City*. In this novel she solved to her own satisfaction the problems of plotting and character development, which hinge, for her, on asking herself the right kind of "writer's questions" and creating a dialogue between the creative and logical sides of her mind.

She sees the subconsciousness as a "rag bag of ideas...a store-room for things too good to throw away." Almost anything may trigger an idea for a plot. A hamster in her daughter's bedroom gave her *Space Trap*. Writing these things down when they occur to her is important. So is the research she does for her books. For her second novel she read the entire Apollo 14 transcripts, which she described as

being about the size of the Edmonton Telephone Book, "and considerably less interesting." Still, they provided her with material to manipulate.

Twenty-two books and 21 years later the process still works, and her skill as a researcher can enable her to write a convincing novel, even when it is set in a place she has never visited. Such was the case with *Gold Fever Trail*, which was set in Dawson City. Such is always the case when she creates a setting on another planet, as in her "Isis Trilogy", or in our immediate future, as in her newest novel, *The Crystal Drop*.

The juvenile novel turned out to be the place where Hughes could find her "voice", which she likens to a musician's instrument.

"I think it is easier to write a 40-45,000 word novel than it is to write a 4,000 word short story," she told her mixed audience of about 55 adults and students.

She has an additional two novels at the publishers just now and is working on a new book. She does not discuss works in progress.

"It's like peeking at a souffle," she said, miming a souffle falling flat as the cook peeks in the oven. Talking about it somehow takes the energy out of the writing, she said. "It's something to do with (mental) pressure."

Hughes read bits and snatches from several of her works as she talked about her experiences as a writer. It was an appreciative group and the time passed quickly. Hughes' visit to Dawson was sponsored by the Dawson Community Library and YTG's Libraries & Archives Branch as part of the activities for the National Book Festival.



Photo by Dan Davidson

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Seniors L-R: Ole Lunde, John Gould, Chuck MacKenzie and Shirley Pennell representing Yukon Housing

Photo by Sue Ward

OLD TIMERS ARE TRENDY

by Sue Ward

There is an ongoing fascination with Klondike Old Timers. Whether it is writers from the best read magazines of the planet, or the TV Crews from faraway places, or Government investigators asking what makes us tick, should we tick differently, but never, have we stopped ticking. The most outstanding change to this old scribe is that 'old' keeps getting 'younger'. To Pierre Germain, Research Assistant, and Luigi Zanasi, Director of Policy and Planning of Yukon Housing Corporation, the age range of this latest enquiry was 49 and over. Now that should shake a few heads.

About a year ago Pierre Germain, who feels special warmth to the Old Capital because he drew breath here, searched out seventy folk, asked them as many questions, with emphasis on housing and followed the answers from every angle and percentage possible. The draft, entitled *Dawson City Seniors Housing Needs Survey*, was made available and discussed in detail with thirteen citizens, at McDonald Lodge, on Monday, May 4th, Pierre and Luigi fielding questions and arriving at even more conclusions as to what makes us tick.

The confusing matter was the fact that of the seventy folk interviewed, most thought that a senior housing complex would be a good thing but sixty-five said they wouldn't live there if it had been available last year. It could be that older folk do not accept old as an adjective describing their state. What is old? Who says?

How well I recall a beautiful spring day in Victoria, B.C. when the House was in Session and, as Member for the Cariboo, my husband Bill Speare chose to

have Miss Lottie Bowron, a native daughter of Barkerville where her father had been the first Gold Commissioner when that Gold Rush was the news of the world, recognized by The House, a first-time happening in the history of B.C. Miss Bowron, in her seventies was seated beside me in the front row of the Ladies' Gallery. She was quite lame with arthritis and getting her up there had been quite a maneuver. When the entire House thumped their desks in recognition of her contribution to her province she whispered "What should I do? My father would be so proud." "Miss Bowron," I whispered back, "just sit still and enjoy it. This is your moment." We were slowly making our way to the Speaker's Suite where Miss Bowron would be his guest for tea, when a young fellow stepped forward with notebook in hand to get a scoop for his local paper and almost immediately asked Miss Bowron "How old are you?" My heart bled for him as she raised herself to her greatest height and replied, "My dear young man, age has nothing to do with one's life. What you do with it is what matters. A chronological record is kept for statistical purposes, nothing more."

We accept labels happily if the moniker gives us a sense of pride and some control over the matter. And so it was with the senior housing idea. We felt labelled

through no fault of our own other than a chronological statistic. When the 49 and over phrase was mentioned a few times I'm still not sure if it made me feel 'less old' or my younger neighbours appear 'older'.

Having heard how much less stress is involved in letting someone else worry about the furnace and the freeze ups, the security of numbers, there were enough present to warrant a follow-up with application forms and further advances in making the suggestion a sure thing.

Copies of the draft are readily available from Yukon Housing Corp. or from us "Old Timers" who no doubt turned out to the meeting to make sure our in-depth personal contributions would not end up on the shelf. Give Palma Berger a buzz for answers to the 70 questions contained in the 64 pages of remarkable breakdowns and perspectives.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board follows up

by Sue Ward

This board of 12 members has, since 1987, been advising Government on all issues relating to the enormous Yukon Territory where First Nations have no management responsibilities. At a later date when Land Claims have been settled the Board will consist of a combined force. The Members have been travelling throughout the Territory so as to obtain problems and input from concerned citizens on every issue affecting the natural habitat, harvest, methods of harvesting and population management of all species. The presiding Minister of Renewable Resources must act on, or give reasons not to, all recommendations submitted.

The Klondike Sun has offered to present ideas, decisions, new knowledge, and recommendations of this dedicated group in order to keep this important factor up front.

Co-Chairperson Lorrina Mitchell shares the responsibility at the southern end of the Ter-

ritory while locally Gerry Couture sits on the Board. A First Nations appointee alternates the chairmanship. John Bailey is a Facilitator with the Wolf Management Planning Team, Kate McEwan serves as a writer, her column *Wildlands* appearing in the Yukon News.

Each month we will bring attention to the extensive work these Yukoners and other members of the Board are achieving.

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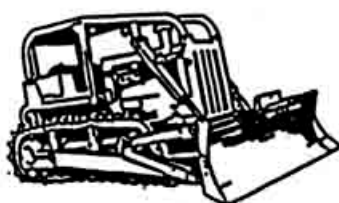
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L to R: Dale Cooper, Marjie Mann, Pat Henman

Photo by Michael Gates

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by Palma Berger

In the voice of Garrison Keeler, the radio announcer, welcomed his listeners to W.E.A.K. radio of Maynard, Texas. After announcing the next song, "Walking the Floor over You," the announcer gave the 'exact time... 1/4 after 3 ... p.m. ... in the afternoon.' The song began.

As this was part of the introduction of the play "Laundry and Bourbon" performed at the Y.O.O.P. Hall this past month, the announcer Grant Hartwick, was on full view as he became the singer, Lester P. Moron, accompanied by Don Armitage on drums and Adam McConnell on guitar. Then "Walk on By," sponsored by Burford's Barber Shop "where you always get clipped," was performed in real western twang. The next song "Your Cheating Heart" turned out to be appropriate to the play that was to follow.

As this song was being performed, the lights dimmed on the performers, and Elizabeth (Dale Cooper) walked on the well lit stage. She leans forward and turns the radio off. She tries to ignore the front door bell buzzing away, but reluctantly has to open the door to let in Hattie (Pat Henman), her neighbour.

The scene is on the back patio

of Elizabeth's house where she tries to fold laundry to keep from having pay full attention to Hattie. Hattie is well played by Pat Henman as the mother of two children over whom she seems to have little control, and married, and but not to the man she wanted. She is nosy, small town, and talks constantly but without really listening, either to herself or her more thoughtful friend, Elizabeth. She has had a day that was a 'living hell' as she took her children shopping, so gratefully accepts the bourbon that she is offered. In contrast to Hattie's constant chatter and restlessness, Elizabeth's inner turmoil is exhibited in her fidgetiness and restless hands adjusting her hair or going to her face, while her body stays put.

It is finally revealed that Elizabeth's husband, whom she loves dearly, is a Vietnam vet not yet over that war, and right now is 'playing around.' Hattie cannot understand Elizabeth's staying with the man, but screams delight when Elizabeth reveals she is pregnant. "Smart thing to do," she says pragmatically.

With secrets revealed they can now relax and recall high school days when Roy rolled into town with his pink Thunderbird and he and his friend, Wayne, would drive around town. The two girls fell for them. Elizabeth got her Roy, but Hattie was dumped by Wayne. On the rebound, Hattie marries Vernon. Wayne is now spending 5 to 10 years in jail for car theft. The usual constant-talking, wisecracking Hattie softens as she admits she still really loves Wayne.

Then onto the scene comes Amy, with the part for the broken down humidifier. It is the wrong part, but never mind, it was the excuse that got Amy (played by Marjie Mann) out to visit Elizabeth, to whom she is dying to impart the news that Elizabeth's husband is being seen around town with another girl.

Although Amy comes from the same background as Elizabeth and Hattie she feels she has risen socially by marrying Vernon who owns a business in town. Amy's conscience is soothed by parading the fact that she is a Baptist, but underneath she is a lip-smacking gossip, and

snob. She looks down on Hattie whose origins were lower than hers. When offered a bourbon, she admits to being a back door Baptist and accepts willingly.

There is constant rivalry between Hattie and Amy. They belong to rival bridge clubs, Amy has turned up in a cotton dress the same as Hattie's. Amy has no children, while Hattie's, in the course of the afternoon have shoplifted, set fire to their grandmother's pekinese, got lodged in a tree and so on. A short truce may be enacted as Amy divests herself of her gossip, but then Amy scorns any talk of the bridge club as the IN thing is now mahjong, 'a cultured parlor game that has been around for centuries.' Hattie wails that she will never learn it. Elizabeth tries to be peacemaker.

Meanwhile the bourbons are refilled. Amy, with too much bourbon, calls Hattie as stupid as her husband Vernon is a moron. Hattie responds in like about 'Skeeter,' Amy's husband. Amy will not have him called 'Skeeter' as he is now "Somebody". Amy rises unsteadily to her feet. But too much bourbon have had their toll, and she has to rush to the bathroom, where she is very sick. Hattie's joy at Amy's departure is diminished by the fact that "A Baptist barfed on my shoe."

All three participants kept in character, from Amy's bossy presence to Elizabeth's quieter, but understanding character, to the feisty Hattie. We all felt that each would survive.

They kept us enthralled, and indeed they could take this show on the road. It was a sold out audience. The waitresses and waiters, dressed in cowboy attire as befitting the location of the play, added to the atmosphere. This play was a local production, directed by Grant Hartwick, and receiving support from local groups.

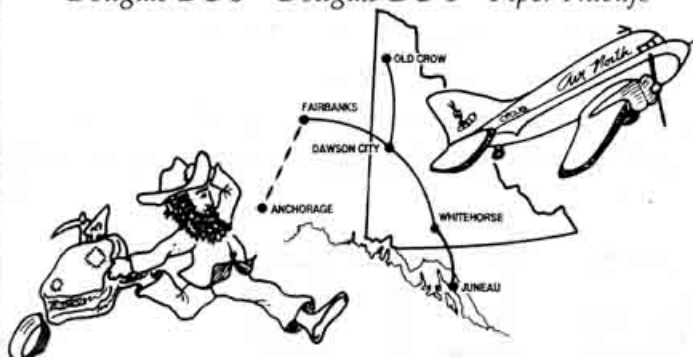
After winding the evening down with more songs by the company, Grant Hartwick announced that there will be a sequel to this drama in the Fall when the men's point of view will be presented. Except for the fun-loving, life-loving Wayne, who is still in jail. But watch for it.

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Canada 125 Corps



by Vi Campbell

I arrived back in Dawson April 27/92 after attending a meeting of Canada 125 Corp in Montreal. We have now reached the cut-off date for funding of national or regional projects.

As a representative on the board of Canada 125 Corp. I encourage you to organize your own activity for Canada's 125 anniversary, and to participate in activities suited to you, your neighbourhood, friends, and associations.

Canada 125 represents a landmark in time and opportunity for you to participate in building this country. Through enthusiastic exchanges and participation, our goal is to promote a better understanding of the values and realities that make our country unique.

Our goal is to assist Canadians everywhere to organize events and activities that will be a positive legacy to build on for the future.

We are offering you the opportunity to register your activity to become part of the program of Canada 125 events and projects that will be taking place across this country this year.

To register contact:
Arlen McFarlane
206-302 Steele St.
Whitehorse Yukon
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Fax 403-667-4507

The proposed activities must reflect the themes of Canada 125 which focus on our common values.

Our Land-freedom, safety,
Our People-achievements, sports, culture.
Our Future-the environment, helping one another, education, opportunity.

Registration benefits you; by registering your event with Canada 125 you have the following benefits:

- advice from local Canada 125 advisers
- event sponsorship and approved use of Canada 125 logo
- Use of Canada 125 merchandise and promotional items.

A reminder: June 14 @ 2:00 p.m. is the day for the National Neighbourhood Party. There are a number of ways you can participate in this party

- host your own neighbourhood party June 14
- make it your goal to get ten friends to host parties
- promote the event by distributing copies of the brochure

When you have your party, send your postcards to:

Joanie and the Neighbours
National Neighbourhood Party
6-433 River Avenue
Winnipeg Manitoba
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Phone: (204) 982-1992

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please include your name, phone number and address on your post card.

The national Neighbourhood Party idea belongs to everyone who decides to participate. It is truly a grassroots, apolitical, non-profit event.

In a concrete way, we will contribute to friendlier, safer neighbourhoods and will convey a powerful message that "everyone is welcome in our neighbourhood."

We'll be toasting each other June 14, Cheers.

I am the liaison for the following projects:

1. Canada sea-to-see Alexander McKenzie Trail



Photo by Madeleine Gould

Vi Campbell

2. Weber-Mala Khov North Pole expedition
3. Mount Logan Climb
4. Mount Manitoba Climb (Kluane Park)

I have been, along with Cece McCauley, authorized by Canada 125 Corp to be at the North Pole when Weber and Mala Khov arrive. To date this should be near the end of May.

The Board of Directors will be having a meeting in Dawson on June 19. The directors are looking forward to coming to Dawson. I hope they will enjoy their time here and will understand and agree that the Yukon is a great place to live.

Vi Campbell is the Director, Board of Canada 125 Corporation, Representing the Yukon. Canada 125 Corp 1-800-361-1992.

RCMP TO WALK

by Madeleine Gould

On May 15, the RCMP across Canada will be celebrating Canada 125 Festivities. The RCMP in Dawson will be wearing their red jackets and will be visiting the school, Day Care centers, the Alexander MacDonald Lodge, and anyone who would like to invite them in for a chat or coffee.

They assured me they would be walking that day.

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This summer, the Department of Renewable Resources is offering a special environmental awareness program for Yukon students going into Grades 7, 8, 9 and 10. Each camp moves throughout the Yukon, and includes wilderness adventure activities, conservation projects, and ways of getting to know the Yukon environment better. All equipment is provided, and there is no charge for the program. You can be part of the fun!

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For applications and information contact:

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 - First Nations offices (through the Community Education Liaison Coordinators)
 - Inquiry Centre, Yukon Government Administration Building
- or call 667-3675. Outside Whitehorse call toll free 1-800-661-0408.

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NOTE: This program should not be confused with the Outdoor Education Camp offered by the Yukon Fish and Game Association. Students are encouraged to apply for both as they offer different experiences.

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VISIT OUR BOOTH IN THE TAKHINI ARENA
AT THIS WEEKEND'S YUKON TRADE SHOW



by Palma Berger

Bet you didn't know, but we have been around since 1905. The place, Bear Creek has, but not the present residents of course. Some pretty well known people have passed through here.

Remember Butterworth's Store that Jack and Pretoria ran for years? That same Pretoria worked at Bear Creek and the Museum has a programme showing 'Pete' participating in a play there.

Then there is the present Mayor of Watson Lake, Barry Ravenhill. He left Bear Creek at the age of fourteen. That is just a couple of ex-Bear Creekers.

Staying with Myrna and Les Butterworth are Joan Renwick and Darryl Mueller from Whitehorse. Joan left Dawson about 1966.

Everyone was saying "Hasn't Mother Nature been kind to give us such a mild winter?!" But Mother Nature is having a real snicker up her sleeve. Our mild winter seems to be lasting twelve months. Snow last week? Unbelievable!

Some hopefuls still believe warm weather is coming. The ducks are on the slough, and the hawks are back.

Peter Gould has moved on and Susan Gould and family and Ken Herrman have moved into his house.

Greg Skuce is back. He had joined Sally Robinson when Sally got a good job with the museum in Whitehorse. But I heard that Greg, the great horse-lover, boarded faithful old "Calamity" out and really took to skidooring while there. This is true. Straight from the lips of a faithful friend.

Kathy and Les Robbins' great holiday is long over. Kathy has quit her job and is a stay-at-home mom. Does Les know that Kathy was heard to say once "I'd even bake bread every day if I could just have a summer off work?"

Olaf Venelovsky has returned from wintering in his native Czechoslovakia. He and Mikin Bilina met up when Mikin was over there.

The Bear Creek lot that was put up for lottery for purchase went to a Whitehorse resident. No sign of this new resident yet.

The land has been cleared on Sylvie Gammie's lot. Wonder what is happening there? Have heard a rumour of Gammie's condominium going up there. Would Garry and Sylvie consider building wee condominiums for all the dispossessed squirrels and birds whose bushes they've knocked down? No. Only a condominium for themselves. What types are we getting out here, anyway?

NEWS FROM THE ROCK

Correspondent - Marjie Mann



Hasn't this been an odd sort of a spring? Usually spring seems to last about two weeks -- just long enough to quickly melt the snow and move into summer. But this year it seems we had summer in March and spring is going to move into autumn! Oh well -- ever the optimist, I am sure we will get our good summer weather yet.

It seems that most Rock Creekers are waiting -- waiting for news on the boundary expansion, waiting for their summer jobs to begin or the summer customers to show up, waiting for warm enough weather to plant gardens. In the meantime, they are keeping busy.

Chuck Margeson has been getting Nancy's ready for the summer; Jane McArthur, Nancy Sorg and Bonnie Kearn have been putting on the miles -- taking in the long evenings by foot; Melody, her dad Grant (up for a visit, but leaving too soon), Erik, Linda and Bev appear to have been in a marathon card tournament over the past several weeks; John Colida is playing with his new toy (a cat) up at his claim; John Lenart is now crossing the river again -- but was sequestered for a couple of

weeks on his land with little to do but get the house ready for Julie and Sylvia (and watch the Klondike River go out -- "very boring" this year).

For those of you who remember Joel Lawson, he and his new bride send their hello's from Vancouver. Joel and Laura got married on April 25th (which just happens to be the wedding anniversary for both sets of parents!). Other big events in our household is the upcoming graduation for our resident teen-almost-adult (AKA Himself Jr.) on May 30th. Jason's mom and perhaps his older brother plan on coming up from Nanaimo for this milestone event. There are still a few more weeks of hard work and exams before it becomes history -- but we are all tremendously proud of "our boy" -- as I am sure all the parents of the other graduating students are.

A big bouquet to the teachers and other staff at Robert Service School for their commitment to our kids!

In the meantime, we will keep hoping for that summer weather we have earned -- by virtue of making it through another winter!

Henderson Corner Update

by Dahna Fisher

Hi once again, from the fields of springs, just south of town.

Since I last had anything to report about, a number of things have taken place.

Our devout bachelor, Jeff Stevenson, will give it all up on June 27, 1992.

The Heydorfs have returned from the sunny south with a joyous bundle of love. Congratulations to you both.

Our bird population has increased considerably around here this spring. Sandhill cranes are making this place one of their main rest stops on their journey north. They sure are a noisy lot around here at sundown.

Julius Melashenko has decided one way or the other to dwell on his estate. The waters have receded, Julius, you can move in.

Terry Lee has just purchased a Bic lighter. He doesn't smoke, but he sure has created enough while torching the fields around here. I feel that this is a sort of pastime, to keep him out of town.

So far, so good, no floods as yet at Henderson. Of course, not all of the Klondike River has gone out.

We'll keep you posted anyway. Sure hope the weather warms up, or spring will be gone and winter will be setting in.

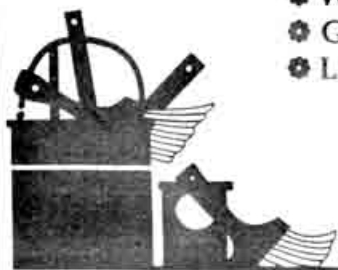
Until next time, keep your woolies handy.

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Dawson's youth puts litter in its place

by Brent Morrison

As part of the on-going Anti-Litter Campaign, students at Robert School Service recently competed in a poster and logo design contest.

The students were asked to come up with a poster showing the effects of litter on the environment. They were also asked to design a logo which will be painted on a number of forty-five gallon drums being used as trash barrels throughout the town. Another logo was also designed to become a badge.

Glen Everitt, the Anti-litter Campaign co-ordinator, explained that Ryan Peterson's logo was chosen as the winner, but because it featured *Oscar the Grouch* it could not be used because of copyright laws. Chrystal Kearn's design will be the one seen throughout the town.

Six year old Jonathan Noakes was given \$125.00 for his first place poster. Ryan Peterson was also given \$125.00 for his winning logo. Chrystal Kearn's was given \$100.00 for her design. Lucas Hawkes won \$50.00 for his first place badge design.



Photo by Brent Morrison

L-R: Glen Everitt, Alex Bowie, Mitchell Strid, Graham Everitt, Marcus Kearn, Jonathan Noakes, Chrystal Kearn, Ryan Peterson. Absent: Lucas Hawkes

Other winners were: Marcus Kearn (2nd place poster \$75.00), Graham Everitt (2nd place pail logo \$75.00), Mitchell Strid (3rd place pail logo \$50.00), Alex Bowie (3rd place poster \$50.00). The grade four class won pizza and pop for having the most effort and participation.

The students will also be making three Anti-Litter commercials with the help of Gene Gritner, the R.C.M.P., and the Dawson Indian Band. The commercials will be aired on DCTV and CBC.

Everitt says he has been amazed at the awareness this

campaign has raised. Students come up to him almost daily reporting sites that are potential hazards.

If the youth of today become concerned about their world, perhaps the world of tomorrow will be a cleaner place.

*In the Spring
by Tiel Ryant*

*The air in the spring
is so crystallly clear
as the ice breaks up.*

New anti-litter program inspires creative solutions

The Yukon government has launched a special one-time Community Anti-Litter Awareness Program. \$50,000 will be used to fund nineteen innovative community anti-litter projects around the Yukon. The projects are designed to raise awareness of litter as a year-round problem, and encourage people to put litter in its proper place. Program participants include most Yukon municipalities and First Nations, and a number of community groups.

Over the next few months, locally designed anti-litter signs will begin to appear in many communities along with litter and recycling barrels. Other projects include:

- A wall size mural in Carmacks
- Public workshops in Teslin
- Children's poster contests in Dawson, Old Crow and Carmacks
- Video projects in various communities
- Anti-Litter theatre and dance in Watson Lake and Carcross
- An "Auntie Litter" skit which

will be performed in schools in Whitehorse and outlying communities.

According to Renewable Resources Minister Art Webster, "The Community Anti-Litter Awareness Program supports the excellent spring clean-up programs of the Department of Community and Transportation Services. By linking our efforts and working together we can significantly reduce the amount of litter in the Yukon."

Start-up funds have also been provided for a Yukon chapter of Pitch-In-Canada, a national non-profit group focusing on waste management education and awareness.

Project proposals were judged with assistance from the Association of Yukon Communities, the Council for Yukon Indians, and the departments of Tourism and Community and Transportation Services.

Among those accepted was Dawson First Nation/Dawson City Council who were approved for \$5,000.00.

We May Be Able to Help You Turn Your Idea for a Conservation Project Into Reality



Non-profit groups, businesses, government agencies or First Nations who have an idea which will benefit the Yukon environment and the economy are encouraged to apply for funding assistance under the Yukon Conservation Strategy Demonstration Project Fund or the Fisheries Initiatives for Sustainable Harvest (F.I.S.H.) Fund.

The Yukon Conservation Strategy Demonstration Project Fund encourages projects which combine conservation and economic development.

Recent approvals have included \$14,000 to the Yukon Trappers' Association for educational talks in Yukon campgrounds, and \$3,700 to the Yukon Conservation Society for public education on recycling.

The F.I.S.H. Fund supports projects which foster the long-term sustainable harvest of fish. For example, the Mayo District Renewable Resource Council received \$10,000 for a salmon enhancement project.

For more information on these two funds and how your organization can file an application for consideration, contact Steve Smyth at the Department of Renewable Resources, 667-5797. Organizations outside of Whitehorse can call 1-800-661-0408 toll free.

Yukon
Renewable Resources
Art Webster, Minister

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A not so Grand Opening for Dawson's Recycling Depot

by Brent Morrison

On Saturday May 2, at 1:00 the Dawson Recycling Depot officially opened, but the cold and gloom of the day kept all but a handful of people away. The depot is run by the Klondike branch of the Yukon Conservation Society and was given \$5,000 in start-up funds by Renewable Resources. The Territorial government has pledged \$50,000 to help establish recycling centres in fifteen Yukon communities over the next six months.

The depot is located in the alley between Front Street and Second Avenue, next to the old Strachan building, and is open Saturdays from 1-5. Presently the depot is only accepting aluminium cans, beer bottles, and household glass which has had its labels removed.

Many of the people responsible for the opening were on hand, including: Carol Bunyan, Bob Durham, Wanda Roe, Ian Skinner, Penny Soderlund, and Marcia Jordan. The depot is giving two

cents for each pop can returned until government regulations come down this fall. Once passed, a ten cent deposit will be charged on each aluminium beverage can purchased in the territory. Five cents would be refunded when the can is returned, with the other five cents going into the recycling fund to cover the costs of recycling.

The Dawson depot is in its first phase of development and hopes to greatly increase the amount of materials it can ac-

cept. All the returned items are eventually sent to the Whitehorse Recycling Centre which then sends recyclable material to southern markets when prices are best and shipping costs the lowest. Frontier Freightlines is shipping the items from Dawson free of charge.

The depot expects its largest contributor to be the local cubs who have two recycling bins set up in town outside the grocery stores. These bins are strictly for aluminium cans and are not

meant to be used as garbage bins.

Hopefully as the weather gets better, so too will the response of the public. According to YTG the new regulations of the Environment Act will see aluminium can recycling rates increase from its current 18% to an estimated 70%.

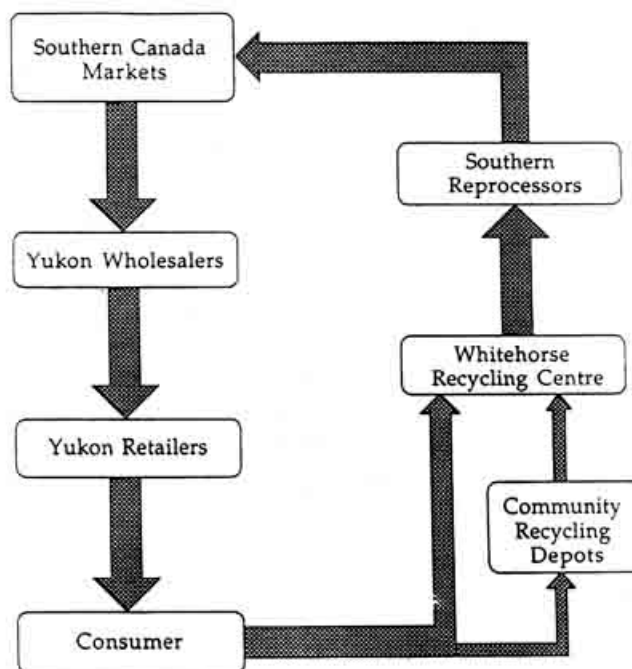
With the facilities now available here we can take that first tiny step towards cleaning up the environment.



Photo by Michael Gates

L to R: Wanda Roe, Carol Bunyan, Bob Durham
'Toasting' their first batch of aluminum cans.

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Museum AGM features cheesecake and unveiled reports

by Palma Berger

The Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society was held on April 29 at the Museum, with the usual enticement of cheesecake afterwards.

President Chris Sorg reported that the figures for 1991 were down due to the bad tourist year, but luckily the year before was very good. The good news is that the Victory Gardens are a 'go' this year, after many years of debate.

Guest Speaker was Jeff Hunston, from the Heritage Branch. Jeff reported that the Historic Resources Act of last May has been passed and it is hoped it will be implemented after the Land Claims have been settled.

Staffing has been increased with the positions of Historic Resources officers being added in three locations - Dawson City, Haines Junction, and Watson Lake.

With their new policy regarding Museum artifacts, they are hoping to get more support from Ottawa. He also reported that Lotteries will now have a Heritage component on its Board. Communities are not to be left out of the new Yukon Visitor Reception Centre as this centre will showcase some artifacts from community museums. Finally he reported that Y.T.G. was pleased to be involved in the Yukon Ditch programme, and wished the Museum some good luck in their new storage facility.

Carol Murray, in charge of memberships, reported that Museum membership has grown 70%! Membership in the Corporate area now numbers seven, which is a welcome increase.

President Chris Sorg reported on the past year at the Museum. Hopefully 1992, with its special highlight, will produce more visitors.

The new storage facility, which is hoped will be completed in 1993, will not only serve the museum well by providing more and upgraded storage facilities, but will also free more display area. In presenting Pat Hogan's written report on how the storage facility evolved to its present stage, the President noted that everyone is particularly grateful to two people who put in a tremendous amount of work to get the storage facility to its present stage. One was Jim Williams who sat as Chair of the Board in charge of this project. The other was Pat Hogan whose involvement has been the key to keeping the whole project going.

Michael Gates reported on the highly successful lecture series which he organized this past summer. The average attendance was 37, with a high of 70+, and a low of 8 (during Stanley Cup playoffs). There was high interest from locals in Dr. Dick Harrington's "Scenes from the Ice Age".



L to R: Michael Gates, Chris Sorg, Heather Smith, Melissa Nicols-McConnell, Daintry Chapple, Louise Ranger, John Steins and Jan Malfair.

Photo by Palma Berger

The report from the Acting Director, Daintry Chapple, revealed that the 13,944 visitors of 1991 was approximately 1,000 less than the previous year, and therefore income at the entrance and the Gift shop was also down. The annual auction produced \$6,682.00 in revenue. With the grants that were received, the museum was able to upgrade their security system, purchase equipment and supplies for the security of the artifacts and were able to hire three more people to catalogue artifacts. Barb Hogan was hired to put together a sound-slide show - "Dawson at Forty Degrees Below Zero" - designed to answer the visitors' question of "What is Dawson like in the winter?" This will be shown this summer in the A.V. room. With other funding Barb Hogan and Greg Skuce created a photo exhibit of the Yukon Ditch which is now on permanent display in the Courtroom. Again Daintry thanked the many volunteers who make the Museum's events so successful.

For the Collections Committee, Louise Ranger reported that 67 new acquisitions were acquired in 1992. Among these were the I.O.D.E. collections including photographic prints, ledgers and postcards, a motion picture projector, photos, negatives for copy, Dawson Library Board Collection of Books and a birch bark basket. The Canadian Federation of Friends of Museums asked our Museum to submit photographs of five "treasures" in our collection for their "Beautiful Book". Those selected were: the lower jaw of a woolly mammoth; beaded bird whimsie; a "bug" or home made candle holder; the #3 engine; and a birch bark basket.

The treasurer's report was presented. Then followed elections of new trustees for the Board. The new people are Melissa Nicols-McConnell, Michael Gates, and John Steins, who join the 'oldies' Chris Sorg, Louise Ranger, Carol McCauley, Marjie Hill, Bob McCauley and Pat Cayen. Chris Sorg thanked

retiring Jan Malfair for her two years as Secretary for the Board.

The new director for Dawson City Museum was then introduced. She is Heather Smith who is from Nova Scotia. Heather was Acting Director of the Art Gallery at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She brings with her a variety of experience from within the cultural and heritage fields - exhibit curator, researcher, conservator's assistant,

cataloguer, teacher and interpreter, and an enthusiasm for Dawson. She used to be here in the early '80's as tour guide for Klondike National Historic Sites.

My home town is so small the city limit signs are back to back

Education should include knowledge of what to do with it



Have time for a coffee?

We'd like to buy you one. All we ask is you attend a meeting to discuss the future of Klondike National Historic Sites. We're reviewing the way we manage the historic resources of Dawson and area. Bring yourself and your ideas to the public meeting nearest you. You supply the insight. We'll look after the coffee and doughnuts.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Location:	Date	Time:	Place:
Dawson	Tuesday, June 16	7 pm	Palace Grand Theatre
Whitehorse	Thursday, June 18	7 pm	Village Boardroom Westmark Whitehorse

AGENDA:

1. Overview of planning program - including a slide talk
2. Issue discussion
3. Question and Answer Session

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For more information contact:

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Public Participation Officer
Canadian Parks Service
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FAX: (204) 983-7522

Al Fisk
Superintendent
Klondike National Historic Sites
PH: (403) 993-5462
FAX: (403) 993-5683

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Susan was born and raised at Moosehide and attended school at Moosehide and Carcross. Holding strong to her traditional lifestyle, she was known for having the finest in beadwork in the area. From time to time, her dear friend (cousin) Pat Lindgren and herself, would act as substitute teachers and Sunday school teachers at Moosehide.

Married to Joe Suzy on October 21, 1934, they raised eight children. Both were very good and loving parents. She loved her grand-children and never forgot them on their special days. Strong in her faith in the Lord, she regularly had communion at her home. Susan was pre-deceased by her husband Joe, daughters Margaret and Betty, sons Arthur and Danny and her parents Martin and Mary Simon. Susan leaves behind her caring family: daughters Virginia, Julia, Angie (Bertie) and Loretta (Dave), and sons Joseph and Peter.

Susan was blessed with 18 grandchildren: Roberta, Michael, Frances, Steve, Alice, Madeline, Dwayne, Dennis, Gina, Kim, Bonnie, Valerie, Sue-Ann, Krystle, Vanessa, Graham, Kylie, and Quinn.

Her great-grandchildren were Erica, Derek and Candice. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at St Paul's Anglican Church on April 8, 1992. She was buried next to her husband in the Dawson Cemetery. Following the service, a traditional Feast was held at Tron'dek Heritage Centre.

Improved R.C.M.P. Telephone Communications

Effective May 1, 1992, R.C.M. Police detachments throughout the Yukon, with the exception of Whitehorse, will have revised telephone numbers through which the general public will be able to contact their local peace officers. Additionally, in case of emergency or no answer at the local detachment, a toll free number, 1-667-5555 has replaced the existing "Zenith 50,000" number.

Anyone dialing the 1-667-5555 emergency number will immediately be connected with the Whitehorse R.C.M.P. Operational Command Centre, staffed 24 hours per day by experienced police personnel. Calls received under these conditions will then be routed back to the originating community via police radio, thereby providing improved service and response time. In cases where it is warranted, this sys-

TOMMY NAKASHIMA SR.

October 1909 - April 25, 1992

Tommy was born in Japan and immigrated to Canada in 1931. He arrived in Whitehorse in 1941 and in Dawson City in 1945 where he raised a family and worked for YTG and MacDonald Lodge as a cook. He was a member of the Y.O.O.P. He is survived by his three sons Tom, Ted and Nelson, grandchildren Juanita, Trevor, Dean, Tanya, Cynthia and Lydell and great-grandchild Nixie Nadeine.

Funeral Services were held in Vancouver April 28.

The Nakashima family would like to thank everyone who expressed their sympathy and offered support.

tem will allow the caller to speak immediately and directly with the local R.C.M.P. detachment member, regardless of his or her whereabouts.

These changes have been implemented with the co-operation and assistance of Northwestel Inc. and have been designed to standardize police access telephones throughout the Yukon to the fullest extent possible.

R.C.M.P. detachments servicing communities that are affected by these improvements are as follows:

Beaver Creek: 862-5555
Carcross: 821-5555
Carmacks: 863-5555
Dawson City: 993-5555
Faro: 994-5555
Haines Junction: 634-5555
Mayo: 996-5555
Old Crow: 966-5555
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Ross River: 969-5555
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Library Pages

by John Bilton

I was sitting in the library on Saturday afternoon thinking about gardening and how Dawson looks in the summer months. When I looked out the window and saw that it was snowing AGAIN, I was starting to wonder why I am here. I know that I am planning on leaving Dawson in the very near future but, I must admit that the past twenty years have been very special to me and my family. To cap off my stay here in Dawson by being employed as the Librarian has just been icing on the cake.

Your library is such a great place to meet old friends, hold meetings or just to come and relax for an hour or two. We have books to cover all tastes and subjects, no matter what your inclination. Thanks to Yukon Francophones we now have French language magazines in the library and they cover a wide range of topics. Libraries and Archives continue to send us new books every month that cover the full spread from Easy Books for the young reader to Adult fiction and Non-fiction for the more discerning reader.

The visit by **Monica Hughes** was a smashing success. **Mr. Davidson** had discussed the reading by her with his English classes and with some incentive a fairly large number came to the reading. With the increase of people the reading was moved into the ancillary room where a total of 57 people gathered to hear her speak. After the reading **Monica Hughes** took many questions from the floor about her work and her life. Afterward light refreshments were made available by the Library Board members.

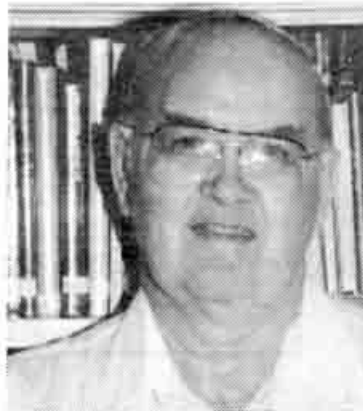
The library is beginning to get busier as the summer people return for another year. Temporary

memberships have started again and if the present rate of enrollment continues we may be over 80 memberships again this year. A Temporary Membership costs \$10.00 and is good until September 30th. If a member returns their card prior to the end of September their money is refunded, so it is a good deal all round. A summer of good reading for free!

The library continues to be the meeting place for 896 Squadron Air Cadets each week and Story Hour is still held each Thursday afternoon from 2 until 3 pm. Unless there a change, Story Hour will finish for the summer on May 21st. Parents are requested to register their children for Story Hour in the fall when we begin again. The past few months have been a lot of fun for myself, and I hope for the children. It is one part of the job that I will miss the most.

For the patrons who use Talking Books on a regular basis, we have just received seven new titles and one is an eight cassette rendition of *The Spoilers*, a western classic. We have also received from Whitehorse a new block of Junior Fiction and Easy Books.

Overdues are still a problem, as they are with every library. Take a look on your bookshelf at home and see if you happen to have one or more of our books there. You can drop them off in the book drop that is situated to the right of the main entrance to the school. Our hours will continue



as they are until school is out the end of May and then new hours will be posted. Be sure to watch the rolling ads on DCTV and in other locations in town for the new hours.

We would also like to remind patrons that we still have two vacancies on the Library Board. If you can spare a couple of hours once a month on a Monday night why don't you contact **Valerie Brickner**, Chairperson, or drop into the library and talk to your Librarian about what the Library Board members do for your library.

This may be my last column for the Library so I would like to thank the many people who have donated books to the library for use in the library or for any of our book sales. I would also like to thank **Betty Davidson**, the school librarian, for her support and assistance over the past few months. I would not have been named Librarian of the Year for 1991 if I had not had this nice lady to help me along that year. We have been a pretty good team and have shown that a joint library will work and work very well. Good reading and good health.

People look on a secret in two ways; either it's not worth keeping, or it's too good to be kept

Weather Information

Weather Information for Dawson City for the month of April, 1992 prepared by Art Vickers, your friendly Flight Service Specialist, from the Transport Canada Flight Service Station at the Dawson City Airport.

Hi again, everyone. I think all you fine people thought April would carry on where the wonderful warm month of March left off ----- WRONG!!! ----- I, too, at least hoped it would. It didn't! That is why there is plenty of the "s" word still to melt and the Yukon River has yet to break up. (Yep, throw away all your ice pool tickets that were for April.)

Anyhow, here are the sad stats for April (Fahrenheit in brackets, as usual.)

	1992	1991	30 Yr Average
Maximum Temp.	13.4(56.1)	17.2(63.0)	5.2(41.4)
Minimum Temp.	-30.1(-22.2)	-20.5(-4.9)	-8.8(16.2)
Mean Temp.	-2.0(28.4)	2.2(36.0)	-1.8(28.8)
	cm(in)	cm(in)	cm(in)
Total Rainfall	Trace	.08(.03)	.25(.10)
Total Snowfall	23.0(9.1)	Trace	6.9(2.7)
No. of Days With Frost	28	26	28
No. of Days with Measurable Precip.	14	5	5

With c-c-cold nights, ugly amounts of snow, far too much wind, and only 9 days that the temperature made it to 10C(50F) or higher during the month, it was NOT a pleasant April for Dawsonites!

"Officially", there was no snow left on the ground at the end of April (that was in the area at the airport we use to measure the accumulated white stuff.) But, ask people like **Joe Langevin** (who came back early this year to "See the breakup") if there was any snow near his cabin up Bonanza when he arrived. (I don't think he will say there was none - good thing he drives a truck!) There's a foot or more in most places in the bush and the higher elevations and North slopes still have the sad white look of winter.

Cheer up!!! Spring is coming soon and I hope to be able to report great bunches of record-breaking 'HOT' days next month.

Think WARM WEATHER!!! Bye till next month.

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Art Webster concerned over project cuts

Whitehorse-- Tourism Minister Art Webster has written federal Environment Minister Jean Charest expressing the Yukon's concern with recent cuts to the Canadian Parks Services (CPS) budget for capital projects for Kluane National Park, the Chilkoot Trail, and historic sites in Dawson City.

"Although all the cuts are serious, the loss of the Kluane National Park's Alsek Pass budget for at least three years is of particular concern," Webster said. "This \$644,000 budget cut makes ongoing work a practical impossibility."

In his letter to Charest, Webster says "The postponement of the CPS's Alsek budget seriously undermines the cooperative efforts our agencies have taken to date. Local residents - who have supported and encouraged the Alsek project - are also understandably angered and disappointed."

For the past several years, tourism, renewable resources, and highways officials have been working closely with CPS and Public Works Canada in planning for road access and a day use area at Alsek Pass. The project was highlighted in the CPS's 1990

Kluane National Park Management Plan, and in Tourism's 1989 Kluane Region Tourism Development Plan.

CPS has been scheduled to begin detailed day use area planning this month, with project development proceeding in 1993 and 1995. To get the project started earlier, Tourism Yukon provided \$33,000 in 1990 (through the Canada Yukon Tourism Sub-Agreement) to prepare conceptual design for a road and day use area. Tourism also provided another \$30,000 last year to complete a detailed assessment of the proposed road route.

With finalized plans in place the Yukon government agencies involved had planned to consider a cost sharing arrangement for the access and day use area components of the project. The CPS budget cuts mean that the project has been deferred for at least three years.

In his letter to the federal minister, Webster asks that the Alsek and other Yukon projects be reinstated. Yukon government and CPS officials have also met with the Haines Junction Town Council and Chamber of Commerce representatives to discuss implications of the budget cuts.



A day in the life of Canadian Airlines International at Toronto's Pearson Airport graphically illustrates why they strongly support added runway capacity.

A representative of CAI said, "You can imagine the scenario at 0900 any December morning, when the weather dictates use of runway 15-33. Flight CP 01 is scheduled to depart non-stop to Tokyo at 1000 with 206 passengers and 18,000 kilos of cargo for the 14 hour flight to Narita for a time slot of 1145. If the aircraft is held idling on the ground it may have to stop in Anchorage or Vancouver for fuel or it misses its slot in the stream of traffic moving from North America."

"The Narita time slot offers zero flexibility. If you miss your assigned slot, chances are you won't get another. Pilots have been regularly told to find somewhere else to spend the night. There have been nightmarish experiences in Hong Kong due directly to delays in Toronto."

"Our aircraft into Hong Kong goes immediately to Bangkok after a 45 minute ground stop. If

the aircraft misses the assigned slot, we have 250 passengers in the air and another 200 on the ground, waiting to get to Bangkok. I don't think I need to describe the chaos. Domestic operations are even more severely affected. Entire rotations of regional and long-haul services within North America can be cancelled simply because runway capacity at Pearson is halved by wind or air traffic control delays."

And the bottom line? Well, a Boeing 737 block hour cost of operation is \$50.00 per minute. In Feb. 1990 alone, additional taxi time of 300 hours meant \$935,000.00!

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BOOKENDS: DOG DRIVER- A Guide for the Serious Musher

by Miki and Julie Collins,
Alpine Publications,
385 pages

a review by Dan Davidson

It's a bit late in the mushing year to be dragging this book out, but those interested in following the sport might do well to have it on hand for next year. I admit to being slow on the Collins sisters 1991 book, largely because I'm not really that interested in the subject myself.

It's covering the Percy De-Wolfe Memorial Mail Run each year that gives me any interest at all, and having just covered it that made me look at this book. Unfortunately the only mention I find of Dawson City is in connection with the Yukon Quest, and the one picture of this area is also from that race.

I read, enjoyed and recommended *Trapline Twins*, the sisters' first book, and I enjoy reading their occasional column in the *Star*, but *Dog Driver* is a "how to" book for mushers and, as such, is of less interest to the general public. As a consequence I have only dipped into this book, and, having little personal knowledge of the game other than that gained from a dozen or so interviews, cannot give it a detailed review.

It is well illustrated with black and white pictures and its contents cover what appear to be all the essentials of a book of this type, from purchasing or raising to outfitting, training and actually racing your team. I expect to read a bit more before the next "Percy", so I can ask better questions next year.

From Old Yukon
c. 1938

by Wickersham
My Memories

A million dollar gold bond
Could never, never buy
My memories of the
Northland--

I'll keep them till I die.
I'll treasure them like a miser,
His hoard of gleaming gold--
My memories are my treasure,
And never may be sold.
---Bruce E. Slater

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Electoral District Boundaries Act Changes Yukon Ridings



Regulating the Yukon's Game Farming Industry: A Policy Review

The Department of Renewable Resources has issued a discussion paper to promote public comment on the Yukon government's interim game farming policy, and to determine what regulations should be drafted for the industry.

The Yukon government supports game farming as a means of diversifying the economy, especially the agricultural economy, and as a means of promoting sustainable economic development.

The interim policy was established to foster development of the industry and to safeguard the Yukon's wildlife. This review's goal is to ensure that the policy revisions and the new regulations meet these objectives.

The discussion paper is being mailed to Yukon organizations interested in game farming. Anyone interested in the discussion paper should contact the department's Policy and Planning Branch (667-5634) or the Agriculture Branch (667-5838). Residents outside Whitehorse can call the Yukon government's toll-free number, 1-800-661-0408.

Copies can also be picked up from the Inquiry Centre of the Yukon government administration building on Second Avenue in Whitehorse.

Written comments should be sent to the department by Monday, June 1.

Yukon
Renewable Resources
Art Webster, Minister

Whitehorse-- The Yukon government today tabled the Electoral District Boundaries Act. The legislation is based on recommendations in the Report of the Electoral District Boundaries Commission. The independent commission was established by the Legislative Assembly last spring. Its report, by Commissioner the Honourable Mr. Justice Kenneth Lysyk, was submitted to the Speaker in December, 1991.

The act was tabled by Art Webster, Government House Leader on behalf of Premier Tony Penikett. Penikett is attending constitutional meetings in Edmonton.

New electoral districts include eight urban ridings and seven rural ridings. The urban districts are Whitehorse West, Porter Creek South, Porter Creek North, McIntyre-Takhini, Riverdale South, Riverdale North, Riverside and Whitehorse Centre.

The rural ridings are Faro, Klondike, Kluane, Old Crow, Mayo-Tatchun, Ross River-Southern Lakes and Watson Lake.

Two new rural-urban ridings have been created near Whitehorse. They are Lake Laberge and Mount Lorne.

Wanted: Public input DISCUSSION PAPER ISSUED ON GAME FARM POLICY

The Department of Renewable Resources has issued a discussion paper to promote public comment on the Yukon government's game farming policy, and to help determine how the industry should be regulated.

The Yukon industry is currently self-regulated and the government's involvement has been mainly limited to issuing import permits and game farm licences, and ensuring that game farm animals have clean health certificates.

The 1989 policy was an interim measure pending the development of Yukon game farming regulations. There have been relatively few problems with the Yukon industry but game farming issues have arisen across the country during the past three years.

"It has been generally agreed that game farming is one area where government regulation is appropriate," said Renewable Resources Minister Art Webster. "Game farmers themselves see the benefit of a regulatory framework for the industry."

"The Yukon government has supported game farming as a means of diversifying the economy, especially the agriculture economy, and as a means of promoting sustainable economic development."

"We see this review as a process of helping industry development while protecting our wildlife-populations," Webster said.

The discussion paper is being mailed to Yukon organizations interested in game farming. Anyone who wants the discussion paper for review and comment should contact the department's Policy and Planning Branch (667-5634) or the Agriculture Branch (667-5838). Resident outside Whitehorse can call the Yukon government's 1-800 number.

Copies can also be picked up from the front desk of the Yukon government administration building on Second Avenue in Whitehorse.

Written comments should be sent to the department by Monday, June 1.

THE YUKON ENVIRONMENT ACT

Yukon people working together for our common future

It's amazing how far 10¢ can go these days

There is a proposed 10¢ deposit on aluminum drink cans. The money can be spent:

Protecting our environment

Your deposit will go into a new Recycling Fund. The fund will be used to support recycling, reusing and reducing our waste. You'll get 5¢ for every aluminum can you return.

Cleaning up

A refund means more people return their cans. The result: less litter!

The proposed beverage container and recycling fund regulations that will set this up are now available for you to comment on.

Copies of the regulations can be picked up from your territorial agent, Renewable Resource office or the Inquiry desk at the Main Administration Building. Call 667-5683 or the Yukon government's toll free number 1-800-661-0408 for more information.

Deadline for comments is June 10, 1992.

Yukon
Renewable Resources
Art Webster, Minister

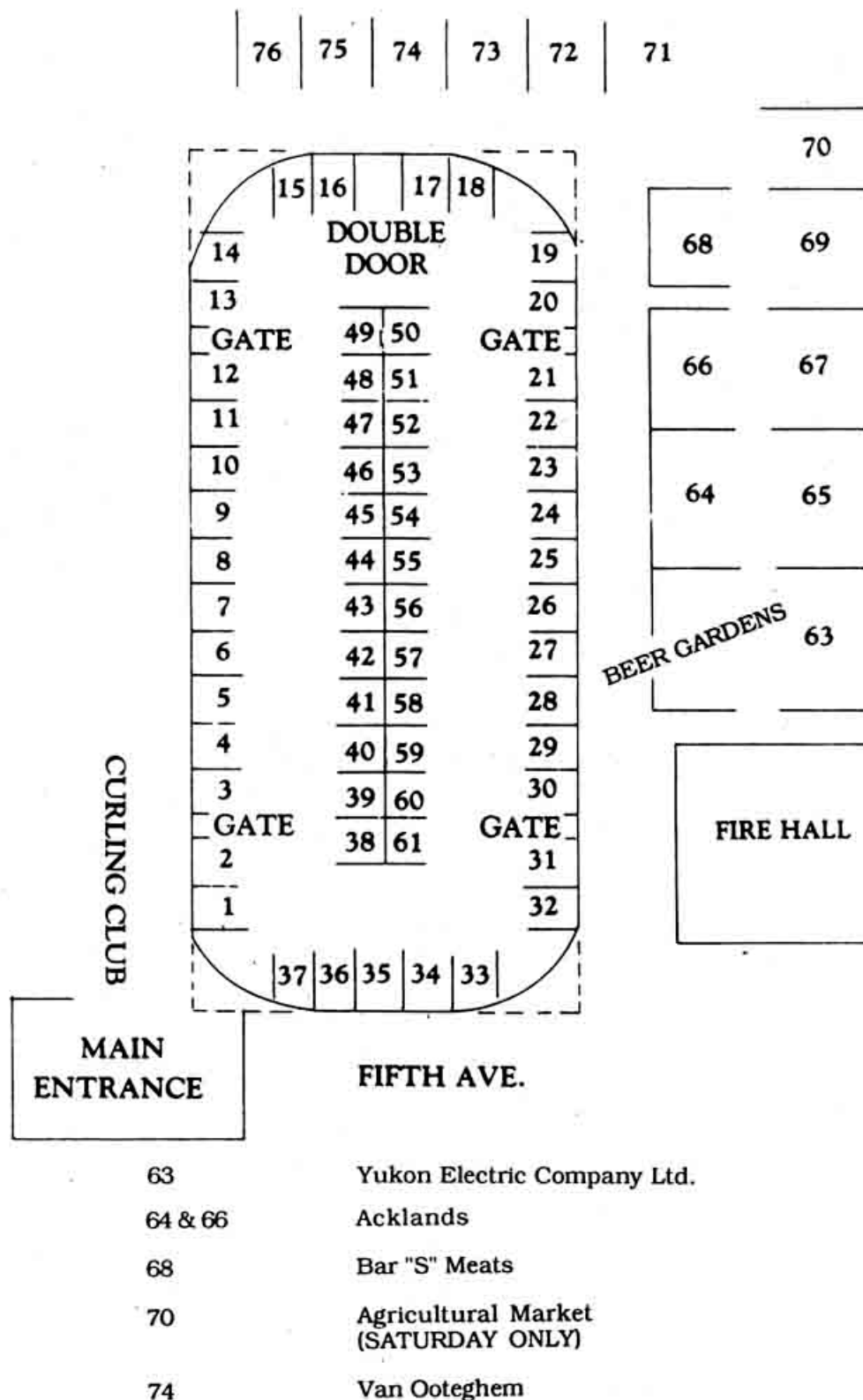
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