

THE KLONDIKE SUN

DAWSON CITY, YUKON

RECOVERY DAYS ISSUE VOL 4, NO. 5

Thursday, August 27, 1992

60¢

Dawsonites Face Discovery Days Daze

by Dan Davidson

"Now I know why they call it Discovery Days instead of just Day," said the *Klonike Sun's* student reporter, Joanie Veitch. "I've been in a daze all day. There's just so much going on."

One thing was certain, even if the weather didn't cooperate for the entire weekend, there was enough of the good stuff to allow most of the key public events to be carried off without many changes to the schedule.

Commissioner Ken McKinnon and Minister of Tourism Art Webster are both claiming credit for halting the drizzle on Friday evening. While recreation director Peter Menzies was running around checking microphones and saying, "It's not really raining, folks. Just keep thinking that.", Webster stepped to the microphone and announced that the rain would be stopping in two minutes. It did, in spite of the fact that weather isn't in his cabinet portfolio.

The Commissioner, however, stoutly maintains that it stopped raining because it was his turn to speak. "I did the same thing at the Commissioner's Tea in June," he noted in support of this claim.

Whatever the reason, Friday evening cleared up and allowed time for speeches, a concert by the Grand Prairie Marching Band, a can-can demonstration by the hometown Bonanza Babes, and the opening of the fastball Tournament in Minto Park. Even the travelling carnival with games and mini-rides along the dyke was a hit.

Saturday kicked off with a pancake breakfast, and moved quickly into 5 and 10 km Fun Runs for the athletic types. At mid-morning the old Bank of Commerce building received a commemorative plaque from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Then people moved off to view the Horticultural Show and get ready for the big parade. The new route, focussing more of the attention in the downtown area, seemed to be a hit with everyone.

Then, while horseshoes and fastball continued in the park, the kids games, parade awards and other contests moved down to the Front Street Gazebo and the

greenbelt behind the Visitors' Reception Centre, keeping people happy and animated.

Billy Carmack, great grand nephew of gold finder George Carmack, was presented with a gold pan, a magnet and gold vial by Commissioner McKinnon.

Carmack said he had intended to visit the Yukon this year anyway, before all the fuss started. The quiet spoken man, who seemed out of place in the spotlight of public attention, said he wished he had been able to sneak into the territory and enjoy his sightseeing without all of the hullabaloo, but allowed that he was having the time of his life and an experience he would never forget.

McKinnon said he has been coming to Discovery Days celebrations for 35 years now, missing only a few since he first arrived in the Yukon, and he is always glad to be at another one.

His memories of the first few are a little dim as he was one of the summer workers in the bush who used to gather in Dawson to have a season-end blow out before heading back to school. His pleasures are a bit more sedate these days, but he says he always has a good time in Dawson.

His wife, Judy, has her priorities straight, he said, noting that she had loaded up on berries and salmon within hours of arriving in town.

By far the biggest hit, in terms of numbers in attendance, had to be the demolition derby at Callison Industrial Sub-division. Estimates of those in the crowd, watching the metal madness, range from 500 to 700. Fifteen people dared the nearby mud-bog challenge, organised by the Dawson Volunteer Fire Department; and the reported outcome was entrants - 0, mudbog - 15.

A late afternoon canoe race sponsored by the Eldorado Hotel, left some people hungry for the salmon barbecue later on.

Another highlight was the show "Spirit of a Nation", which played to a packed auditorium at the Robert Service School. Put on by the Canada 125 sponsored group, Experience Canada, the show started with a loose concert of favorite tunes kicked off by

Continued on p. 2



Sabrina Frangetti got her wheels late last week. The \$6,000.00+ dollars needed to make her life a little more independent was raised locally in just about a month, a fine tribute to Dawson's deep pockets. Photo by Joanie Veitch

What's Inside
Discovery Days Wrap-Up

Continued from p. 1

Ecka Janus, and moved into a thematic show based on the experiences of different cultures arriving, clashing and striving for harmony. It was an effective and rousing performance.

Dawson's special visitors for the weekend were an exchange group from St. Andrews-by-the-Sea, New Brunswick. Gerry Ingersoll, an educator from that town, says he has rarely been in such a whirl of activity. A day after he arrived, someone he met asked him how long he had been in town.

"I had to stop and think about it," he said. "A day didn't seem to be long enough."

Sunday turned drizzly and chilly and several of the outdoor events for children at San Cho Park had to be cancelled. The park was officially opened though, with Eliza Farr cutting the ribbon on the land where her house once had stood until it burned a few years ago. Out on the Klondike river the raft racers were no doubt wishing they'd had their event on Saturday, and the the Sourdough Sam bathtub racers pulled in from Whitehorse around 5 p.m.

Monday saw most visitors heading on up the road to Whitehorse and points south. The weather wasn't that great and those who splashed in the pool during the "swim till it's empty" event collected some goose-bumps.

Recreation Director Peter Menzies is more than content with the weekend.

"I'd give it a B+ or an A," he said Monday night. "The parade was very well received, and I heard almost nothing but positives all weekend."

There were some disappointments: "Much Music cancelled its Yukon tour two days before, and so the dance was off."

The Experience Canada show took some of the edge of that disappointment: "I had no idea their set would be so big. I just about died when I saw it, but it was great."

The schedule may have been too packed, Menzies speculates. A couple of contest events downtown had to be called off because people were still at the derby and the mudbog when the time came for them.

The weather dropped the attendance at the salmon barbecue, and the Weenie Taters outdoor kids' concert in San Cho Park had to be called off because of the rain. This wasn't as bad as it might have been due to the surprise arrival of an Alberta based carnival that detoured up the Klondike Highway from their Alaska Highway tour to visit Mayo and Dawson.

"The kids under 12 were really into that," Menzies says.

Menzies was surprised by the amount of positive feedback he received.

"When people walk up to you and say they enjoyed it, that's weird, 'cause you usually only hear bad news."



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

Commissioner Ken McKinnon, Canada 125's Vi Campbell, and Minister of Tourism Art Webster pose with Mayor Peter Jenkins and his new hat.



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

Robert Reeves and Michael Davidson - just a couple of old timers in the Discovery Days Parade.



Photo by Namiko Saito

Dress up races kept kids hopping behind the VRC after the Parade.

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Located in Callison Subdivision

Charest's visit a waste of time and money protesters say

by Joanie Veitch

A small but vocal group of people turned out to protest what they saw as a waste of taxpayers money with Federal Environment Minister Jean Charest's first visit to Dawson City to sign an environmental agreement.

Most of the protesters were local employees of Parks Canada and have recently been told there will be more funding cutbacks.

The protesters charged that the Minister's trip from Iqaluit to Inuvik and then on to Dawson cost at least \$40,000, the same amount they said has already been cut in the Parks budget. They were also questioning the need for an entourage that they estimated to be twelve people flying with Charest.

"We've already been told we're getting a three per cent cut, and that may result in the loss of a position," said Byron Shandler. "There is no fat to cut anymore in Parks."

"Something has to give," Shandler continued. "You either shut down sites or lay people off, or you offer less services. It's as simple as that."

Some of the protesters said they weren't saying that the Minister shouldn't come up to visit, they are just questioning

the government's priorities.

"Why can't he take commercial flights?" asked Margo Anderson, a Parks employee. "It would be a lot cheaper than a charter, and he's got family and friends with him. These people can take a holiday at the taxpayers expense and they expect us to take the cuts."

However, when questioned the Minister said the protesters have some of their facts wrong.

According to Charest, his entourage consisted of his wife and two children, two members of his staff and another person from the department. He said for the number of stops he had to make on his Northern trip a commercial plane would have been out of the question. He also estimated the cost of his travel to be "about \$30,000 for the entire swing through the Arctic."

"I'm sensitive to what they have to say," Charest said, adding that the sheer size of the country means the government is constantly faced with the problem of getting representatives to the remote regions.

One protester, local dentist Helmut Schroener, suggested that in these current economic hard times when people are standing in food lines perhaps a faxed

signature would make more sense than the expense of coming all the way from Ottawa just to sign a document.

"I really think it's offensive to say we should govern the country by fax," countered Charest adding that one of the biggest complaints from the remote regions is that federal representatives never come up to visit.

In a meeting outside with the protesters, Shandler suggested to the Minister that his visit might be more appreciated if Charest had been scheduled to come to a barbeque and visit with the people of Dawson rather than a formal meeting with officials.

Shandler also stressed that Parks can't take any more cuts and still offer a good service at the historic sites in the region.

"We're 4,000 miles north of Ottawa which is a lot higher cost of living and a lot harder way to make a buck... and jobs and their impact on this community are really important," Shandler said.

Charest countered that the protesters were now getting their chance to state their complaints face to face.

Laughing, Shandler quickly agreed that he appreciated the moment.

"I know, it's nice to do!"



Art Webster looks on as Jean Charest and Byron Shandler trade rhetorical blows. Photo by Mike Gates



KVA Yard Awards : 1st place Residential: Mary Hanulik

Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates



KVA Yard Awards: 3rd place Residential: Cindy Lee and Russell Lopaschuk

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Editorial:

Surviving Through the Recovery Daze

by Dan Davidson

I think it started last summer, when some frazzled Sun staffer referred to this period as "Recovery Days". We'd just finished working on a big Discovery Days edition and we were all none too pleased to see the next issue coming at us quite so soon. The name stuck and it ended up appearing under the banner on the front page. It's appropriate, so we've decided to keep it.

These are the declining days, when the tourist traffic begins to thin out, the line-up at the ferry gets less hectic, and stores start thinking about end of season clearances. Coming up soon is the Outhouse Race and ball tournament, which are still the last BIG reasons for people to congregate here each year. (Yes, we know there's a dart tournament after that, but it doesn't have the same public profile.)

A store owner told me the other day that "anyone who couldn't make money this summer wasn't trying hard enough." I hope that's true for everyone in the retail sector and for the tourism people as well. The KVA reports that its figures are way up, and I suppose they had to be if the ferry line-ups meant anything at all.

Publication News:

This is our second edition this August. As mentioned last issue, we decided to experiment with putting out two a month just to see how it might work. If any of us are still alive this afternoon after you read this, you'll see that we survived the experience. In order to ease the transition back to a monthly schedule, September's issue will be a week later than normal on Sept. 17, while October's will be back to normal. (We had to get back to normal before we could let Kathy and Mike have a vacation.)

(I was going to make some comment about this issue being a little smaller than average, but after last month's debacle, I don't dare.)

Staff News:

This is farewell to our summer staff, who are labouring alongside us on this issue.

Joanie Veitch has spent her days and early evenings nursing the newspaper and her nights looking after the Shelter. She's off to Ryerson, to continue her studies in journalism. After working all summer on a newspaper that acts like a magazine and hardly ever cuts out bits of articles if it can manage at all to squeeze them in, she'll have been completely ruined. On the other hand, she has entered into the spirit of our little endeavor with a quick mind, a ready smile, nimble fingers and a talent for turning a phrase.

Namiko Saito may actually get some sun in the south after spending half her summer in the darkroom processing film. Her early evenings were spent ushering people around the Palace Grand. In mid-July it developed that she had quite an aptitude for graphic design, and she began churning out ads and special flyers with great flair and evident enjoyment. She began smiling a lot more after that. Looking at her mother's design work and her father's drafting skills, we can't think where this talent could have blossomed from, but it's there, no doubt about it. Namiko's headed back to Yukon College. Maybe we can send her ads to design down there?

The Klondike Sun

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Namiko: You want one more photo? Photo by Mike Gates



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

Joanie: O.K. I'll interview Valdy on the plane and mail it back.

Helping Hands



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Letters

Dear Editor:

Older tourists were extremely well cared for and their car professionally fixed and tested to the max on the Dome Road by Eric and Oscar Blattler and Robert. Their shop is in the Callison Industrial area.

They remained polite and calm through five intensive hours of labour. I will never forget their efforts on the "Discovery Days" weekend dedicated to our poor old car. Nor will forget their very reasonable charges.

It was Allanna at Gerties who directed us to them. Thank you. Everyone in town has been kind, courteous and so friendly. See you all again.

Katy Aschenbrenner
Anchorage, Alaska

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Yukon River Sees Gunplay Drama

by Dan Davidson

Pleasure Island was almost the scene of a most unpleasurable assault on the evening of August 21 when Mervin James Titus decided that he wanted to have a final conversation with his estranged wife. Dawson R.C.M.P. report that Titus stole a boat at gunpoint on the Dawson waterfront and headed down the Yukon River with the avowed intention of shooting Nancy Titus, who works as a cook at the tourist stop and salmon barbecue haven about 5 km north of the town.

Police received the call about 5 p.m. and had set off in their boat by 5:15. Sgt Gordon Crowe, Cpl John Gillen and Cst. Karen Olito soon spotted Titus, who was having trouble with the motor on his stolen boat and was drifting down the river in the direction of the island.

As the police craft approached to within 300 m of Titus he stood up and fired his rifle in the direction of the officers, who pulled their boat out of range by the third shot. The officers continued on to Pleasure Island, where they removed Nancy Titus and 3 other people from the island and took them to safety.

By 5:42 the R.C.M.P. were once again observing Titus at closer range, and he fired a fourth shot. They pulled back and continued to observe him until 10:14, when the scene was handed over to an 8 member Emergency Response Team dispatched from Whitehorse and led by former Dawson detachment chief Staff Sgt. Brian Gudmundson. They continued to guard the area overnight.

Back at town, the fracas on the river had attracted a lot of attention on the waterfront, with about 60-75 people gathered along the shoreline to watch, and stories of up to 8 shots making the rounds. Across the river, the YTG campground was vacated in case more stray bullets should find their way there. Evening schedules for the local tour boats were disrupted.

Morning found the police still on guard, but Titus had slipped away. Following reports that he had been seen in town, the police checked a vacant house and found him asleep there. The report indicates that no force was used either in entering the house or in apprehending Titus.

"Titus is presently in custody," the report concludes, "and charged with three counts of attempted murder, and further charges to follow. Titus has been remanded in J.P. Court in Dawson City for a Territorial Court appearance on 92-08-25 at 1:30 p.m. in Whitehorse."

Gouthro steps down from Dawson Council

by Dan Davidson

Citing conflicts between his position as a Dawson City councillor and his job as parts manager at the local branch of Northern Kat, Hugh Gouthro decided on August 4 to pull the plug on his term on council.

Gouthro explained that it is difficult for a man who makes a living selling parts, machinery and service to miners to be part of a council that is, this year, spending a lot of time and energy opposing water licences in the Klondike Valley.

Gouthro has voted with council on all of those resolutions and says he would have had to continue to do so if he had stayed on, but it was beginning to feel strange when CBC was calling up for an interview about a case at the same time as the brother of the miner involved was handing him a cheque for services rendered by Northern Kat.

Northern Kat's customers were, frankly, reacting to some of Gouthro's council votes.

"They were actively taking their chequebooks up the road," he said ruefully.

The company couldn't really stand that sort of reaction in a tight year, but Gouthro was quick to point that no one asked him to step down from council.

"I enjoyed what I was doing there, but it was my decision to quit," he said.

Gouthro said he believed in the stands he had taken at council, and was not willing to change his politics or his vote for the sake

of his work, but he also knew that keeping his company healthy was the only route to take if he wanted to continue to live here. The family has purchased one of the Dome subdivision lots and intends to settle in for the foreseeable future. So the only decision to take was to remove himself from a platform where his personal views would have public weight.

The departing councillor had nothing but kind words for his fellow council members, citing their hard work and long evenings of council work.

"It's a lot of work and it's a grind," he said, likening his time on council to work-related projects that he has planned out over one to two year periods.

Since it appeared that the city's problems with certain placer miners and their intentions to mine close to the city's water supply area were likely to go on for several years, Gouthro said he couldn't see himself continuing to be part of that fight at this time.

"The next time I do this I will be independent, and wealthy and probably old," said the 40 year old ex-councillor.

He said he was looking forward to the by-election to fill his seat, that there were half a dozen candidates from last fall's election that would do well in the job, and that he would be glad to talk to any of them about the pitfalls of being a councillor before they decided to file their papers.

Environmental Studies Must Precede Mining Activity in Lousetown

by Dan Davidson

The Yukon Territorial Water Board has attempted to bow out of the debate but that doesn't mean that mining in Lousetown will commence immediately. Federal Environment Minister Jean Charest says that a water license has to be signed by DIAND Minister Tom Siddon before it can be enacted, and that Siddon won't be signing for a while yet.

"When the Water Board, which reports to him, issues the license, he has to sign on to the license," said Charest. "He has not yet done that, so no license is issued before he has officially signed on. And before he does that we are committed to an Environmental Assessment Review Process. So that has to happen and that has not happened yet."

Hedging his comments due to the court action which has been started since the Water Board's ruling on the Lee Hall application last week, Charest nonetheless was firm on the need for all EARP procedures to be completed.

"My concern is with the environmental assessment, and my concern is that the (hearings) be carried out before this license is issued."

Charest was not scheduled to discuss the issue with anyone in Dawson during his visit here.

The Water Board approved mining licenses in the Lousetown area last week, in spite of the combined opposition of the Dawson First Nation, the City of Dawson, and numerous territorial government agencies. Lousetown is said by Heritage

Branch to be an important historical site that would be destroyed by mining. The Han First Nation sees the area as unsundered aboriginal land. The City of Dawson says mining just outside its boundaries and along the Klondike River threatens the integrity of its potable water supply.

The Water Board, citing its limited powers under the Northern Inland Waters Act, said it had no jurisdiction in constitutional matters relating to Land Claims and approved several applications that have an impact on the Lousetown area.



Agreement signed to clean up contaminated sites

by Joanie Veitch

Federal Environment Minister Jean Charest and Yukon Renewable Resources Minister Art Webster have signed an environmental co-operation accord and an agreement to assess and clean up high risk contaminated sites in the Yukon territory.

The signing of the Canada-Yukon Accord on Environmental Co-operation and the Canada-Yukon Agreement for Orphan Site Remediation took place on August 8 at the Palace Grand theatre.

The first agreement is to promote partnerships between the two levels of government in dealing with the environment.

However, Webster also noted the need to look beyond bureaucracy in addressing these issues. "We need to work together with the different levels of government and First Nations and other individuals to preserve the environment," he said.

Charest stressed that these issues transcend geographical and governmental borders, and there has to be "a more holistic approach to complicated environmental problems."

"In Canada, more than any other country in the world we depend on the environment," Charest said at the signing.

The agreement to clean up contaminated sites in the Yukon is a five-year, \$250,000 plan which will be funded by both governments.

Under the agreement, the federal and territorial government will each contribute up to \$125,000 to clean up contaminated sites in cases where the responsible party cannot be identified, or cannot pay for the clean-up. These sites are known as "orphan" sites.

The first site to be cleaned up is the Granger Residential Subdivision in Whitehorse, where soil is contaminated with PCB's. The contaminated soils will be excavated and transferred to containers for storage at the future Yukon Special Waste Storage facility.

There are an estimated 30 to 50 high-risk sites across Canada that will qualify for clean-up under similar agreements.

A recently developed national site classification system will be used to help identify other hazardous sites in the territory.

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Photo by Joanie Veitch

Spirit of a Nation sings out

by Joanie Veitch

Dawsonites were treated to a spectacular show by some very talented and energetic young people in the Experience Canada troupe's musical production of "Spirit of a Nation" held at the school over the Discovery Days weekend.

The show was co-produced and directed by the Canadian husband and wife team, Jacques Lemay and Janis Dunning. Their idea was to create a performance that will bring to audiences a pride in our common Canadian heritage of hard work and shared rewards as a nation. The event is sponsored by Canada 125.

The performers come from all provinces and territories representing Canada's many cultures and regions and they all bring something unique from their own experience to the show. From Whitehorse there were two performers, Bret Harper and Ecka Janus, formerly of Dawson City.

Janus sang two songs and said how happy she was to be back in Dawson and to see so many friends in the audience.

In one of the acts, "Celebration", the stage (the school gymnasium actually) comes alive with Ukrainian dancers, Highland flingers, and a

traditional Japanese dancer who quickly spins about in a beautiful pink gown.

But this gang knows how to do a lot more than traditional folk dances. Some of the troupe show off pretty hot funk moves that received a great response from the kids in the audience. Maybe someone should have told the younger ones that this might not be safe to practice in their own home....

The set is simple but quite effective, constructed from scaffolding with large moveable props painted with native motifs.

The troupe takes the audience

through the building of our nation, the struggles many had to face and the dreams for the future that many shared. They then show how easily everything can come crashing down when we forget to trust one another and don't work together.

The grand finale brings home the message that our future as a country resides in each one of us, especially in the youth.

The performers were met with a standing ovation. One elderly woman said after the show that she had been to a lot of live theatre, in many cities across the country, and had never felt so

moved.

One of the performers, Tara Jones of Calgary, had been a can-can dancer at Diamond Tooth Gerties three years ago. Jones said it was great to be back in Dawson and to be a part of the Canada-wide event.

Another performer, Bruce Tetlow of Victoria, said it's difficult to put into words how it feels to be part of the performance, it definitely makes him more aware of what it is to be a Canadian as he travels across the country with so many others from all over.

For him the travel is all a part of the experience and adds to the shows that they do.

"We get standing ovations and tears from the audiences all the time, yet each place we visit reacts a little differently," he said.

For instance, the performers noticed that Dawsonites seemed to relate more to some of the historical segments of the performance, natural perhaps in a town so steeped in history.

"This show is amazing," he said. "It always seems to have something to offer everyone."

Just Hangin' Out at the YOOP Hall



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

Back Row: Benny Kingswell, Ralph Nordling, Art Sailer, Gordon Caley, Mike Stutter, Claude Merideth

Middle Row: Murray Crockett, Bernie Walter, Paul Issacson, Dietmar Gritzka

Bottom Row: Jim Leary, Dick Gillespie, Father Leo Boyd, Laurent Cyr, John Gould, Benny Warnsby, George Nagano, Will Crayford

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Parks Tries Some New Ideas

by Joanie Veitch

There have been many new additions to this year's Parks Canada interpretive services offered to visitors to the Klondike, new services that also can provide some entertainment for locals who happen to catch some of the specials.

As you walk around Dawson you can never be too sure who you may run into - or what year they are coming from.

It may be a frantic, and rather feisty wife who is looking for her husband, only to find out that he has been spending some time at Ruby's, one of the local brothels.

Or you may even have had a chance at the Palace Grand to listen in on the conversation of some of the "ladies of ill repute" as they discuss the events of the night before.

These skits, or street theatre as it is known, have become an energetic and interesting element in some of the regular tours of the town. The actors are the Parks interpreters themselves, and the



Rain or Shine: The tour guides of the Klondike National Historic Sites share Dawson's history. Jay Armitage escorts visitors along the dike. Photo by Joanie Veitch

skits have come from their own brainstorming sessions as they tried to come up with unique ways of presenting some of Dawson's history.

Warren Ford, Chief of Visitor Activities, brought some of these new ideas to the Klondike National Historic Sites this year.

"These are ideas that I've collected over the years," he said. "Things I've seen in other locations and wanted to try out here."

According to Ford, this was the "experimental" year and Parks didn't really want to promote the new summer activities too much until they had "worked all the bugs out".

But word of mouth seemed to be all the advertising they needed, and pretty soon people were coming up from Whitehorse and asking about the special events, Ford said.

The statistics indicate that the tourists like the new changes.

"This summer our stats for interpretive events went up considerably," said Ford. "I would estimate it to be approximately 28 per cent overall. That's a big increase considering in other locations in National Parks across Canada the stats are down."

The new interpretation program this summer also offered weekly kids events, a big hit for everyone as so often kids get forgotten in tourist attractions. This, along with the regular marionette show, provided a version of the Klondike Gold Rush that everyone could relate to and enjoy.

A weekly drama presentation, called "The Phoenix", held at the Palace Grand was not so much a new addition, but there were some changes in the way it was

organized. In past years it used to go out to a contract and performers would put a bid in. This year they only contracted the script and four of the Parks tourguides did the acting.

Another new item, known as the "roving interpreter", had a regular guide go off into the Gold Fields once a week to seek out tourists with questions. The idea was to have something more informal than a scheduled tour, it also gives a visitor a chance to talk about what they are seeing, something they don't often do as they go around to the many sites and exhibits.

Choosing the Gold Fields for this type of project was a planned move for Parks, according to Ford.

"We do very little interpretation in the Gold Fields and we want to have more of a presence

there," he said.

Ford said he has no new plans for next year as of yet, but over the winter he will be looking at what did and didn't work out this year.

"We'd like to polish up what we have now, but of course we're always open to new ideas," he said.



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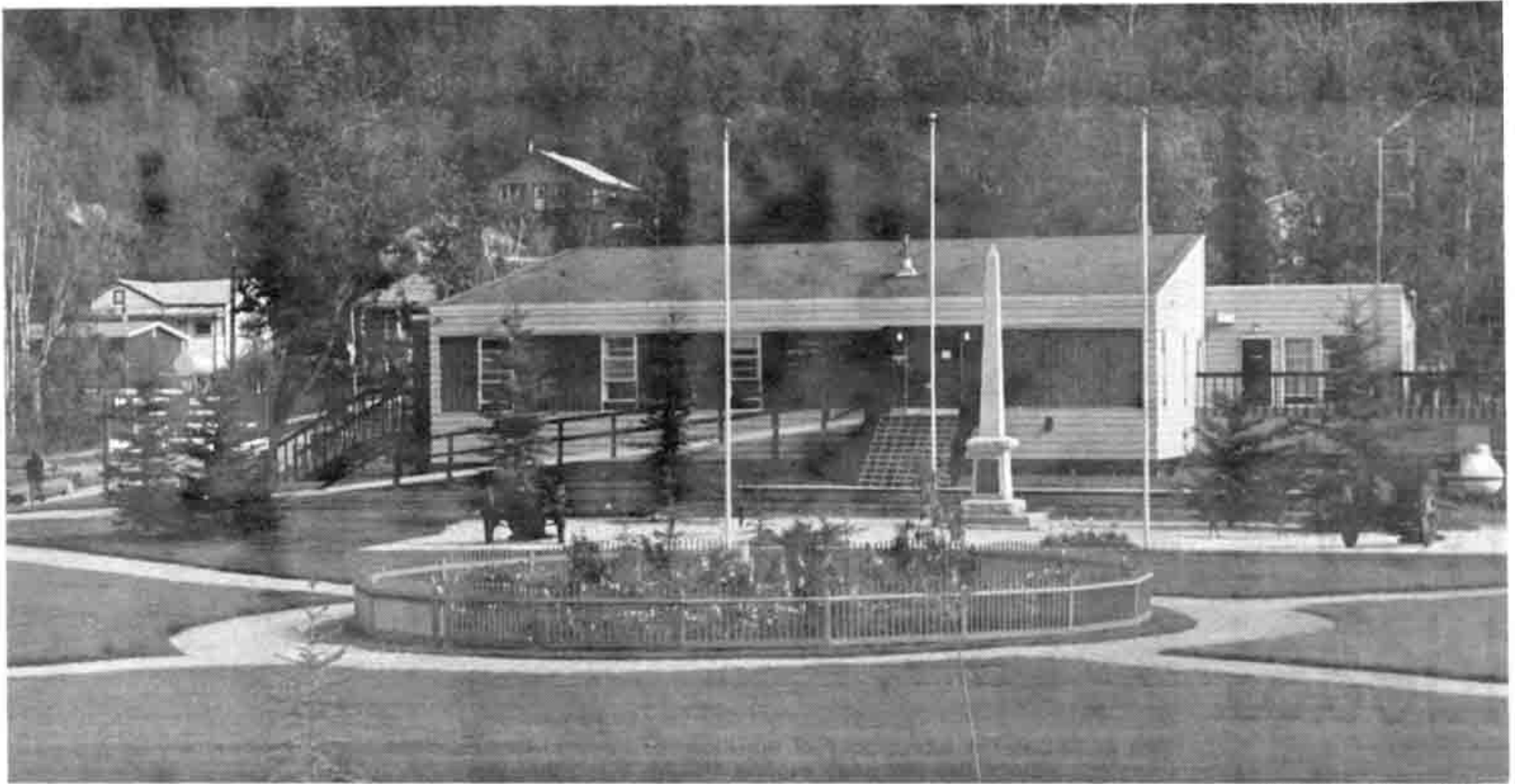


Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

Words from Webster:

The Gardens are restored at last

by Art Webster, MLA for Klondike

In a resolution passed in 1903 by the Dawson Horticultural Society, plans were made to a landscape areas adjacent to the newly constructed Territorial Administration Building, now known as the O.T.A.B., "in a manner creditable to the City of Dawson and to the whole Territory". As a result, the lot north of O.T.A.B., including the area now occupied by the Father Judge nursing Station, was developed into a park with a formal garden as its centerpiece. This park was meticulously maintained until the early 1930's when, without the benefit of regular attention deteriorated rapidly.

Following a major renovation and exterior restoration of O.T.A.B. by the Government of the Yukon in 1986, the Department of Tourism's Heritage Branch initiated planning to rebuild the park faithful to its original design. With the aid of a detailed design plan provided through research by Klondike National Historic Sites, development of the park was discussed at meetings held over the past two

years. Capital dollars for the project were committed by the Heritage Branch when the City of Dawson, as a lessee of the property, agreed to assume responsibility for annual operation and maintenance costs. Work was completed earlier this summer by Midnight Sun Landscaping of Dawson.

In conjunction with and complimentary to the landscaping work were improvements made by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #1 to the cenotaph and immediate war memorial area. Funds were raised by the Legion for this purpose, with additional assistance coming from the Community Development Fund, and the Department of Community and Transportation Services

which donated three flagpoles.

The result of this planning and work is a beautiful park bordered by local deciduous and coniferous trees. Walkways of crushed white stone lead from its corners to a central flower bed. The bed is planted with shrubs, perennial and annuals, including primarily indigenous species such as delphiniums and poppies. A replication of the original 19 sided fence with 18 pickets a side protects the flower bed, and accentuates the formal layout of the park.

Referred to locally as "Victory Gardens", this new park is a most welcomed addition to our City, for all to enjoy. Perhaps more importantly, it represents the current pride and spirit of cooperation that prevails in our

community. On behalf of all residents, I thank members of the ad hoc planning committee - Chris Sorg and the Executive of the Dawson Museum and Historical Society, Carol Murray and the City of Dawson, Chuck

Margeson, Kelly Dewald and Chuck McKenzie representing the Royal Canadian Legion, and Byron Shandler - for your contributions in creating a park that is indeed "creditable to the City of Dawson and to the whole Territory".



The Dawson Campus of Yukon College will be open from 9:00 to 5:00pm daily, beginning August 31st.

Registrations are being taken for the following programs:

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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.

Bank Declared Historic Architectural Achievement

by Dan Davidson

Dawson added another historical commemorative plaque to the impressive list it already has when the old Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce building was celebrated by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada over the Discovery Days weekend.

The plaque, unveiled by Aimeé Lefebvre-Anglin, the assistant deputy minister for Canadian Parks Services, and Paul Henderson, the present manager of the local CIBC, sums up the building's significance in a few words.

"Klondike Gold! Buying and melting it into bricks, brokering it on world markets, bankrolling entrepreneurs' huge inventories to last northern winters. These and other important services were performed by the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Dawson from the Gold Rush of '98 until 1989. Robert Service was among the clerks who worked here before his poetry earned him financial independence and the honorary title 'Bard of the Yukon'. Built in 1901, this Renaissance Revival building is one of Canada's finest surviving structures clad in decorative pressed metal."

This metal cladding was described by Lefebvre-Anglin as galvanized sheet metal which suited conditions in remote areas where masonry was impractical to lend dignity to public buildings. "It was the wonder roofing and siding material of the industrial revolution."

She noted that of the remaining examples of this type of construction in the country, two of the best surviving buildings are here in Dawson City, those being the CIBC building and the old Carnegie Library.

Mayor Peter Jenkins also acknowledged the significance of the building, while getting in a plug for future developments.

"This building was ... the leading edge of technology back at the turn of the century by the Bank of Commerce, as it was known in those days. The Bank of Commerce has grown into the

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce today and still remains on the leading edge of technology. We're very hopeful they'll continue that thrust with a new banking machine in our community."

Paul Henderson mentioned the local legends which enliven the

because of the Bank of British North America. Most of the gold was going out of Canada and into the U.S. So the Bank of Commerce set up a bank here."

"They started off in a log cabin and then they moved over to the ... Royal Northwest Mounted Police compound. They had a two

area was owned - not in the sense of the Western concept of land ownership - but it was owned and used by the Native people of Dawson, the Han Indians. In a sense I think it's a great shame that I didn't see them benefit greatly by the gold that came out of these hills. I guess it all

nugget in your hand it has a lot of history in it."

Art Webster, Yukon's Minister of Tourism, took the opportunity to celebrate the building, and to make a couple of announcements about historic projects, as well as summing up his government's historic record in Dawson in recent years.

"Dawson City's heritage," said Webster, "provides a good example of what can be accomplished through cooperative efforts. Take a look at the efforts of the Klondike Visitors Association, the Dawson City Museum and Historical Society, the City of Dawson, the Canadian Parks Service, the Dawson First Nation, and individuals such as Mike Palma, who now owns this structure we're commemorating today."

"I'm quite pleased," Webster said, "with the role that the government of the Yukon has been able to play over the last 5 or 6 years in preserving our heritage. Take look at some of the projects we've undertaken, such as restoration of the Old Territorial Administration Building. Take a look at the work we're doing with Parks Canada right now in restoring the old Red Feather Saloon. Just recently we restored the Victory Gardens beside the museum. We'll be doing work on the Mullen House, the old telegraph house, and there's many projects that we can do."

He announced additions to a couple of existing government programs. "We will be putting more money into the Historic Properties and Assistance program which enables individuals to take advantage of that to restore historic properties in our community."

The government has also established an Historic Resources Fund, which Webster said would have in it one million dollars for enhancement of historic resources.

"The future of our heritage past here in the Yukon looks very bright," said Dawson's member of the legislature.

Aimeé Lefebvre-Anglin acclaimed the newest of Dawson's ten commemorated sites (out of 750 across the country) as an "imposing building (which) has been part of Dawson's life and landscape for over 90 years. It has much to tell us about our past."

"As we celebrate Canada's 125th birthday this year," she said, "we look back on our country's past and think about how it affects our future. It is an opportunity to take stock ... of our cultural and our social riches, ... the legacy of previous generations, their traditions and their achievements, and a time to realize just how precious this legacy is. By keeping heritage in our daily lives we enhance our quality of life."

The ceremony, held in the dyke-side lot next to the vacated CIBC building, was organized and arranged by the staff of Klondike National Historic Sites.

Lefebvre-Anglin called the C.I.B.C. an "imposing building (which) has been part of Dawson's life and landscape for over 90 years.

It has much to tell us about our past...By keeping heritage in our daily lives we enhance our quality of life."

memories of the bank: "CIBC is proud of our history in Dawson City. This unique building has seen sights which the rest of the world can only dream about. I've heard many stories from bankers of old and miners. All of which fascinate me with the flavour of the times."

Daniel Tlen, the Yukon's member on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, tried to put the origins of the building into another perspective.

"One of the most important functions of the bank was the fact that they dealt with gold. That gold, as you know, came from the hills of Dawson City," Tlen said. "In those days Canada wanted to establish a bank here

story building there. Because Dawson was destroyed by fire, including the bank, they built this bank here. As you can see, it has a ... pressed sheet metal cladding. And, of course they built it away from all the log cabins, too, so they could avoid the threat of fire. In behind the sheet metal is asbestos, and upstairs in the vaults they have asbestos and lead lining in the walls to prevent damage from fire. Of course, all that was to process the gold that came out of the hills."

"What's important to remember about all this gold," Tlen continued, "is that the gold came out of this area in Dawson City and this

comes out in the wash, but I think it's important to remember which land the gold came from."

"It represents two different cultures' views of what is valuable, Tlen went on. "To the Native people, gold wasn't valuable, in the same sense that gold is valuable in the Western society's views. Even to this day I find it quite amazing to try to imagine people digging in the ground for these little yellow stones or flakes. It's mind boggling."

Tlen went on to say that he did understand the mystery after all.

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Photo by Mike Gates

Federal Environment Minister Jean Charest, Bev. Mitchell and Art Webster

Award for Local Group

by Joanie Veitch

The Klondike Branch of the Yukon Conservation Society received a national environmental citizenship award from federal Environment Minister Jean Charest.

Bev Mitchell, secretary of the conservation society, accepted the award for the group following the signing of environmental agreements between the federal and territorial governments.

The conservation society began a recycling depot in town earlier this year which is now open every Saturday to collect bottles and

aluminum cans. Everything is then shipped down to Whitehorse, by Frontier Freightlines at no charge, to the larger recycling centre there.

Charest also announced a substantial amount of funding for the group. As part of the Environmental Partners Fund the federal government will fund the local recycling project to the amount of \$20,000.

"This is a very important effort," Charest said as he presented the award. "Canadians are the biggest producers of waste in the world.... You don't have to

make a world of a difference - just a small difference is enough."

Charest said that it was action such as the local recycling effort that makes a difference as we change our values.

Over the past few months the community recycling group has put a lot of volunteer time into making the recycling centre work.

"There's a real strong core of about 15 people who have put in a lot of hours," said Mitchell, as she was presented with the award. "I wish all of them could be here."

The Alcan: Another View

by Sue Ward

The chap on the other side of my cottage door turned out to be Larry Dolan, of Denver, Colorado. He had B-B'd in town and it was suggested by his hostess, Gail Hendley, that I might be the one to identify the various branches of local berries. It didn't take long and it was my turn to ask "What brought you to Dawson?"

Larry had served with the Public Administration for short PRA, on the building of the Alcan in June of 1942. Now I thought the American Army had done that. Well, not entirely. The PRA came to Carcross on boat and barge, and it was their job to survey and build the bridges, so the U.S. army lads could get on with it. The PRA drew on the resources of private construction companies, one being Dowell Construction. Our newfound friend Larry took a dim view of all the accolades being bestowed on the Army and intends to write of the matter.

I knew if I lived long enough I would truly learn why the road was built with the hundreds of twists and turns. At last a true

source of information. It was not because they followed the gravel supply usually on hilltops, nor because the weather called for extra rations of liquids which could blur one's vision, it was to fool the Japanese so they could not strafe it from their planes, destroying not only the non-existent roadbed, but precious road building machinery which had travelled so far to do a job.

Larry disclosed that most of the Officers were lawyers, New York lawyers, in fact, though one Lt. Colonel was an engineer... Combat engineers, that is.

Just how many of those returning for the 50th Anniversary of the building of the Alcan found their way to Dawson City this summer is hard to tell. I'm glad Larry Dolan decided to rent a vehicle, enjoy a B-B, and pick those berries, or the mystery of the curlycue trail would have remained unsolved. Fear of strafing by Japanese Zeros was the last thing on my mind when I drove the Volvo in the spring of 1971!

Editor's note: Check out recent histories by Coates and Twichell for another winding road rationale.



Larry Dolan

Photo by Sue Ward



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Photo by Namiko Saito

Back Row: L to R: Capt. Paul Derry, Dep. fire Chief Al Fisk, Jim Allison, Tom Sparrow, Fire Chief Pat Cayen, Mitch Sprockreeff, Andrew Wilson, Jeannine Brideau, Chris Mayes, James Irwin.
Front row: L to R Capt. Barry Hunter, Capt. Mark Castellarin, Dave Couch, Henry Procyk, Colleen Wiebe. (Missing: Dave Taylor, Gerry Crayford, Don Loiseau, Keith McMaster, Kelly Quocksister, Eric Blattler, Ken Knutson, Simon Nagano, John Russell)

Dawson's Volunteer Fire Department

by Joanie Veitch

It was a freezing cold night on the 26th of April in 1899 when a big fire started in the Bodega Saloon in Dawson's downtown business section. It wasn't the first big fire to strike but it certainly was the worst, with one hundred and seventeen buildings destroyed and over a million dollars in damage.

There was a fire brigade to fight the flames but unfortunately the steamer wasn't working properly and it took 27 minutes before they got through the ice and got the water pumping. There were a lot of questions flying after the fire as people wanted to know what went wrong, but the volunteer firemen were given their due praise for the work they did all through the night.

In the April 29 edition of the *Klondike Nugget* was written, "For the volunteer firemen of the Dawson fire department the *Nugget* has nothing but words of sincerest praise. Give them a hold of a nozzle filled with a stream of living water and they can be trusted to take it into the hottest quarters that man can 'go and continue to live'."

Nearly a century later the Dawson Volunteer Fire Department is still receiving much praise for the work they do. Work that often means they're up in the middle of the night and still must be fresh for work the next day. And work that, no matter how draining or time consuming, they all seem to love.

"Everybody really likes being on the department," says David Couch. "They're not in it really for any other reason than they want to help out."

Couch moved to Dawson last year and joined the fire department in late September. He had been on the Kananaskis fire department in southwestern Alberta and wanted to continue serving the community this way.

"It's a good way to meet people," he says. "These are a great bunch of guys. We have a lot of fun."

The fire department holds practice drills every Wednesday night. The siren sounds at 7:00 pm and they get on their gear and in the trucks.

This is their opportunity to test new equipment and keep themselves familiar with existing apparatus. Every three weeks they do a total equipment check to make sure everything is in working order.

The 22 volunteers are expected to take their work seriously, three missed drills and they're off the department, but everyone takes the chance to enjoy themselves as well.

Under a blazing hot summer sun even a drill can be pretty hot work as everyone wears full fire gear for a few hours. On one such night they are testing out the new Fol-da-tank, a portable holding tank for remote areas used to keep a constant stream of water going while the trucks fill up their tanks. The tank takes just over five minutes to fill up

and holds up to 1500 gallons of water.

Pat Cayen is the full-time fire chief, he's been with the department for just over a year. He enjoys the work and has only glowing praise about the department.

"The firefighters here are dedicated and hard-working," he says. "Some of them have been on the department for over 15 years."

One of the reasons many people stay with the department, according to Jeannine Brideau who's been a volunteer for five years, is the support network they have.

"We do a lot of things together and we try to keep the families involved," she says adding that this is important as their lives often get disrupted by the wake-up calls too.

Although she's not the first woman to serve on the department, up until two months ago she was the only one.

Brideau says that's never been a problem.

"That doesn't bother me at all. These guys are great," she says smiling. "I just love it out there."

There are about 100 fires a year in Dawson, according to Cayen. Many of the volunteers say the number of fires in Dawson is decreasing all the time because of the work Cayen puts into fire safety awareness.

"We work on public awareness a lot," says Cayen. "The more they see the firefighters out in the public, the more they are aware of the need for fire safety."

At the turn of the century fire

safety awareness wasn't quite as well developed and Dawson had been hit by a few devastating fires. It was after a particularly bad one on Thanksgiving Day in 1897 that took the lavish M and M and the Opera House that members of the community got together and decided they needed a fire brigade.

Things didn't get organized quickly enough, however, and on October 14, 1898 another big fire hit Dawson. A few days later a meeting was held at the Regina Hotel and the fire brigade became a reality in Dawson City.

Fighting fires is easier these days than back then, but Dawson as a remote area and the extreme weather conditions can pose their own set of unique problems even today.

Out fighting a blaze at forty below must be rather difficult at times, but as Fire Chief Cayen said, they are all dedicated to their work.

Jeannine Brideau hopes to stay with the department as long as she can.

"You feel so needed," she says. "I would quit any other organization before I quit the department - and I'm involved in a lot of things in Dawson."



DAWSON IS ONCE AGAIN IN ASHES

Queen of the Yukon is Once More Attacked by Her Old Time Enemy

It has come at last. The really great fire which Dawson people had been dreading with a genuine inspiration through months of continuous dread, beside which previous conflagrations, though bad enough in themselves, sink into insignificance - a fire which laid in ashes half the business section of the city and all but took the other - that is the fire that transpired last night. The scene of its origin, the wind, the hour and the scores of other elements seemed to favor the city's old-time enemy, and within half an hour of the time that the first smoke of warning was seen there was no room to question the extent of the disaster that was then impending. The city is gone, was the cry that welled from hundreds of anxious breasts, and how nearly the terrible fear was realized witnessed by the blocks and blocks of burning steaming ruins which mark the path of the destroying element.

Excerpt from the *Klondike Nugget* - April 27, 1899

Treasure Hunt a Golden Success

by Michael Gates

EUREKA!!! He found it! Jerry Silen's determination to strike gold in the Klondike finally paid off shortly after 5pm on Discovery Days Sunday, and netted the Dawson summer student from Thunder Bay, Ontario a gold nugget necklace valued at \$1,000.

As many as 200 people spent the Discovery Days weekend gathering clues and attempting to locate the voucher that would provide them with a unique souvenir of the weekend. They were instantly recognisable, lifting rocks on the river bank, scrambling over and under moored boats and huddling together comparing notes on various combinations of clue possibilities. It reached such a fever pitch at one point that the committee had to place notices on the Steamer Keno to advise the hunters that although the clues seemed to point to that vessel as the hiding place for the treasure, that it was not in fact located on the historic site.

13 clues were made available to Treasure seekers. Two had been placed in the *Klondike Sun* and the *Yukon News* earlier in the week preceding Discovery Days; the third clue was given out at the Friday night opening ceremonies along with a list of businesses holding clues. Two additional clues were made available at the Bingo evening and at the Sunday evening BBQ.

The clues were devised by the devious minds of Discovery Days committee members Peter Menzies and Pat Cayen. With a reduction of income resulting from the decision not to hold a Saturday evening dance, Menzies explained that the committee developed the Treasure Hunt idea both for the interest it could draw and the income it generated. Businesses that sponsored a clue

paid \$250 for the privilege. The necklace was crafted by The Klondike Nugget and Ivory Shop specifically for the event.

The clues could have been interpreted at least two ways to permit location of the treasure. However, Menzies did have an official interpretation following the hunt's conclusion.

He agreed that people should have been looking for a voucher in a vial in a gold poke. However, he was unable to obtain a gold poke, so had to settle for the voucher in a vial. He also acknowledged that a couple of clues were tossed in to send people in the wrong direction. At the last minute, Menzies discovered that clue no. 12 was missing, so he had to devise a new clue. That suggested that treasure seekers should go to the Dawson Museum; the treasure was definitely not there though.

One clue referred to Robert Service, stating that he had a "cents" of purpose and personal dignity. This led many to search around the old Bank of Commerce on Front street. Coupled with a clue that said that the general location "followed the general path of the "Sun" on August 16 each year" it was interpreted by many to mean that the hidden location was between the old Bank and the *Klondike Sun* Office. According to Menzies, it was meant to direct people to the old Bank and the Dome road where Service frequently took nightly walks,



Jerry Silen demonstrates his prize-winning form photo by Michael Gates

and thereby eliminate them both as the treasure's location. The "Sun" was intended to indicate the east-west orientation of the hiding place.

Much to their chagrin, the clue makers admitted to having their compass too close to their dental work and got their east-west sightings mixed up, which would have helped with two clues.

Service appeared again in Clue #8. It suggested that his dress included a suit, cane and proper bow tie. The clue here was not a bow tie, but the bow of a boat.

Another clue indicated that "A Yukon Rose by any other name is red". More than one hunter was spotted in the vicinity of the Yukon Queen and the Yukon Lou, grovelling along the jetty, groping under beach rocks in a

desperate attempt to strike it rich.

Perhaps the best clue was "Two horse power can support it, but never move it." If you eliminate the Klondike Carriage horses "Bert and Ernie", and boat motors, you might have ended up with saw-horses, which was the clue that should have tipped the riddle solving in your favour.

Jerry Silen and partner Robbin Sinclair qualified as perhaps the most hard working treasure hunters of the weekend. The final clue handed out at 5pm Sunday convinced Jerry that he was on the right trail to fortune. It said "The location of the treasure would win any bathtub race". Jerry scurried off up and down the alleys along King Street (a line due east of the bathtub finish line), until he hit paydirt.

We are not sure if he realised it, but Father Leo Boyd's up-turned red boat, sitting on two saw-horses behind the St Mary's Church was the hiding place for

the voucher in a gold vial. The bow was pointing east not west, and Jerry Silen admits that he was so excited when he found the treasure that he could not stop shaking. Uncertain that the hastily prepared voucher was the real thing, he immediately approached Peter Menzies shortly after 5pm to claim his prize. He exchanged the voucher for the necklace at Gerties later that evening

And what about the 'almost rans'? Well, they know for sure that there is no red boat on two saw-horses sitting on the Yukon river bank between the old Bank of commerce and the *Klondike Sun* office. Next year, many vowed to start looking around Peter Menzies City office, which is co-incidentally located beside the St. Mary's Church on 5th Avenue, regardless of what the clues might suggest.



Here is the Treasure Hunt necklace. It was designed by the Klondike Nugget and Ivory Shop especially for the event.

photo by Michael Gates

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The Mother of All Bathtub Races

by Kathy Jones-Gates

Billed as the "Mother of all Tub Races", the first annual Yukon River Goldrush Bathtub Race from Whitehorse to Dawson took place over Discovery Days weekend.

Nine 'tubbers' began the race at 9 a.m. at Rotary Park in Whitehorse on August 15, overnights at Carmacks and then made the run down to Dawson on August 16. Five completed the 730 kilometre-long (460 miles) race, the longest bathtub race ever run.

Presented by the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Society and the Sourdough Sams, the race attracted sponsors such as Molson's along with other Whitehorse businesses.

Two of the tubs sank in the Yukon river, one before Carmacks and one at Carmacks; the third boat scratched just before Lake Laberge and the fourth one in Lake Laberge. The remaining 5 speedy tubs, headed down the river for Dawson, culminating in Albert Rock's 'Totem Oil River Warrior' craft taking first place in a time of 16 hours, 10 minutes and 41 seconds.

Each racing tub has to be accompanied by a support boat, complete with gas and supplies the entire trip. Rocks's team comprised his son Jason, Philip Cunningham and Gail Gibbons. Racers are, however permitted to change drivers as often as they wish. This was something Rock appreciated as he showed the bruises received from the buffeting he got from his winning craft., especially in the rough waters of Lake Laberge.

The winning racer had to unwind himself from the cramped spaces of his tub, find his shore legs and run up to where a bell was waiting for him to ring it. Rock, whose son Jason flew in from the States to help pilot the craft, collected the first prize of \$1,200 in gold.

Hot on their heels was Richard Mellis of Vancouver, in his tub "The Lordship". Mellis has previous experience in the Nanaimo Bathtub race. He completed the course with a clocking of 16:34:06, despite a broken steering column on his craft. The Bloom n'shine, piloted by Len Falle and Jade Perreault took third place, with a time of 18:52:40. Tracy's Restaurant, came fourth in a time of 21:27:45, manned by Mike Leblanc, Chris Bruneau, Kris Schaber and Chris Moran. In fifth spot was Lake Laberge Marge and Haggard the Horrible (Odell Anderson, Orin Anderson, Marshall Kelher and Edgar Schaller), with a time of 22:37:04.

Rock, who owns homes in both Whitehorse and Vancouver was encouraged to enter the race shortly before the race day, and purchased one of the top four finishers of the Nanaimo Bathtub race this year. He had a special propeller flown in from Australia for his crafts eight horsepower outboard motor. The tub is made of light wood and fibreglass, the cockpit is tub-shaped, like the old-fashioned kind, but the craft can reach speeds of 27 knots or 50 m.p.h. as it skims across the water.



'Totem Oil River Warrior.'

Photo by Mike Gates



The winning team: L to R Phil Cunningham, Jason Rock, Albert Rock, Gail Gibbons and 2nd place "Tubber" Richard Mellis

Photo by Mike Gates



Visible Storage Room

by Palma Berger

Bit contradictory, eh? But the Museum has this. They have opened their storage room up for all to see what is not on display downstairs. Of course, they have plexiglass protecting the shelves.

They cannot have you playing with the WWI machine gun. (No, it was not in the Gold Rush.) Or the silver Baseball trophy, curling trophy, or the wire animal traps, old, old eggbeaters, coffee grinders, meat grinders, cattle yoke. (I assume that is what that huge thing is), seamed bottles, clay bottles, old, old bathtub, typewriter, commode, love seat. There is an elegant blue cloisonne cigarette holder for the table. Holds upright twenty ci-

garettes, said to have belonged to Martha Black. There is a silver cigar holder that has a device for snipping the end off the cigar, and another for lighting it from the days when some people had more leisure and smoked. There is another thing said to be a bottle capping machine.

On display also is an old unused ledger from the Tobacco Manufacturers Stock Book No. 2 from 1900, but which was used beginning 1965 to record all the acquisitions the Museum was getting.

So-o much more. The Museum is doing this in an attempt to make visible to the public the artifacts in storage on which the research is not complete.

The Boardwalker's Blues

by Dan Davidson

Hey there, Mister Tourist, can you take this crazy heat?
You're standing there with lens to eye and looking rather beat.
I realize you truly think our boardwalk's kinda neat,
but you're gonna get hit by a moving rv
if you don't get outta the street.

The building that you're shooting isn't quite the age you think.
We make 'em up to order to avoid the council's stink.
We're really glad to have you here, we like your money's clink.
So I'm makin' this fuss, get away from that bus,
or it'll push you into the drink!

Stroll up the road to Gerties, pick a card and lose your shirt.
Take in a show at the Palace Grand where nobody gets hurt.
Go anyplace where your mind's alive and your senses are alert.
And to get there, walk on the boardwalks, please,
and not in our dusty old dirt.



Bonnie Nordling, Renee Mayes, Amy Conley and Carmen DuBois, the Bonanza Babes, kick up a storm for charity.

Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

Coming Of Age

by Joanne Smith

Many seniors in the community have seen Discovery Days come and go and can remember the parades of days gone by. This year a friend and senior shared a story of one such Discovery Day memory with a slightly different slant.

In 1943, Jimmy Lynch was in Sicily as it was during World War II. He was Sergeant in the First Canadian Division and on the day of August 17, 1943 they were told to lay down their arms as this part of the war was declared a victory. Of course, there was a certain kind of joy and after the men cheered and shared a sip of whatever was available each entertained their own private thoughts of what they had been through together and of peace time.

Jimmy's thoughts were of the

Discovery Day parade in Dawson. He pictured the pioneers, floats, music and celebration. He toasted the Yukon and its discoveries and enjoyed the thought that was just a little closer. Jimmy stayed in Sicily until their Division moved to Italy on September 3rd to continue fighting until the collapse of the Italian government three days later.

I think each Discovery Day I shall think of that story. Thanks, Jimmy.

News for Seniors

Foot Clinic is held at the Lodge the last Monday of every month. Call for transportation.

Bus transportation for downtown shopping is available every Friday afternoon beginning at 1:00 pm. If demand is great enough we shall add another afternoon! Please contact Joanne

at the Lodge OR Dorothy Roberts at the Band office.

Birthday Greetings

August: Jimmy Lynch
Fred Stretch
Dorothy Crayford
Paul Isaacson

The only one in September is a special one. Warmest Birthday Greetings from all the Staff and Residents go out to Marion Hadley who turns a young 80 September 2!

Thanks: To the community and lodge seniors who participated in the yard awards judging this year. You had a very difficult job!

Activity: Cribbage playing evening, Thursday, September 3, 7:00 pm at the Lodge. Coffee, tea and goodies provided. See you there!



The seniors' cruise arrives at Pleasure Island Photo by Sue Ward

Pleasure Island:

Pleasure for Seniors

by Sue Ward

Despite a break in the weather bringing showers and dampness, twenty-four seniors, friends, and staff from McDonald Lodge thoroughly enjoyed the annual B-B-Q as guests of Pleasure Island Restaurant on August 12th.

This event has brought special joys to many seniors for the last 15 years when Sonia Cowan and Scot Billings extended the invitation. This senior can recall when the Yukon Lou was filled to capacity. The ranks are thinning and it was great to add new Lodge resident Rowena Lord of Old Crow, and Michael and Agatha Franczak to the passenger list, as well as my niece, Sharon Siggs and her husband Fred, of Burnaby, B.C. Fred had spent several summers on the dredges in the late thirties and he and John Gould shared special memories, while Madeleine had a chance to talk with old friends, as they came in from the mine on

Hunker for the occasion.

From these lines one realizes how special it is to have the new operators, Robbie and Scott MacManus, continue the river-trip tradition. For many of us, it is the only opportunity to feel life on the river, which differs so greatly from life in town, in McDonald Lodge, and on the creeks.

The king salmon was cooked absolutely perfectly, as were the baked potatoes, the flaky biscuits and the scrumptious chocolate cake from scratch. Staff at the island this year include Nancy Titus, Erin Baker, Lorraine Butterworth and Kathy McEwan. Capt. Dick Stevenson and his smiling wife Anne were on deck to ensure a safe journey for all.

McDonald Lodge Supt. Joanne Smith made sure everyone who wished to share the outing was carefully transported to and from in the fine new bus acquired by the Lodge this early spring.



Orlo Davis created this display at the Nursing Station. Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates
KVA Yard Awards: Non-Residential: 3rd Place



Sharon Edmunds and Boyd Gillis created this attractive terrace. Residential Yard Award: 2nd place

Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

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Commissioner McKinnon loves his job

by Joanie Veitch

Commissioner Ken McKinnon thinks he might have one of the most interesting jobs in Canada, watching him laughing and joking with friends over the Discovery Days festivities, one might be inclined to agree with him.

"I still have real powers under the Yukon Act," he said. "I can get things done - interesting things like a special permit for Billy Carmack to come into the Yukon after being turned away at the border."



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

It was the lure of better jobs that first brought McKinnon to the Yukon in 1956 from his native Manitoba. He was working his way through university and heard there were good opportunities in the north.

For the next few years McKinnon was employed as a lineman, truck driver and surveyor, to name just a few of the hats he wore as he lived and worked all around the territory.

That's one of the reasons McKinnon enjoys his job so much now, he gets to regularly visit places and friends that he made over the years.

"For me, getting out of Whitehorse and going to the small communities is going home," he said. "I've lived and worked in more of the small



Photo by Palma Berger

Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

communities than I have in Whitehorse, and the friends that I've made there are the real Yukoners."

As the chair of the Yukon Anniversaries Commission he wants to put a lot of effort into the planning and promotion of what

the Yukon has to offer. He sees this as an important part of his position as Commissioner also.

McKinnon's wife Judy regularly travels with him, being from the Yukon she also enjoys the chance to visit family and friends. McKinnon jokes that she is the real politician - and she certainly does seem to have a flair for working her way through a crowd and always remembering those she speaks with.

McKinnon first came to Dawson's Discovery Days celebrations 35 years ago, and he's only missed a few along the way. He said it's hard to qualify changes that he has seen in the community over the years as it is constantly changing and growing.

It's that way with all the communities, McKinnon said adding that he never ceases to be amazed as he travels from place to place.

"Every town in the Yukon, they all have their own character. They all have their own way of doing things."

It's that unique way of doing things in addition to the upcoming Centennial celebrations that leads Commissioner McKinnon to believe tourism will be "Yukon's number one industry" over the next few years.

"It's important for the Commissioner to take an active role as this will all benefit the Yukon," he said.

Another part of the upcoming celebrations that he is looking forward to is the completed renovation of his "pad", the official Commissioner's residence, in Dawson which is to be refurbished to the era of George and Martha Black.

He hopes to be able to spend a lot of his time in Dawson between the 1996-1998 anniversaries.

"It would be great to say the Commissioner is in residence for the summer," he smiled.

McKinnon won't speculate on how many more years he will stay in office.

"It's a pleasure appointment," he said as he thought about his term. "Probably as long as I feel I am contributing to the territory."

Yet, as his long list of various jobs and appointments clearly shows, he's always looking for the next challenge that comes his way.

"I have never been in a job I didn't enjoy my whole life," he said proudly. "I've never really been one to stick to one thing."



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Summer Schedule 1992

FARO & CARMACKS (Commencing April 6, 1992)
Load in Whitehorse on Thursday
Delivery in Faro on Friday

ROSS RIVER (Commencing April 6, 1992)
Load in Whitehorse on Thursday
Delivery in Ross River on Friday

DAWSON CITY (Commencing April 6, 1992)
Load in Whitehorse on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
Delivery in Dawson City on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday

Commencing May 11, 1992, there will be
DAILY service to Dawson City!
Load in Whitehorse Monday through Friday
Delivery in Dawson City Tuesday through Saturday

MAYO, PELLY & STEWART CROSSING
(Commencing May 11, 1992)
Load in Whitehorse on Thursday
Delivery on Friday

HAINES JUNCTION, DESTRUCTION BAY & BEAVER CREEK (Commencing May 14, 1992)
Load in Whitehorse on Thursday
Delivery on Friday

HAINES JUNCTION ONLY (Commencing April 6, 1992)
Load in Whitehorse on Tuesday
Delivery on Wednesday

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A Weekend of Crazy Kapers:



The "Cran-Cran Cooler" the winning entry in the annual Drink Contest. Bottoms Up to Gerties! Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates



Carolyn Selch

Photo by Joanie Veitch



The Museum's "After Hours" float Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

by Joanie Veitch

Discovery Days weekend in Dawson City does seem to have a strong element of people doing a whole variety of crazy things.

Organizers encourage everyone to try out as many events as possible. For instance, if you entered the ten kilometre run on Saturday morning, the canoe race in the afternoon, the raft race down the Klondike River early on Sunday morning and then staked some claims downtown later that day you too could have qualified to become a King or Queen of the Klondike.

This year organizer Peter Menzies was so proud of those who completed the marathon of events over the weekend he wanted to crown them all.

Janis Campbell, a visitor from Vermont, became our Klondike Queen. She showed great spirit in tackling all events, and she even enjoyed it. Campbell has spent her summer travelling around the Territory, she loves it here and is making plans to move here for good.

In the running for Klondike King were Bern Johnson, Dirk Millar and Dave Millar. When it came down to the final decision Menzies decided they were all deserving. But with true sportsmanship Dave bowed out, saying that he felt the other two had accumulated more points over the weekend and should be ahead of him. So his brother Dirk and Bern Johnson will share the throne for the year. Congratulations to all of you.

Then on Monday in the triathlon, Dave, along with team member Rita Millar, entered the triathlon coming in first mixed team and second overall. What a test of endurance!



THE 1992 KINGS AND QUEEN OF THE KLONDIKE
L to R: Dirk Millar, Janis Campbell and Bern Johnson with a royal touch from Peter Menzies.

Both the canoe and the raft race are rather tough events. Beginning at the Eldorado hotel, the Canoe racers have to first run through town looking vaguely like an old comic skit "Mr Canoehead", down to the Yukon River, paddle across and back and get out, run madly up to the dike and ring a bell. This event also had the spectators running along the dike to beat the flow of the river to the finish line.

Eager watchers were again on the run for the next morning's

raft race. The rafters, including a rather snazzy looking Batman and Robin, as well as Superman, set off bravely on their rafts which takes them 4 miles down the Klondike River to the bridge by the Bonanza Shell station.

The race takes about an hour, some of the contestants fall in the freezing water at some point along the way, and it really pays off to know the river. There are many turns that can have you stuck on a bank or caught in a current causing all sorts of surprises.



DON'T BUG US! This is a serious entry. We won 1st prize for the Visitor Reception Centre. Photo by Namiko Saito