

THE KLONDIKE SUN

DAWSON CITY, YUKON

The no foolin' Lucky 13 issue

Vol. 4, No. 13

Thursday, April 8, 1993

60¢

Ex-MLA questions new budget

by Brent Morrison

The Klondike's former MLA, Art Webster, seemed to have politics on his mind again when he attended the April 2 meeting of Government Leader John Ostashek and new Klondike MLA David Millar. The meeting was held to discuss the Yukon Party's first budget. A dozen or so people, many of them Yukon Party supporters, were in attendance at the Downtown Hotel's conference room.

Webster has seemed semi-reclusive since losing the riding to Millar by 54 votes on October 19, but he came to this meeting well prepared, despite being a few minutes late. In fact, more was heard from Webster during the meeting than from his successor.

Ostashek described the new budget as, "The largest capital budget ever brought in in the Yukon," and quickly pointed out that there was not one "pet project" of the Yukon Party in the budget, "because there was no money for it."

In welcoming Ostashek to Dawson, Chamber of Commerce President Denny Kobayashi noted Ostashek must be serious about down sizing government because, "It's the first time I've ever seen a Government Leader at any meeting with out a press secretary," or a bunch of aides with him.

"Dawson is going to be probably a little tougher on you than maybe the press has been. Some of these questions are a little pointed," Kobayashi warned.

"I'm getting pretty thick-skinned," Ostashek assured him.

Kobayashi turned the floor over to Ostashek so that he could further explain the budget.

Ostashek explained that his first meeting with finance people after being elected told him they were "forecasting a 60 million dollar deficit for March 31, 1993." It was this fact that caused him to put a freeze on travel, hiring, and discretionary spending. "Those have paid off dramatically... I'm saying we've saved about 3.5 to 4 million dollars." That figure is currently being debated between Ostashek and Piers MacDonald in the Legislature.

"Travel's dropped by 50%,"

government hiring has dropped by 50%, discretionary spending has dropped by 33%" he added.

Ostashek went on to point out spending differences between his government and the former N.D.P. government, stating that in travel alone his government had cut spending by more than half.

"The first decision we made was that we would not deficit finance. We would bring in a balanced budget."

"Then, in order to bring in that balanced budget we had to either have lay-offs of the Civil Service or some tax increases. With the Curragh situation the way it is, the economic climate that's in the Yukon today, we didn't feel that we were in a position to cause any lay-offs, major lay-offs, to the Civil Service."

He added that the 8.8 million dollars in tax increases in the budget equals 200 Civil Service jobs a year.

Ostashek also stated that they were taking "flak" in public from opposition leader Tony Penikett,

"He's saying we raised the taxes to satisfy Ottawa. That is not the case!" He told the group, "That was a secondary issue. The reason we raised the taxes was to balance the budget."

He went on to blame the Penikett government for the "perversity factor", where Ottawa gives more money to the Yukon if they raise taxes, and described it as, "A very unfair formula."

Webster pointed out that the "perversity factor" formula was dictated by Ottawa and there had been no negotiating it.

Kobayashi then got into the Chamber's five pages of prepared questions.

The Chamber's first concern was where the money for sewer and water repairs in Dawson was coming from. "It won't be coming out of the money that's coming to Dawson," Ostashek assured him. "There is going to be ten million dollars coming to the

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Jury selection system unfair, says lawyer

by Dan Davidson

The client, Mark Russell, pled guilty, but with the strong support of his family, including his brother, whom he had assaulted last July, his sentence was reduced and he was able to get on with his life. This included taking a job Outside and continuing to work on the lessons in living he has been trying to master through a visit to Stoney Mountain Medicine Lodge in Alberta and a course at Yukon College.

So it's a good end, right? Well, not quite, not according to Barry Ernewein, Russell's lawyer. Ernewein is upset with the way the jury for the case was selected. He says the system of jury selection generally is failing to serve his Indian clients and that something should be done to correct it.

"I believe in equity in the system," Ernewein said the day of the trial (March 29), "and there was none today. I damn near chal-

lenged the array, but I didn't, for a good reason, because I knew by that time that I was going to enter a guilty plea, so at that point I didn't care who was on the jury."

The reason? Only 4 of the 47 people called to serve on the jury were of First Nation ancestry. Two of those were challenged immediately by the Crown, and none of them made it onto the final jury.

"It's important," Ernewein said. "In this trial that was going to go today, both the complainant and the accused are Native. And...the Charter of Rights says...in the equality position in Section 15...I don't think the old argument washes any more that you're getting tried by your peers

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Clowning around at the Dawson Ski Hill took on new meaning as a "Dummy Run" was held during this year's Spring Carnival.

Photo by Michael Gates

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Questions on budget (continued from page 1)

Yukon for highway reconstruction. So, there's going to be some room to maneuver some monies around."

With concern to the Chamber's question regarding the small amount of money put toward Land Development, Ostashek, although not positive, thought the reason may be that final land selections had not been completed by First Nations. He promised to give a copy of the question to Mickey Fisher, the minister of Community Development and Transportation.

Webster indicated that there was potential land waiting for development in the Klondike. "If the boundary expansion goes ahead towards the Callison cut-off, it's already zoned, we can start developing that residential land right away. With the (government) dollars."

It was soon apparent that many of the issues raised at this meeting would have to be taken up with Mickey Fisher, the Minister of Community and Transportation services.

Ostashek also indicated that some of the 10 million coming from Ottawa would go towards the Top-of-the-World repairs, in addition to the 1.3 million already in the capital budget. The Chamber was also concerned that monies allotted for the Klondike and Dempster highways were insufficient.

"Does the government of the Yukon plan to honour this election commitment that was made to the community?" Kobayashi asked next, referring to the absence of any money put aside for

Dawson's sewer and water repairs.

"David was talking to me on the way up about that, and I'm not exactly sure what that commitment was," Ostashek answered, "I know that we discussed it with Peter (Jenkins) when we made the press release up here."

"There was no dollar figure," Chris Sorg, a local businessman and president of the Yukon Party's Klondike riding interjected.

Ostashek went on to say that he had wanted to put a dollar figure on it, but the Dawson mayor didn't want him to. "Don't tie your hands." The mayor apparently told him.

"Three hundred thousand was offered," Sorg then stated.

"We offered it, and it was refused by the mayor at the time. We agreed to give Peter some grant money if he would agree to automatically agree to roll back the rates for one year. He didn't agree to do that, so we didn't give him the money is basically what it ended up as."

Webster continued to pursue the matter, "If there's no commitment, no dollars coming forward for that, in the way of a grant, is there a commitment then from your government to introduce amendments to the Municipal Act which will affect the deficit grants?" He asked. "Right now John, the way it's written is that the amount of monies coming from YTG to the city to cover the O & M (operating and maintenance costs) deficit for water and sewer decreases by 25%

each year."

Ostashek stated that this would be negotiated when talks on the rebuilding of the whole system began on Monday (April 5).

"We made the political commitment to solve the sewer and water problem in Dawson City," Ostashek maintained.

The Chamber's next concern was that the budget seemed to be trying to bring Yukon tax rates into line with those of the rest of the country. With the cost of living so high here, they wanted to know the rational behind such a move.

Ostashek indicated that taxes in the Yukon are still among the lowest in Canada, "I really think if you analyze it, over all, while we do have a higher cost of living, and I don't believe that we should be up in the middle range on taxation, we have to be in here somewhere creating some of our own funds. And in order to balance the budget we needed increases."

"It's the rational that there's some difficulty with, as opposed to the actual taxes," Kobayashi stated.

"The rational was to balance the budget," Ostashek responded.

Boyd Gillis questioned the government's decision not to raise taxes on alcohol.

"It's 10 to 15% higher than the rest of the country," Ostashek stated, "and if we were to raise it any higher they would be smuggling it in from British Columbia."

Webster obviously disagreed with that statement, "What? Liquor?" He asked in disbelief. "You can still buy a dozen beer cheaper here in Dawson City than you can in British Columbia where it's brewed."

"Not according to the figures I have Art," Ostashek maintained. "According to the briefing notes I have from the liquor corp, we're about 10 to 15% higher...I'm not talking about tax, I'm talking about the cost."

Webster then went on to question the new taxes' effect on Curragh and its cost to operate.

"Effects on the overall economy will be very minimal," Ostashek stated, referring to stud-

ies that had been done.

The Chamber went on to question increases in small business tax, fearing that it will discourage new businesses opening. They also wanted to see something put back into the economy to help businesses if the taxes were going up.

Ostashek assured them that that was the direction his government was heading. "Right now the first thing to do is to balance the books and to try to get the cost of government under control. And the effect of the 1% increase on small business tax is... significant, it's not that heavy a burden," he said.

Kobayashi again stated the disagreement was with the rational.

"While we applaud a balanced budget, we have trouble accepting increased taxation to accommodate increased spending. How does the government of the Yukon plan to streamline spending to avoid additional tax increases and spending in future years, and can we expect increased taxes again next year?" Was the Chamber's next question.

"No," Ostashek stated flatly to the latter question. "We don't expect any more tax increases... I

don't like paying taxes any more than anybody else does. And, I don't like imposing taxes... The base O & M is going down." He stated.

Webster then brought up the topic of decentralization, stating that some of the government's O & M cuts were probably hurting the communities. "I know a couple of positions that we had employees in this community, are now relocated back in Whitehorse."

Ostashek indicated that there was some readjustment going on, but other jobs would find their way into the communities. "We want to look at what's going to be of benefit to the community, and what's going to be cost effective. Those are the two criteria for decentralization," Ostashek explained.

"If you listen to your bureaucrats it'll be cost effective if they all stay in Whitehorse," Webster shot back.

Webster brought up an example of a Heritage Branch position which was to begin in Dawson April 1, but was kept in White-

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Jury selection (continued from page 1)

if you just get 12 people from the voters' list. There has to be a representative sampling. One third of Dawson is Native and so should one third of the jury be."

The lawyer absolved the Crown from any deliberate bias in selecting citizens to serve on a jury, but says that the three sources used to compile the lists all tend to leave out Natives.

The first source seems to be the list of home owners in a community. First Nation citizens living in band council housing don't show as owners, and aren't selected for jury duty. The next source is the telephone book. A number of Natives in Dawson either don't have telephones or else have unlisted numbers, so all

those people are left off the potential jurors' list.

"Then they go to the voters' list," Ernewein said, "and there's not as high a percentage of Natives listed as there is white folk, so between the three of them there's a built-in discrimination against having native people on the jury."

"I'm not a person who goes around fighting for causes. I just look at the simple facts. It has to be a fair system. It's not fair."

The lawyer noted that with the coming of Land Claims and talk about Aboriginal Justice and Self-government, it was important to redress this imbalance as quickly as possible.

Yukon First Nations do have their own members and voters lists, and Ernewein sees no reason why these shouldn't become part of the material used by the Yukon's sheriff to select potential jurors. He has been told by the sheriff that this was tried in a couple of communities and that First Nation administrations there refused to give out their membership lists under the privacy act.

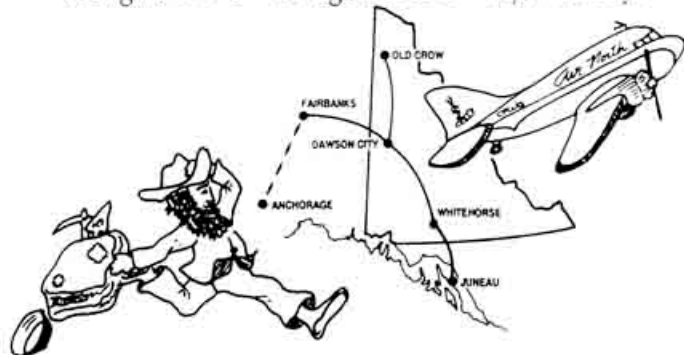
"I don't know why they would say that. Well, I suppose they could see it as one more example of white people interfering with their business, but I think if you just spelled it out, said that we needed people to make up a jury...then they should make that list available," Ernewein sees it as being in the First Nations' own best interests to do this.

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Business Administration course is booming

by Palma Berger

There has long been a complaint in Dawson from the offices of both businesses and government that they were unable to find qualified staff. The local campus of the Yukon College was finding that it could not keep up with students demands for more and better courses for business training.

Letters of support for a full-time business course were written by both students and many offices in town. Eventually, a Needs Assessment Study, sponsored by the Canada Employment and Immigration Centre (CEIC), was undertaken by Allanah Fuhre in August 1992. There was so much support that CEIC arranged to fund a Business Administrative Services Program in Dawson City. The Chamber of Commerce became the sponsor, and the Dawson Campus of Yukon College was contracted to deliver the program.

The local campus soon found that it did not have room for eight full-time and thirty-five part-time students in their crowded quarters above the old liquor store. Separate rooms above the Bank of Commerce had to be rented. There, full-time teacher Mimi Elliot teaches Accounting, Office Procedures, Business Communications and Machines, Filing, and Keyboarding, while half-time instructor Allanah Fuhre teaches ACCPAC, Lotus 1-2-3, Word Perfect (word processing) Windows. In the third room, Marcia Jordan is the hired coordinator for the Chamber, the College, and CEIC.

The eight full-time students have increased to nine, despite one having to drop out because of ill health. Of the nine, which include Jeannine Brideau, Andrea Magee, Rhonda Taylor, Suzanne Saito, John Cramp, Shauna Heasley (from Mayo), Wendy Burns, Karen Mullen and Carolyn Phelps (from Whitehorse), seven already have jobs. Five of them will receive certification by December.

Therein lies the only problem; the course is so popular that it should go on until May of 1994. Funding, however, has only been received until the end of December 1993. It is hoped that funding will continue at least, through to May of 1994.

A tremendous effort has been made to bring this course to the Dawson community. Especially noteworthy are the efforts made by local Yukon College campus instructors Karen Dubois, Pat Russell, and Helen Winton. In addition to their efforts, the sheer cost of offering the course should be noted. The Chamber reports that it is one of the largest projects funded by CEIC in the Yukon. Seventy thousand dollars has been spent locally, for



Business classes take warning: computer fascination is a terminal illness.

the rent of the rooms, the wages of the instructors, and for the purchase of eight up-to-date computers.

Enquiries are still coming in for this course. All that is needed to qualify is a grade twelve education. An applicant can write a test for grade twelve equivalency. Some students have done their upgrading at the Dawson Campus and gone on to this course. The students may be funded to the amount of \$121.00 per week for full-time single students. There is a subsidy for daycare. Those receiving U.I.C. may attend but with no extra subsidy.

As the president of Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, Denny Kobayashi said, "The Business Administrative Services Program presents a tremendous opportunity for our community. This program provides significant local job creation, relevant employer based training, and technical upgrading opportunities for the currently employed. The joint efforts and contributions of CEIC, Yukon College, and DCCC have produced a fully equipped Community Computer Learning Centre."

The Chamber of Commerce will own the eight computers that were purchased, but they will be under the care and control of the Community Campus.

What do the students think? Suzanne Saito, who has plugged away at evening courses as they became available, finds it a dream. She prefers being a full-time day student to working all day and then squeezing in some hours in the evening to attend classes. The new facility is much better than the crowded campus rooms. She appreciated not only having new, up-to-date computers, but having access to her computer all through class.

In the past, students had to arrange the time they could use the few available computers. To be

able to work on office procedures, etc., in a separate classroom is unbelievable. In the old evening courses, just getting enough typewriters to go around was a nightmare, not to mention that they were each different models with their own

idiosyncrasies.

But now, what a joy it is working on a word processor where one can correct errors so easily, get less frustrated than using the old-style typewriter. With accounting, one can do a spreadsheet with the Lotus 1,2,3 pro-

gram on the computer so easily, where once it was all done by hand.

From the traditional typewriter classes to computer keyboarding, she feels that at last the curriculum has caught up with modern technology.



Raymond Hamelin



Lorraine Lyle



Monique Pelland

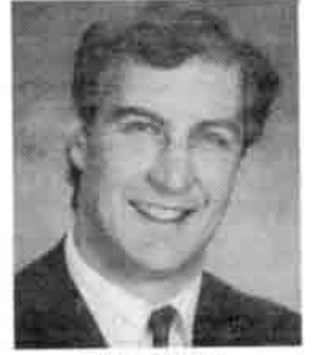
Bruce Tavner, Chairman & CEO, and William Dunbar, President of Northwestel, are pleased to announce the appointments of: Raymond Hamelin as Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer; Glenn Kosak as General Counsel; Lorraine Lyle as General Manager, Customer Services; and Judy Corley as General Manager, Human Resources.

They join Monique Pelland, General Manager, Marketing and Engineering, and William Hall, General Manager, Operations, as part of the company's senior management team.

Raymond Hamelin joins Northwestel with 18 years of telecommunications experience. His areas of responsibility include accounting and information systems. Glenn Kosak, bringing 15 years of legal experience, is responsible for legal, regulatory and inter-carrier affairs. Lorraine Lyle has been with the company since 1981, most recently as General Manager and Comptroller. Judy Corley joined Northwestel in 1979 and was Director, Human Resources prior to this appointment.

Monique Pelland was appointed to her present position in 1989 following 13 years of experience with Bell Canada. William Hall assumed his role in 1991 following several years of experience in operations, planning and program management.

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Glenn Kosak



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Editorial:

April, Come She Will

by Dan Davidson

The Yukon Party and the Association of Yukon Communities held the political floor over the weekend, though their choices of venue left much to be desired for anyone who wanted to attend both meetings. Zapping back and forth between Whitehorse and Dawson isn't something one wants to spend the entire weekend doing, though it is said that our mayor intended to give it a try.

Obviously the Yukon Party made the right decision and came to the Klondike, perhaps in acknowledgement of the fact that there wasn't really anything in the way of big capital projects facing the riding during the next fiscal year. But the location of the party's meeting here meant that L.M. (as Mickey signs himself) Fisher couldn't be here and, as John Ostashek noted at his budget information session on Friday night, the department of Community and Transportation Services has a few problems to iron out in the Klondike.

Apparently the minister himself will make an appearance here later in the month to discuss such things as: sewer and water reconstruction, sewer and water O & M deficit funding, ferry line-ups, a reduction in funding for upgrade work on the Klondike Highway, and the Dawson boundary expansion. That should be another interesting meeting.

We note with a bit of amusement that the Chamber of Commerce has already broken its vow of sticking strictly to business matters in the future as Denny indicates elsewhere in these pages. The 5 page list of questions which Coach K. served to the Government Leader contained items which were bounced hard and required some legwork to return. The volley was good natured, but there were no give aways.

Well, let's face it, the great game of government tends to influence and interact with all other games, and it seems as if there really isn't anyone who can ignore it for long.

We welcome to these pages the long overdue first edition of our new MLA's column. Dave tells us he expected to have trouble writing this, but we're pleased to note that his public self-evaluation of his own literary talents (made publicly here in town shortly after the Minister of Education announced his plans for an Education Review) has turned out to be less than accurate. Dave also tells us not to expect him here on a monthly basis, but we're sure he'll come around. In this age of restraint free space in the local paper has to look more attractive than paying postage on slick promotional pamphlets.

By next issue the river should be out and the buds should be gathering to burst out on the trees. This is when we will find out whether they can manage this in spite of all the hangers-on that remain from the fall. Maybe we should get out there and knock a few of them off. It seems to work for new governments when they do it with deputy ministers.

See you then.

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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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The Klondike Sun's offices are located in the north end of the Waterfront Building, opposite the intersection of Front and King Streets, in Dawson City. Mailing address is Bag 6040, Dawson City, Yukon Y0B 1G0. Second Class Mail Registration No. 8687, Answering machine number is 403-993-6318, FAX number is 403-993-6625. We are a volunteer organization, performing a community service.

Letters to the editor

The Editors:

We apologize for not putting the following to paper sooner. Evelyn and I travelled to Dawson City last June; for me, it was a return after a 46-year absence.

It was so nice to walk the streets of my home town once again and to meet old friends I had not seen for so many years.

One of the things that impressed us most was that the hospitality of the North had not diminished in any way, not that I expected it would.

The people of the Visitors Reception Center and the people who conducted the various tours in and around Dawson are to be commended for their expertise and courtesy.

When talking to other visitors from Canada, the United States and Overseas Countries, the comment on the services provided was always the same, "First Class All The Way!" You Dawsonites have done yourselves proud.

Thank you for a most enjoyable visit and we hope to return soon.

Gordon and Evelyn McKay
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dear Editor:

Re. J. Ashcroft's letter. *The Klondike Sun* wouldn't be the paper it is if it weren't for such as Sue Ward and those who add a personal touch.

I enjoy Sue Ward's columns very much as I'm sure a lot of others do.

You J.A. sir, no one twists your arm to read Sue's column.

A friend of Sue's and an avid reader of *The Klondike Sun*.

Blanche Vinall
Lillooet, B.C.



Dear Editor:

In the March 11 edition, Dan Davidson stated that the Lost Patrol was made in 1920 and that the destination was Fort Macpherson.

The facts are the patrol was made in the winter of 1910/11 and the destination was Dawson City. It was the only patrol to start from Fort Macpherson.

The last official R.C.M.P. dogteam patrol was made in 1969. It went from Old Crow to Fort Macpherson and back.

Sincerely,

Maureen Peterson
Dawson City

Editor's Note: Apologies are in fact due to all concerned over this slip. A number of patrol dates (first, last, lost, etc.) are cited in the press release, and I subtracted using the wrong date without noticing what I had done.

The other goof was that we highlighted the Lost Patrol in our headline. It's the many years of patrols that the Mounties would like to commemorate, not the one that ended in disaster.

Spring Thaw

by Dan Davidson

Early mornings in April it's hard to decide just what to put on when you're heading outside.

While the sun is up early it's still pretty cool and my breath frosts the air as I walk to the school.

So gloves and a hat seem to be necessary for one who of spring colds would like to be wary.

By noon the sun's blazing, the kids are out playing and jackets all over the playground are laying.

The ice on the street has all run into puddles and the backs of folks' pants are all mud-mottled muddles.

By late afternoon head and hands are both free as the sun somewhat sultry has turned out to be.

So, you see, here in Dawson the weather's confusing but it's all part of being here, which was our choosing.

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SHOP IN DAWSON, says Chamber flyer

by Dan Davidson

The Dawson City Chamber of Commerce is focussing its attention on keeping more of Dawson's money in Dawson. The Shop Dawson campaign began on March 10 with a locally produced flyer in the mail. Chamber president Denny Kobayashi says that this is a move the chamber has been intending to take for some time, and its more naturally its province than the involvement in local bylaws that characterized some of its activity last year.

"The intent is that through the Chamber we want to promote shopping in Dawson and support of local Dawson businesses," Kobayashi said. "That will ensure that we have more services over a longer term."

The flyer notes that shopping locally employs more residents, allows businesses to continue to "donate tens of thousands of dollars to service clubs and community groups", permits businesses to continue to "pay property taxes that help provide new schools, park improvement and other local services" and to "offer good selection and competitive prices."

"PUT MONEY BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY", the flyer

concludes in large type, "SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS."

The flyer was produced in Dawson by Allanah Fuhre's desktop publishing expertise and printed and folded by Leslie Greenwood's business services operation.

"We like to think" Kobayashi said, "its to raise the local consciousness of the community that local businesses do a lot of things in Dawson."

He said that this initial step will be followed by a number of others over the next few months. The second will be the develop-

ment of an advertising package of give-a-ways, discounts and information aimed at conventions and other events that might come to town.

By next Christmas, the chamber hopes to work with the CIBC to promote a Buy Dawson special loan at the bank with ex-

tended payback terms and special cheques that can only be used in Dawson. The idea has been used extensively in some off the prairie provinces to combat hard economic times and try to keep money in communities affected by such disasters as bad crop years and cross-border shopping.

Requests anyone?

by Jon Calon

Ever since CFYT uplinked with CKRW, we have had the opportunity to tune into *Goldline*, a national oldies request show hosted by Tom Lucas. Notice I said request, or at least that is what Tom says about every 10 minutes and gives the phone number along with it and invites your calls from across Canada.

He has said the phone number enough times for me to memorize it 1-800-563-3003. But has anyone in this town ever been able to get through with their requests? Whenever I try, I always get a busy signal, and I am positive that hundreds, no make that thousands of Canadians have the same frustrations. I once got a

ring, but it went unanswered after some 20 rings.

One caller on Vancouver Island who got "lucky" made it through after some 20,000 plus attempts. He made it through again some two or three days later. Tom says that he gets quite a few regular callers and he can recognize them by voice. I wonder how they can make it in so frequently when the lines are always busy.

I am listening to Goldline while writing this and just heard that a caller in Victoria turned on the radio, tuned in "oldies 900" and caught the Tom Lucas's show. She was impressed and called in. She successfully made it in. I am amazed that some people routinely make it in to the

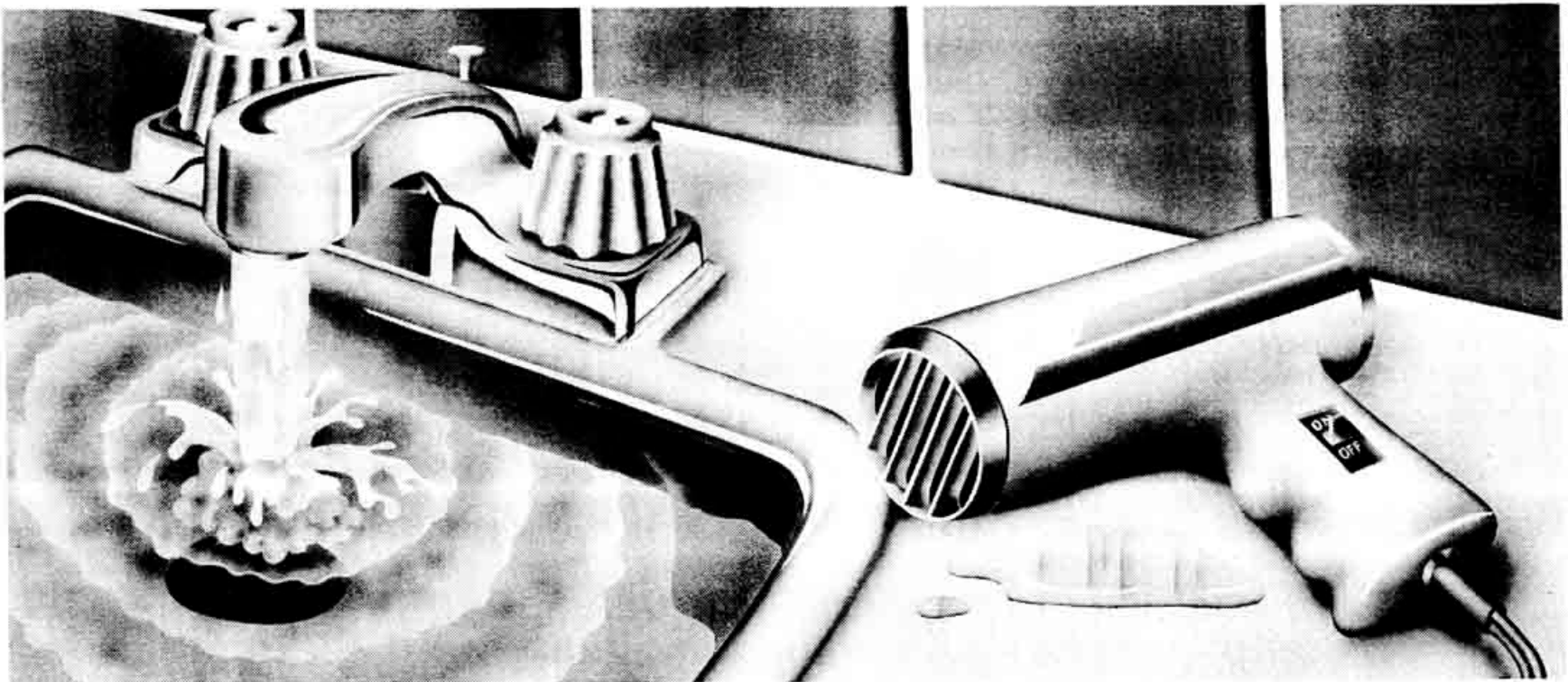
Goldline. I am also surprised at the length of time it takes to connect to a distant phone. On my recent attempts to connect with the radio show, wherever it is, it took an average nine and a half seconds to return with a busy signal.

Now, if phone signals, TV signals, radio waves, and electricity travel in air and along wires at light speed, some 300,000 kilometers per second, that radio station must be a long way away. Well I am certainly glad that I don't have a rotary telephone and that NorthwTel doesn't charge for attempted connections. If they did, I sure wouldn't have tried to call some 50 times and I'm sure that the gentleman on Vancouver

Island would have given up a long time ago.



DEADLY COMBINATION



Keep Hair Raising Experiences out of the Bathroom.

A plugged-in hair dryer and a sink full of water is a deadly combination.

Electrical appliances and water just don't mix. Whether it's in the bathroom, kitchen or the laundry room, keep small appliances away from water.

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Only you can make your home a safe place. Start now. When it comes to electrical safety, don't take chances.

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Budget questions (continued from page 2)

horse."

When Ostashek questioned Millar about it, it was Sorg, who is president of the Dawson Museum, who stated, "We made a fairly strong argument... to accommodate (the person involved)."

Ostashek also indicated that a wildlife biologist would be relocated to Dawson because he didn't believe they all needed to be in Whitehorse.

"I think we would much rather see the entire Heritage Branch relocated to Dawson City than a lot of the piecemeal type of transfers," Sorg stated.

Webster went on to say that the Northern Parks and Campgrounds coordinator had also been sent back to Whitehorse. "That's two examples there, that I think runs contrary to the principle of decentralization, and really should be looked at."

"I think what is needed is a little bit of common sense," Helmut Schoener added.

"We have not turned away from decentralization," Ostashek assured them.

The issue of Central Stores also came up. Some YTG departments are required to purchase items from the Central Stores when similar items are available

locally. "That is one department that is going under a complete restructuring right now," Ostashek commented.

The Chamber was concerned that the K.V.A. profits should be re-invested in Dawson. Ostashek stated that pressure was mounting to issue more gambling licenses. Gertie's currently has an exclusive licence in the Yukon.

Ostashek also indicated that the relocation of the Anniversaries commission to Dawson had received a lot of support. "My personal feeling is that it should be in Dawson," Ostashek stated.

The Chamber also urged that the Legislature get down to the business of governing instead of the bickering that has been going on recently.

"Where is the control in the bureaucracy, which everybody perceives as being the millstone around the community," Gillis asked when the Chamber finished their presentation.

"I think that we're trying to address that," Ostashek answered. "We are restructuring each department... seeing what we really need."

The needs of increased ferry service, a bridge across the Yukon River and the Dawson

airport also were discussed.

Severance packages for deputy ministers no longer employed by the government were also brought up. Ostashek stated that he did not like the previous deals, and his government was working on a new formula that would be used for all Deputy Ministers, instead of having individual contracts for each.

Ostashek also stated that he would suggest to Mickey Fisher to come to Dawson for a meeting as soon as possible.

Webster wanted to know how \$70,000 was being spent on the airport. "Could you tell me what the nature of that work is?" He asked. "Because I've been hearing some conflicting reports about a site actually being selected, to another cost benefit analysis being done. I just want to know if this money is for studies or actual work?"

"I think there seems to be some mixed opinions in Dawson as to whether the airport should be upgraded or whether there should be a new airport," Ostashek answered. "I think the City of Dawson is going to have to make a decision of what they want. There's not a whole lot of sense on spending several million dollars on this one if you're going to get a new one in a few years."

The final topic was brought up by Dan Davidson, who was curious where the boundary expansion issue stood. Ostashek said that final Land Claims selection was the major item holding expansion up, and they would be chosen soon.

The meeting lasted just over ninety minutes, and there was none of the drag 'em out, knock 'em down scenes that Kobayashi had hinted at.

In fact, if not for Webster's appearance, the meeting probably would have been a lot shorter and sweeter.

Music for the soul

by Sue Ward

What a treat! Pure sound! Of course I'm writing of THE NEWMAN & OLTMAN GUITAR DUO. The extra magic was received by those of us who have strummed and plucked even a little. You could poke your toe into the shoes of these talented and determined young musicians who agreed to share their talents with us Yukoners while touring their most northern State. On March 18th they drove down from Whitehorse. The next afternoon found them performing for the younger school children in the Audio Room of the Museum complex, a first-time exposure to the sweet sounds of acoustical guitars.

At 7:25 that evening the young folk of the Music Festival group were ready and waiting. My ticket purchase brought the concerned remark from John Steins "I hope we get a good crowd. It's getting late." In seven minutes the seats were filled and folks were inching over to make one more space. One or two folks brought little ones, and one family, after a day of glorious skiing, decided a little culture would complete the

Spring Break. The kids lasted until intermission when caring parents withdrew so as to not interrupt the rapt attention given to the musical guests.

What I learned was that there was so little strumming and so much lightning plucking. When thanking Michael for "just being here" I asked to see his finger nails and callouses. How long and hard the endless hours of practice required to allow the strings to produce a pure tone.

The duo were guests of Monina Wittfoth and early the next morning Laura Oltman and Michael Newman would be driving back to Whitehorse where they would perform that evening. Perhaps we came first because of our history. Their brochure tells us "In between concert tours, Michael and Laura are restoring a 19th-century house on the Delaware River in New Jersey, where they live with their horse "Bunny" and cats." Me thinks we maybe had more in common than the love of acoustical guitar music.

Thank you all for creating a special enjoyment on an early spring evening in the Klondike!

Dawson Daily News August 7, 1902

An ad in this issue by the Ames Mercantile Co. advertised Whole Wheat Flour \$3.00 for a fifty pound sack, Twelve one pound tins of baking powder \$5.00, Fine coffee 25 cents a pound, sugar 7 1/2 cents a pound, and a clearance on men's fine shoes \$5.00, \$6.00 and \$7.00 a pair.

Dawson Daily News April 2, 1917

"GIRLS FIGHT HAT PIN DUEL"

Fremont Nebraska March 1st - Miasa Flo VanCamp, 19 and Lillian Ackerman, 20 fought a "duel" with hat pins for a hat at a dance, and Miss Ackerman was fined \$1.00 and cost.

Miss Ackerman, pretty telephone operator, admitted she used a hat pin. She said the hat belonged to her and she recognized it on Flo's head. Miss VanCamp showed she had been cruelly jabbed about the arms and chest. She insisted the hat was borrowed from a friend.

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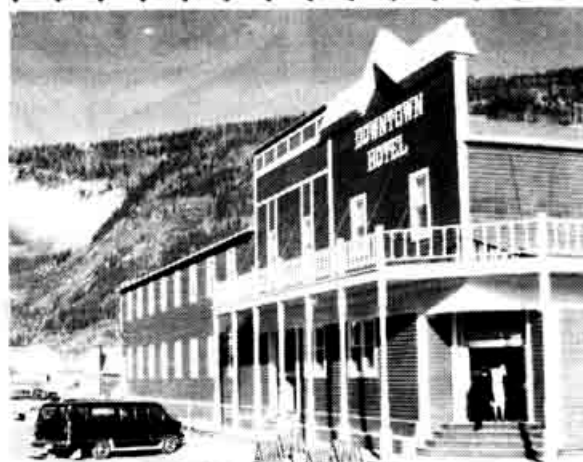
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From Yukon North: The School Year Re-Considered

by Sue Ward

As the quality and quantity of one's education is a dominant feature in one's life record, this scribe was most impressed with the following item contained in YUKON NORTH, March 1993, written by the Supt. of Schools, Area III. Dr. Robert Smith has the facts and, on seeing so many 'flyers' dumped into the garbage bin in the Post Office, it occurred to me that many parents were unable to make time to get the message.

As a child of the Great Depression I was lucky to get Elementary and Commercial High School. No frills, no music, two field trips by streetcar to B.C. Sugar Refinery and Burns Slaughter House, no gym, a school library in the teachers' Staff Room of a bookcase with locked glass doors, on top of a cupboard, accessible once a week for half an hour after school. Art Class once a week offered one 8" x 10" piece of rough brown paper, a pencil and an eraser, a set of Reeves Water Colours. Much emphasis on the Three R's, Geography and Literature. And at the end of each month you took home a Report Card and that afternoon before dismissal you moved all of your books to the seat numbered in accordance to where you ranked. Holidays were a week at

Christmas, the same at Easter, and July and August summer break.

This was the B.C. Curriculum and I understand the Yukon follows the B.C. 2000 Program. As I see the world convulsing and exploding it frightens me to see Yukon kids being short-changed by time spent on special events held in the school day, given a minimum of homework, with kids hanging around all hours of the night. This is not the real world.

Writes Mr. Smith:

"Two years ago, the new Education Act gave School Councils the opportunity to experiment with the school year. So far such experiments in Robert Service, Eliza Van Bibber, Tantalus, Chief Zeh Gittlit, and Del Van Gorder Schools have resulted in a reduced school year. Yes, I know, the experiment has also produced a slightly longer school day expanding from five hours to roughly five hours and twenty minutes. But the overall effect has been to reduce the school year in length. Is this wise? Are we in Yukon right in this respect by shortening the school year when the rest of the world is trying to lengthen it?"

"The content of the average school year has changed considerably during the past decade. When the parents of the present

pupils were in school, there was nowhere near the amount of field trips, visitors from the outside, assemblies, activities such as drama and sports activities that ate into the instructional time of the school year. In addition, we did not have school being closed for teachers to attend in-service nor did we have supply teachers being hired so that teachers could attend meetings. All of these activities detract from the amount of instructional time that pupils are now receiving. When you add to these 'interruptions' the fact that the year itself is anywhere from two to four weeks shorter than previous years, then have you seriously impaired the

delivery of education to your children? Please note, that I do not write nor imply, that we have indeed curtailed the instruction given to pupils. I merely pose the question. The question is very important in view of the steps being taken in leading industrial nations such as Japan, Germany, France, and parts of the United States of America.

"Possibly we may get an answer when the Minister proceeds to fulfil his duties under Section 114(2) on page thirty-six of the Education Act: 'The Minister shall evaluate, at least once every five years, each of the schools operated by the Minister in accor-

dance with guidelines, standards, and procedures established by the Minister.' He is taking preliminary steps in this regard and realizes that he has only three years left to complete this examination. Possibly out of this first examination by the Minister under this section of the Education Act, we may obtain some ideas on how parents feel about the activities in the existing school year and the length of the existing school year, may we not? Certainly, the Minister is not likely to carry out such an evaluation without heavy involvement from parents of the existing pupils!"

Dropout rate lower but concern remains

OTTAWA (NC)—Although Renfrew County has a high school dropout rate far below the national average, community leaders have developed a series of recommendations to improve educational services to youth in the region.

They suggested that Renfrew County would be well served through a partnership of community services, families and industry in the education process. Three main recommendations were:

- community and education services should be coordinated through a locally-driven process of service integration;
- each school should have an annual, formal plan for involving families in the delivery of school services; and
- industry and labour should be directly involved in the development of school curriculum.



The work of the Renfrew group is just one example of a Stay-in-School project being undertaken by the Canadian Association of Principals that enlists direct participation of schools across Canada. The association has distributed a demonstration kit to more than 14,000 schools which highlights projects involving various segments of the community, proposed strategies for starting a Stay-in-School project and an action plan.

A national Stay-in-School initiative was started in 1990 by the Minister of State for Youth to combat Canada's 30 per cent dropout rate. In Renfrew, where the economy is often battered by seasonal unemployment and economic downturns, the dropout rate is less than 10 per cent.

Despite the low rate, the committee said: "While this (10 per cent) reflects positively on our region, the individual, economic and social implications for these young adults are most severe. They will be non-competitively employable in an increasingly competitive labour market."

In other regions, the dropout rate is higher and the Canadian Principals Association includes projects from across Canada to provide ideas and stimulus to the local schools.

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Trevor Van Rump and Lawrence Crayford tried to get on the beam with a hologram experiment.

Photo by Brent Morrison

Science Fair Impresses Judges and Parents

by Dan Davidson

The gymnasium at the Robert Service School was crowded on the evening of March 24, as students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 displayed their scientific prowess in a 2 1/2 hour science fair that had people talking for days afterward.

"I thought they were just so well thought out, and handled and explained with such confidence by the kids who put them all together. It's really amazing to see," said Palma Berger, one of the 36 judges who picked the winning entries from the busy floor.

Students' project choices were individual and not necessarily tied to the curriculum area the grade level was exploring. Science teacher Liz Woods made the fair a requirement of grades 7-10 and optional for grades 11 and 12, while most of the elementary and primary grades also chose to participate in some manner. The projects were judged by the student body during the afternoon and then subjected to adult

opinion later in the evening. The results were probably more positive than the students, who tend to run their own efforts down, expected.

"I think it's just grand. Everybody's so enthusiastic. Their displays are great. They put a lot of work into it," said retired Grade 1 teacher Joyce Caley as she filled out her reports later in the evening.

Actually doing science, devising an experiment or researching a particular topic on your own could be seen something like creative writing, a situation where you learn by doing.

"They had to come up with ten questions - things they've always wanted to know about," said Liz Woods. Then they had to spend some time finding out if it was even possible to deal with that topic here, given the resources of the lab and the joint Community Library.

Winning projects included: growing germs, circulation of air,

how hot air rises, the Aurora Borealis, cheese making, parasites, botany, volcanoes, the water cycle, solar energy, motors, firearms, electric fences, holograms, wave power generation, working cardboard model of a clock.

Even a failed experiment is knowledge gained for a student. Two senior boys wanted to try to make holograms. With the available laser equipment and lenses, it wasn't possible for them to make more than a shadowy cousin of the slick, commercial collecting card holograms they had set up as part of their display, but they learned how it was done, and were able to explain why theirs wasn't a complete success, showing that they had done their homework and gained something in the process.

"In real research you may work for 20 years and still not get what you want," Woods commented, "so the whole process they go through is still science."

Some of the exhibits didn't

have an experimental base. Quite a few were exhibits or research reports. These, Woods feels, still have a certain value. One pair of grade 7 girls, Melissa Flynn and Harmony Hunter, took an old experiment about the effect of the acids in soda pop on body tissue and gave it a Yukon spin by using squirrels' stomachs for their sample tissue. A team of grade 10 boys dreamed up a way to generate power using the energy of wave motion.

Inspiration came from a variety of places as well. Many of the projects were research based, but the idea for the wave generator came to Jared Brickner in a dream, and he and partner Daniel Kerklywich didn't really do much research until they already had a working model built.

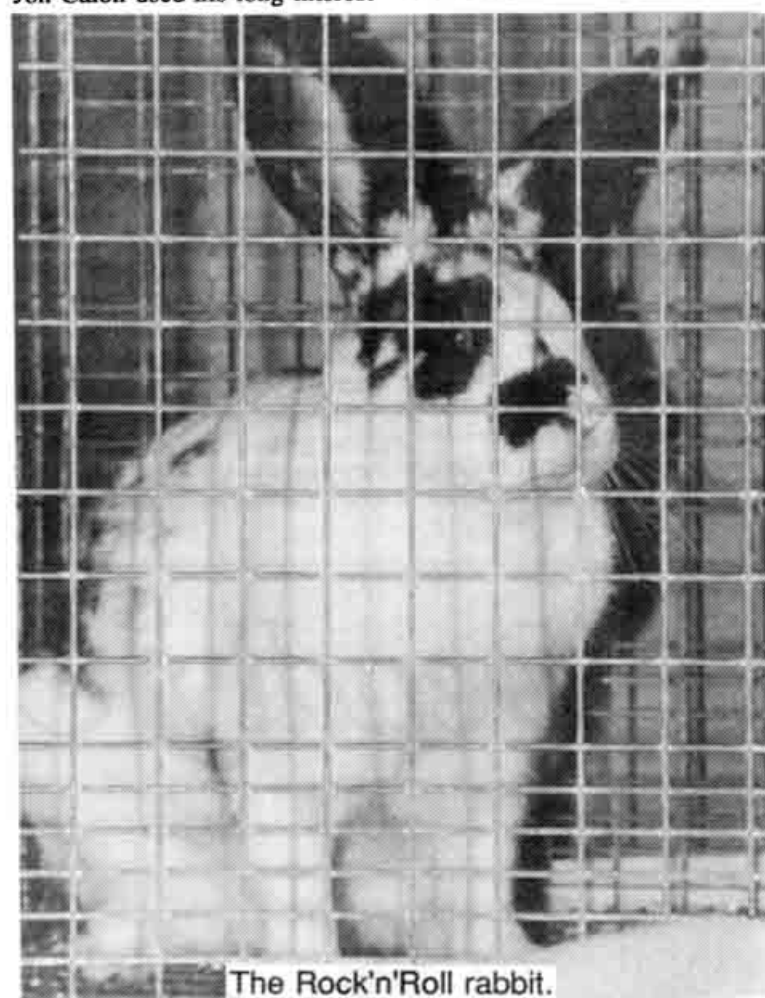
Some students worked on areas where they already had a good knowledge base. Mitchell Strid and Tyler Nichol used theirs to create a display on firearms while Jon Calon used his long interest

in flight to assemble a wind tunnel.

One of the most popular projects with young and old alike was an inflated "sea bubble" created by the Kindergarten and Grade 2 classes. Large enough for kids to enter, the interior of this inflated plastic dome was decorated with representations of undersea life and plants.

Actual work on projects began in January this year, but some students are hooked on the fair concept and have already been talking with Woods about ideas for next year. This will mean far more complex projects at the next science fair. Woods, who is new to Robert Service School this year, had already done two fairs in Faro before coming here, and sees the fair concept as an annual, growing thing.

A dozen projects from this school will be going to the territorial science fair in Whitehorse on the weekend of April 2-3.



The Rock'n'Roll rabbit.

Photo by Brent Morrison

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GRADE THREE

Malcolm Dewell

Can You Grow Germs?

GRADE FOUR

Brendan Hogan

Volcanoes

GRADE FIVE

Theresa Christiansen &
Cass McCollumHow Do Electrolytes
Work?

GRADE SIX

Kieran Hogan &
Andrew Sprockreeff

Earthquakes

GRADE SEVEN

Melissa Flynn &
Harmony Hunter

Coke vs Pepsi

GRADE EIGHT

Clint Brickner &
David Campbell

Conducting Matters

GRADE NINE

Patrick Sack & Chris Calon

Cheese Making

GRADE TEN

Jared Brickner &
Daniel Kerklywich

Wave Generator

GRADE ELEVEN

Jon Calon

Wind on The Wing

GRADE TWELVE

Trevor Van Rump &
Lawrence CrayfordCan We Make Our Own
Holgram?

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Electromagnets

INTERMEDIATE

Heather Campbell &
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Recycling depot news

by Conservation Klondike
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Photo by Brent Morrison

I'd like to be under the sea, in an octopus's garden with you.

Student impressions of Science Fair

by Tara McCauley,
Samantha Jenkins, Tim
Grenon & Lianne Bilodeau

The Science Fair was run in two sections, the first taking place in the afternoon. Grade 9's Tara McCauley reflects on the student exhibition:

"The Robert Service School gym was bustling with people this afternoon. Students ran around examining each project and voting for their favorites. Those who got the most votes received the Student's Choice Awards. The enthusiastic and positive reviews by all the students, combined with the hard work and effort shown, proves this science fair is bound to be a success."

Grade 10's Tim Grenon was especially impressed by one project:

"There was ... one thing that I thought was exceptionally well done and that was the project done by a primary grade. They had made a hut out of some thin plastic. They had cut a hole in one end and put a fan facing in so it was blowing air inside. With the blowing of the fan, the closed in plastic area was raised up by the wind. Inside there were fish hanging. Also in one end there was a slit in the plastic so that we, the people, examining the science fair, could go in and sit down."

Grade 9's Samantha Jenkins felt the fair was impressive:

"I think that the science fair was very well planned. Each participant put a lot of time and effort into the projects. All the students were excited and eager to please when it came their turn for their project to be judged. I think the public was amazed at how advanced most of the projects were. I know I was... Over all the science fair was a great success."

Lianne Bilodeau from Grade 9 appreciated the community support.

"The science fair at Robert Service School literally drew people off the street to see what

was going on. Spectators of various ages observed eager young students at work. It really

helps young people these days to know they have the community backing them up all the way."

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Whiskey: a Play With a Message

by Dan Davidson

"Whiskey", a new play by Gene Du Bois played to packed houses at the Tro'ndik Heritage Centre over the weekend. Sponsored and funded by the Dawson First Nation, the play features local actors and teenagers in a short but intense look at the destructive effects of alcohol on the lives of two men, Willie and Alan, as they fall victim to what producer Cathie Langtry called "the quiet killer".

Reading from an article by Langtry, Han councillor Debbie Nagano explained to the audience that the Dawson First Nation funded "Whiskey" as part of an attempt "expose (alcohol) in all its forms..."

Nagano said, "We need to make a community stand against this silent killer..." rather than "watch, helplessly as relationships dissolve in anger, parenting skills disintegrate and children are left to bring up themselves, and families are ripped apart by events beyond their control."

Later Nagano noted that that this play is part of a series of things, including counselling events and healing circles, that the First Nation has been promoting to help solve the problem. "If we don't get our people off alcohol and drugs we're going to be in a sad state. We've kept quiet about this too long."

As it exists right now, "Whiskey" is a short play, introduced by a skit based on one of Du Bois's humorous "It's True, My Grandfather Told Me So Stories" which is used to frame the more serious part of the performance. "Whiskey" is about choices. First there are the careless choices made by two young men whose family backgrounds leave them unprepared to make better ones. When false-faced Whiskey promises them good times, they take the bait quickly and are soon deep in trouble.

The play leaves lots of room for expansion, since it cuts



Cast and Crew: L to R and Back row to front: Don Armitage, Jason Mann, Char Farr, Quinn Guimond, Dan Gagne, Chris Clelland, James Close, Chuck McLeod, Tim Gerberding, Lannie Farr, Frances Kormendy, Kyla Boivin, Peggy Kormendy, Debbie Nagano, Pam Lawrie, Rebecca McKim, Grace Jackson, Bonnie Rear, Gene Du Bois, Cathie Langtry.

Photo by Michael Gates

straight off to 15 years down the road and the next major choice these men must make. Willie follows the salvation of the Other Path in his middle years, but Alan remains trapped until he is an old man. The messages are clear. Don't make the wrong choice in the first place, but if you do, it's never too late to change your mind.

"I am Whiskey!" the amplified voice reverberates through the room. "And you're mine!" The white masked figure turns to the audience, repeating its boast as it stabs an arm in an arc across the room. But Whiskey fails in the end, losing its grip on the lives

of Willie and Alan as they turn to the Other Path and gain the support of the community in resisting its lure. It is the massed cast which drives the demon from the stage, and the same cast which raws the audience into a friendship dance at the end of the production to express solidarity with this concept of community strength.

Gene Du Bois, the author of the play, says that this is part of its message, that the solution to the problem has to be a community solution, and that the young are the ones for whom it has to start.

For Du Bois, this play comes

from the heart, from years of closing out bars and watching his own life go down the drain.

"It's a message for all people," he said after the performance, "regardless of racial barriers."

While he hopes to be able to find the funds to have the play tour the Yukon's native communities, Du Bois resists the notion of taping the production.

"It has to be seen (live) to be felt and understood," he said.

If "Whiskey" were to go on tour, it would be part of a healing event, with its cast taking on the role of councillors after each production.

Behind the Scenes:

Part of the magic of the "Whiskey" play was the way in which people offered their help behind the scenes. Char Farr's costumes were a stunning compliment to the carved wooden masks of Cor Guimond. Halin Derepentigny donated the impressive back-drop which enhanced the spiritual message of the play. The Dawson City Drama Club donated the sets, lights, and flooring. Don Armitage's technical expertise, coupled with Cathie Langtry's directing talents, contributed to the overall professional tone of the production.

The long run of Gene Du Bois

by Dan Davidson

February 26 holds some special memories for Gene Dubois. On that day, in 1983, he rolled up to the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City, completing a 5,000 mile trek that had begun the previous August in Dawson City. Dubois mushed his dogteam with a wheeled sledge down into British Columbia, across the more northerly roads in the prairies and Ontario and into Quebec, carrying with him a load of 500 specially stamped ("Delivered by dogteam.") commemorative envelopes in a mail sack. His mail run was promoted publicly as a way of celebrating Dawson's 80th birthday, but for Dubois it was more than that, it was a way of "making big tracks, so my kids would know what I'd done."

The St. Paul, Alberta native

boasts of Irish, French and Mohawk descent, but blames the latter strain for his love of wild places. "It's given me ... my genetic instinct for going back to the bush. For me it's always been the wilderness..."

That helps to explain how Dubois uprooted himself and moved to the Yukon, coming first in the winter of 1966 to work on the building of Clinton Creek, and returning in the summer 11 years via the Yukon River "in a 7 man airforce survival raft with no equipment and almost no money."

The wanderlust that took him from place to place also resulted in a plethora of jobs: cowboy, farmer, logger, sawmill operator, blaster, truck driver and oil rig swamper, to name a few. Settling into Dawson Gene became a

trapper/fisherman, with a reputation for singing a mean tune in the local bars (and music festivals in Dawson and Whitehorse) and partying hard. Over the years here he's added butcher, tour guide, ferry operator and writer to his resumé, but in the late 1970s he was looking for something that the kids from his first marriage could remember him for.

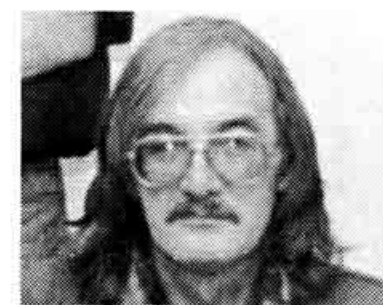
The mail run was just the ticket.

Not many believed that good time Gene had the right stuff to go the distance, even though he talked about doing it for years. Donations of money and dogfood came from MacKenzie Petroleum, the Farmer's market and Paul Sheridan's kennel. Many commercial trappers in the area bought a special commemorative envelop at \$100.00 each. Gene,

about to turn 42, hit the trail with hardly a farewell fanfare on August 20, mushing 12 dogs in front of a wheeled sled, bound for Quebec City, having promised to put at least 1,000 miles under his wheels before he quit.

Says Gene, "It was the longest one man mail run carrying the mail the full distance with the same dogs. I made it with 9 of the 10 dogs I left the Yukon with and 8 of the 12 I left Dawson with."

He caught the attention of the media before he was too far down the road but, in typical fashion, they only wanted to hear about any disasters he might have. Gene turned that one around on CBC and ended up being interviewed about the great calamity that befell him between Watson Lake and Fort Nelson. "I ran out



of peanut butter," he told the listening microphone.

"You call that a disaster?" they said. "Hey, you ever been 300 miles in the middle of nowhere and run out of peanut butter when that's your main food supply?" I got 'em."

Gene's sense of humour probably helped to perpetuate some Yukon myths. He recalls riding into one town during a -42 cold snap in only shirt sleeves and cowboy hat and pretending he wasn't cold. When he told people

Continued on page 13

Buckway 'dogs' the trail

by Kathy Jones-Gates

It's the end of the dog mushing season now, but Yukoners have been kept informed about the general mushing scene in the north by C.B.C. Whitehorse radio announcer Pam Buckway.

The veteran broadcaster was in Dawson during the Yukon Quest this year, as host of two "Home Run" programs broadcast from the Visitor Information Centre. With a loyal following of radio listeners throughout the Territory, Buckway always strives to provide up to the minute news on dog racing events. In order to provide such detailed coverage for races such as the Yukon Quest, Buckway indicated that research begins months in advance. "You have to get really into the race and try to live its every moment for your listener. After all, that is why they turn on the radio," she said.

Born and raised in the Yukon, Buckway got into broadcast journalism in a round about way. She entered the Electronics Technology program at the University of Alaska in the late 1960's.

and began volunteering at the University Radio station K.U.A.C. FM. to the point where she was made chief announcer.

Opting for radio broadcasting in general, she went on to do a Speech and Broadcast degree at the university, honing her skills at KUAC. She returned to Whitehorse for a vacation and to look for work. CBC Whitehorse was, "kinda short a body. I did not get my vacation, and here I am, with a few greying hairs to justify my 'veteran' label, after nineteen years with the station," she joked.

Her interest in the Sport of dog racing goes back to her university days when she was teamed with long time KUAC announcer Jim Schneider for coverage of the North American Dog Sled Races. "I kinda got infected with dog racing there, so when I began at CBC, I slid right into coverage of such events as the Rendezvous races, and over the years, the mushers, handlers and even the dogs became my friends."



In the months leading up to the Quest, she logs many hours on the phone, checking on the backgrounds of rookie mushers, learning the dogs names, attending organisational meetings, searching for the elusive snippets of colour commentary that sets her apart in dog racing coverage.

She lives and breathes the Yukon Quest. "I can't go to sleep at night unless I know where all 'MY' mushers are. I try for at least one daily report on race positions, and then other reports cover the ups and downs of the race. I try to get a network of

ham radio operators in place before the Quest, so that my update times are pretty accurate."

"I'm not one of those reporters that enjoys poking a microphone in front of a musher when a problem occurs and saying 'How do you feel?', but its the only way we can convey the true story of the Quest. I am trying to impart the excitement, describe the mushers appearance, personality, right down to the frisky wagging of a dog's tail after completing 100 miles of racing."

Unlike some print journalists

who were providing race coverage on an \$800 budget, CBC generally acknowledges that interest is high enough, especially for the Yukon Quest, and Buckway, who this year, received additional coverage from her afternoon program co-host, Peter Carr, was able to provide a number of daily reports throughout the Yukon Quest.

Mushing fans in particular and Yukoners in general, are indeed fortunate that a broadcaster of Pam Buckway's calibre opted for radio broadcasting in the Yukon.

Yukon River Ice Break-Up Dates

1896	May 19	2:35 p.m.	1944	May 5	1:27 p.m.
1897	May 17	4:30 p.m.	1945	May 16	9:31 p.m.
1898	May 8	8:15 p.m.	1946	May 9	3:38 p.m.
1899	May 17	4:10 p.m.	1947	May 9	unrecorded
1900	May 8	6:00 a.m.	1948	May 12	4:15 p.m.
1901	May 14	4:13 p.m.	1949	May 13	1:31 p.m.
1902	May 11	8:45 p.m.	1950	May 10	12:13 p.m.
1903	May 13	11:38 a.m.	1951	May 8	11:06 p.m.
1904	May 7	9:44 a.m.	1952	May 12	2:14 p.m.
1905	May 10	5:21 a.m.	1953	May 5	8:24 a.m.
1906	May 11	7:45 a.m.	1954	May 12	10:42 a.m.
1907	May 5	6:52 p.m.	1955	May 13	unrecorded
1908	May 7	5:27 p.m.	1956	May 7	4:03 p.m.
1909	May 11	9:46 p.m.	1957	May 9	2:42 p.m.
1910	May 11	4:06 p.m.	1958	May 4	2:11 p.m.
1911	May 7	12:27 p.m.	1959	May 15	1:01 p.m.
1912	May 9	10:03 p.m.	1960	May 4	6:50 p.m.
1913	May 14	5:11 p.m.	1961	May 9	4:29 a.m.
1914	May 19	9:11 a.m.	1962	May 16	1:39 a.m.
1915	May 3	5:55 p.m.	1963	May 5	6:22 p.m.
1916	May 3	10:03 a.m.	1964	May 28	12:13 a.m.
1917	May 15	2:00 a.m.	1965	May 18	4:54 a.m.
1918	May 11	9:45 a.m.	1966	May 11	5:55 a.m.
1919	May 11	midnight	1967	May 12	6:47 a.m.
1920	May 18	7:45 p.m.	1968	May 9	10:31 a.m.
1921	May 12	12:45 p.m.	1969	May 5	9:32 a.m.
1922	May 14	11:29 a.m.	1970	May 11	5:37 p.m.
1923	May 10	9:20 a.m.	1971	May 12	5:32 p.m.
1924	May 8	12:47 p.m.	1972	May 11	7:09 p.m.
1925	May 9	8:15 a.m.	1973	May 8	12:23 a.m.
1926	May 3	10:48 a.m.	1974	May 10	10:55 p.m.
1927	May 13	11:23 p.m.	1975	May 9	7:09 a.m.
1928	May 9	8:12 p.m.	1976	May 5	3:20 a.m.
1929	May 7	2:33 p.m.	1977	May 7	12:47 a.m.
1930	May 10	6:43 p.m.	1978	May 6	8:24 p.m.
1931	May 11	8:23 p.m.	1979	May 2	5:09 a.m.
1932	May 2	7:32 p.m.	1980	May 6	10:57 a.m.
1933	May 9	10:57 p.m.	1981	May 8	6:17 p.m.
1934	May 2	9:57 a.m.	1982	May 13	noon
1935	May 16	11:39 p.m.	1983	May 1	3:28 p.m.
1936	May 5	6:02 a.m.	1984	May 8	1:46 p.m.
1937	May 10	11:18 a.m.	1985	May 16	11:05 a.m.
1938	May 12	6:38 a.m.	1986	May 12	6:22 p.m.
1939	May 12	11:55 a.m.	1987	May 9	9:31 p.m.
1940	April 28	1:54 p.m.	1988	May 1	3:04 p.m.
1941	April 30	unrecorded	1989	April 29	11:22 p.m.
1942	May 6	10:30 a.m.	1990	April 30	3:51 a.m.
1943	May 2	7:00 p.m.	1991	April 30	10:16 a.m.
			1992	May 8	8:08 p.m.

Ice Pool tickets on sale

by Kathy Jones-Gates

An early indication of Spring in Dawson occurs when the Ice Pool Tickets go on sale. Since 1939, the local chapter of the I.O.D.E. have been organising the annual guessing contest. Tickets cost one dollar. 75% of net ticket sales after expenses goes to the winning guess, with the balance retained by the organisation.

Dawsonites have been placing bets on the annual break-up time for the ice on the Yukon river since 1896. These days, a tripod is placed in the middle of the Yukon River ice, behind the old Bank of Commerce by April 1. A wire attached to the tripod is hooked up to a clock which is located inside the bank. When the ice shifts far enough to stop the clock, that time is judged the official time for the Yukon River break-up at Dawson.

Midnight, April 25, is the closing date for ticket sales. The prize money is awarded to the closest guess before or after the official time. In the event of a tie, the prize money is split. Ticket buyers need to retain ticket stubs for prize confirmation.

For more information, contact the I.O.D.E. Box 345, Dawson City, Yukon.



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Millar's Messages

by David Millar
Klondike MLA

As the newly elected member to the Yukon Legislative Assembly of Klondike I must say the last few months have been a new and exciting time for me.

As someone who has not had a lot to do with government in the past, I felt a responsibility to learn all I could about the different government departments and how they work. In order for me to do this properly, I have had to spend a lot of time in Whitehorse. I think it has been time well spent. I have done a tour of some departments including Tourism, Economic Development, Mines and Small Business, and Renewable Resources as well as others. Before too much longer I hope to be able to go through the rest of the departments. I feel that this is a very worthwhile exercise because you are able to get a little bit of a feel for the department and the people in it. It also puts a face to the name and voice that I will deal with on various issues on behalf of the Klondike riding.

All readers know that the Yukon Party government introduced its first budget on March 25. I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some background on the budget. We, as a new government, have been attempting to control government spending, however, we have had to increase the operation and maintenance, and the capital budgets over those previous years.

The riding of Klondike will receive a total of \$17 million, or 3.5 percent of the expenditures budgeted for the communities. Outside of Whitehorse, this is the largest percentage any

community will receive. Of the \$17 million, \$14.9 million is for operating and maintenance expenditures, and of that, \$10 million will be spent by the Department of Community and Transportation Services. The \$2 million budgeted in capital expenditures will include monies for the purchase of land and the planning for an addition to the Robert Service School, the reconstruction of the Top-of-the-World Highway and additional work on the Klondike Highway. Not included in these figures is an amount, yet to be determined, which will be spent on solving the water and sewer problems currently affecting Dawson City. An Assistant Deputy Minister of Community & Transportation Services will be in Dawson the week of April 5 to negotiate the deals of the agreement.

In order to achieve a balanced budget, the Government of Yukon has taken the responsible step of raising some additional revenues through increases in personal and corporate income tax, gasoline, diesel and aviation fuel, and the tobacco tax. We have chosen to raise the personal income tax by 5 percent rather than reinstate health care insurance premiums. The income tax rate increase is more equitable in terms of application to individual Yukoners than health care premiums because the premiums for government employees and the employees of large companies are cost shared with their employers. This leaves self-employed people, and people working in small business paying their premiums themselves. As well, the cost of collecting health care premiums is inordinately high compared to the collection of

income tax. The modest increases in the corporate income tax, and fuel taxes still leave Yukoners with the lower, and in some cases, the lowest taxation rates in Canada.

The change in fuel taxes does not affect heating oil. It is not taxed at all by Government of Yukon. Fuel for off-highway vehicles such as boats, and snowmobiles, and equipment used for mining, fishing and farming will all be exempt from any fuel tax.

During the current sitting of the Legislative Assembly, I have introduced a number of motions for debate. These have dealt with the Implementation Review Committee for placer mining, the upgrading of the Top-of-the-World Highway, and the feasibility of building a bridge across the Yukon River at Dawson City.

With the recent opening of the Red Feather Saloon, and the new government liquor store, the Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation, Bill Brewster, is now looking for ideas on what should be done with the old liquor store. If you have any suggestions, please contact me at 993-5023 or in Whitehorse at the Legislature by calling 1-800-661-0408 and ask for Local 5307.

I was in Juneau in early April with the Government Leader, Minister of Tourism and other members of the Legislative Assembly. At the meeting with officials there we discussed the Top-of-the-World Highway being upgraded on the Alaska side and received favourable response. The Minister of Tourism is doing a follow-up on the matter. Also, he will soon be receiving a report from a consulting group working for the Yukon Anniversaries Commission. And, he assures me Dawson will have strong representation on the new Board.

Yukon Party recommends moving Anniversaries Commission HQ

by Dan Davidson

The Yukon Party annual convention has come out in full support of moving the Yukon Anniversaries Commission to Dawson City as preparations for the Gold Rush Centennial move into high gear.

The resolution was moved by Klondike MLA David Millar, showing just how far his thinking has changed on this subject.

He cited the facts that "Dawson City will be the focal point of the 1996-98 Gold Rush Centennial... that it is imperative that those people involved in the promotion, development and co-

ordination of Centennial activities be intimately familiar with Dawson City, its potential and its logistical capabilities... (and that) the enhancement of Dawson City's potential as a tourism destination would have a beneficial impact on all Yukon communities."

On that basis Millar moved that, for the most "effective and efficient development of this opportunity... the offices of the Centennial Commission and related staff be located in Dawson City." The motion passed unanimously.

Canada and Yukon sign Green agreement

Press Release

Whitehorse - Federal Agriculture Minister Charlie Mayer and Bill Brewster, Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources have signed a \$380,000 agreement to promote environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Programs under the five-year cost-shared Green Plan agreement will focus on soil conservation, water quality, pollution and waste management, wildlife and agriculture interaction, on-farm demonstrations of environmentally sustainable production practices and public education awareness.

"Environmental sustainability is key to the long-term development and viability of the Yukon's agri-food industry," Mr. Mayer said. "Through the Canada-Yukon Green Plan agreement, we will work with the agri-food industry to protect

the resources the industry depends on and contribute to a healthy environment.

"The Yukon is committed to encouraging the development of our agri-food industry on sound economic and environmentally sustainable principles," said Mr. Brewster. "This agreement will support the initiatives we are undertaking through our Environment Act, Conservation Strategy, and Agriculture Policy. It's a proactive approach to addressing the industry's environmental concerns."

Program activities to be carried out under the agreement were identified through consultation with the agri-food industry of the Yukon.

Federal funding for the Canada-Yukon agreement is part of the \$170 million federal Green Plan initiative on sustainable agriculture.



Upcoming courses at Yukon College:

Introduction to Computers:
April 22, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Fee: \$32.10

Learning Through Play (ECD 202)
April 22-25, May 6-9, June 3-6
Fee: \$108.00 + text

Airbrakes:
April 30 to May 2
Fee: \$155.00 + GST

First Aid - Standard
April 19 to 21
Fee: \$65.00

First Aid - Advanced
April 26 to May 7, (2 weeks full time)
Fee: \$400.00

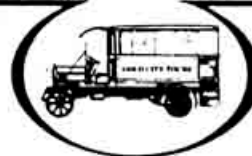
Anyone interested in writing GED Exams in April, please contact the Dawson Campus, Before April 15th.

For information on any of the above courses or to register, please contact the Dawson Community Campus, 993-5231

If you are interested in the full time secretarial and accounting clerk training programs being offered in Sept., please contact Marcia at the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce 993-5274

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K.V.A. introduces new logo



by Robert G. McConkey
General Manager, K.V.A.

The Klondike Visitors Association is in the process of repositioning its marketing efforts to take full advantage of the decade of centennials the Yukon is currently in.

A number of building blocks have been put in place already. They include a new graphic design for our advertisements which places artistic renderings of people in 1898 apparel over modern four colour photos of Dawson today. The slogan which we are using is, "Relive the Rush!". The message we are conveying to our audience is, "Come to Dawson City and experience the exciting times of the Klondike Gold Rush which are still available today".

Another area which we have been busy in is our corporate identity. For many years the K.V.A. has been associated with the can can dancer. Few other images so uniquely characterize the raucous days of the gold rush as the high energy, colourfully

dressed can can dancer. While most of our advertising in the past has utilized the can can dancer, the K.V.A. has failed to be consistent with this image. To remedy this situation, we have had our logo realigned with the can can dancer we currently use and integrated the name, "Klondike Visitors Association", as part of the overall graphic. This look will now be integrated onto all of the K.V.A.'s business documents such as letterhead, business cards, envelopes, etc. Three colours are used in this version which include red, orange and black.

While on the surface a logo may not appear to be an important item it can and should reflect the nature of its user. As such, it anchors an organizations' corporate identity and provides for immediate recognition in the marketplace. The K.V.A. Board of Directors is pleased to unveil its new corporate signature to the citizens of Dawson.

The Long Run

(Cont. from pg. 10)

he was from Dawson that explained it all.

"They seemed to think it was - 60 in the Yukon all the time," he recalls.

Interest in the mail run picked up as he continued on into the winter. One reporter found him about 15 miles outside a town at 2:30 in the morning. The lad was waiting for him by the road in the middle of a snowstorm. His assignment, according to his editor, was to interview that musher "and if you don't get to interview him tonight, don't bother coming to work tomorrow." Gene granted his request, but suggested they talk in the car.

In Thunder Bay the SPCA gave his animals a thorough check-up and found, much to their surprise, that they were healthy and well

looked after. Gene recalls accepting invitations to spend the night at peoples' home on the basis of whether or not they had a sewing machine, and then staying up most of the night sewing new dog booties. He was making between 30 and 137 miles a day, sleeping mostly out of doors and doing a lot of walking, operating on "4 hours sleep a night for a week and then trying for one full night's sleep to catch up."

"It was tough," he says. "I've got pictures of me and it shows me taking off looking kind of plump and cocky. Then there's the picture at the Chateau Frontenac... and I've got big bags under my eyes... skin and bone and burnt right out."

The dogs were doing okay though, and Gene says his run was one of the things that helped to convince veterinarians that

mushing wasn't that hard on them if it was done right.

He returned as something of a celebrity when it was all over.

"Nobody thought I could make it. Wasn't much to say when I came back. It was done. The RCMP threw a real nice party for me with a cake as a map of Canada."

The run was no piece of cake, and while it was worth doing, it isn't something he would ever try again. He was named Citizen of the Year for helping to promote the Yukon, but the thought of recreating the run, as someone once suggested to him, holds no appeal.

"If someone offered me a million dollar cheque I'd rip it up and throw it in the garbage," he says decisively. "It's something you've got the energy for just once in your lifetime."

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THURSDAY
APRIL 29/93**

**DIAMOND TOOTH
GERTIES**



Spring Carnival is just for Dawson



You axed for it. A competitor in this year's axe throwing contest tries to hit the mark. Photo by Michael Gates

by Dan Davidson

A bumpy ride down an icy slick hill on a sled or toboggan might seem a funny way to celebrate the arrival of spring to someone from southern Canada, but in Dawson City it's all part of the changing seasons.

Many of the events which crowd Dawson's annual calendar are intended as drawing cards for the growing tourist traffic which has spurred the town's revival during the last 25 years. The Klondike Visitors Association is dedicated to building that pillar of Dawson's economy. But even KVA General Manager Bob McConkey says that there are some events that aren't intended for promotional purposes.

"From KVA's point of view Spring Carnival is intended to be a Dawson focussed event," said McConkey as he looked back on the weekend. Its future development is, he believes, best seen in an attempt to involve more of the community rather than worry about attracting winter tourism.

"March belongs to us," he said, quoting one of the onlookers at the many events which crowded the weekend of March 24-28. "I thought that summed it up very nicely. That's really the way we need to treat it."

This is the third year that the KVA has spearheaded the organization of the carnival weekend, and the first that McConkey has personally been in charge. He was particularly pleased by the crowds that attended events which were held on the ice bridge on Sunday, including the Sunnysdale Classic dog race.

"There were nine teams, but there was just a tremendously bigger crowd down there on the ice bridge, probably called there by the bungee jump thing, and that's one area that I personally see as an area of potential growth for different kinds of activities."

Currently, outdoor activities over the weekend covered three major venues, Minto Park (behind the Museum), San Cho Park (in the North End) and the Moose Mountain Ski Hill (on the south side of the Dome). McConkey sees the waterfront area and the river as another place where things can happen.

Mind you, there were already 28 events on the program, and these broke down to some 42 different activities according to Recreation Director Peter Menzies. Some of them were major undertakings like a giant bingo, a bonspiel, adult and children's lip-sync/airband competitions, skeet shooting and a dog show. Others were smaller in scale, such as the variety of contests from log sawing, smooch racing, egg tossing, tug of war and chain saw throwing, which drew people to Minto Park on Saturday and Sunday.

Some events took place indoors: arm wrestling at the Eldorado and "Spring Thaw" contests at the Downtown. Some were fairly serious, like the six sport relay race from the Dome and the 1 dog pull, while others were played for laughs, like the 1 rabbit pull at the Westminster, the canoe race through the downtown streets, and the infamous bungee jumping event at the ice bridge.

McConkey says that the Fire

Department swore the contestants to secrecy about the exact nature of the jump, but that it involved buying a T-shirt and - somehow - jumping off the ice bridge.

The Fire Department was just one of the groups which pitched in to make the weekend work. The Top of the World Curling Club was active, as well as the Ski Club, the Rod and Gun Club and the Robert Service School Band.

McConkey would like to have someone do a bit of research and find out what sort of games were played in the past by both the native and non-native communities. He thinks it would be neat to build some of these events into the carnival and broaden its cultural and historical scope.

"I felt good about the event," McConkey said. "I think there are areas where things could be tightened up...but as far as the potential growth of it is concerned, I think the time is now to begin to work at it."



Whitney & Alister Hunston perform at the lip sync. Photo by Michael Gates

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Photo by Michael Gates

Lisa Anderson



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Photo by Michael Gates

Whoopi-ing it up. Nun were better as the ladies of the suburbs performed their Big Sister Act.

Loose Lips Sync in Heavenly Harmony

submitted by
Dawson City Drama Club

Spring Carnival was once again touched by the kiss of success! A (Brady) bunch of (big and little) "Sisters Act"-ing with "Bare-naked Ladies" - or was it Elvis, musing B-52s? At the end of the Day-O, there were Achy-Breaky Hearts, because Patricia (or should we say "Delishia"?) got lost in the Jungle with Bunnies and Tina was spinning wheels in Wayne's

World. Now wasn't that a party?!

The Dawson City Drama Club congratulates all the volunteers, sponsors, acts and members who made Lip Sync '93 such a roaring success on March 26.

Special thanks also to the Klondike Visitors' Association (KVA) board for providing the hall; the great team of Bill Holmes and Lorraine Butterworth

at Gerties; Emcee Bob McConkey; Melinda Warren (design for Lip Sync '93 T-shirts); our judges: Robbie Van Rump, Danielle Thornington and Joyce Caley; also to the sound and light crew, DCDC members, Dawson City Music Festival and all the folks who worked so hard on getting their acts together...

DCDC would also like to take this opportunity to again express our gratitude to the Dawson and Whitehorse businesses who have helped support this year's Lip Sync: Dawson City General Store, Farmers Market, Trapper's Men's Wear, A.L.I.V.E. Video,

Trans North Air, Northern Kat, The Raven's Nook, Marina's, Eldorado Hotel, Hair Cabaret, Triple "J" Hotel, Lifestyles, Maximillian's, Wild & Wooly, Bonanza Aviation, Downtown Hotel, Taku Hotel, Gold Rush Inn and Yukon Inn.

A wild and crazy time was had by all! (OK, now - have you all started working on next year's acts??)

P.S.: Watch for posters around town for details of our next presentation, coming up Mother's Day weekend!

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Mark Peirson mashes his way to victory in this year's Sunnydale Classic.
Photo by Michael Gates



Lisa Anderson



Melinda Margeson



Whoopi-ing it up. Nun were better as the ladies of the suburbs performed their Big Sister Act. Photo by Michael Gates

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DCDC would also like to take this opportunity to again express our gratitude to the Dawson and Whitehorse businesses who have helped support this year's Lip Sync: Dawson City General Store, Farmers Market, Trapper's Men's Wear, A.L.I.V.E. Video,

Trans North Air, Northern Kat, The Raven's Nook, Marina's, Eldorado Hotel, Hair Cabaret, Triple "J" Hotel, Lifestyles, Maximillian's, Wild & Wooly, Bonanza Aviation, Downtown Hotel, Taku Hotel, Gold Rush Inn and Yukon Inn.

A wild and crazy time was had by all! (OK, now - have you all started working on next year's acts??)

P.S.: Watch for posters around town for details of our next presentation, coming up Mother's Day weekend!

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- *FIRE SAFETY HOUSE
- *FIRE HYDRANT ROBOT
- *TUG A HOSE
- *HOTDOGS & REFRESHMENTS
- *PRIZES

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Mark Peirson mashes his way to victory in this year's Sunndale Classic. Photo by Michael Gates



Kyla Boivin

Photo by Michael Gates



"This should last me about a week, especially if I have to keep this up."

Photo by Michael Gates

Spring Carnival Results

Yukon Dog Show

Tricks

1st Lisa Anderson with Sarah
(tie) Eric Stretch with Willy
2nd Ryan Peterson with Kaeto
3rd Vanessa and Rochelle Kerwin with Damita

Most Look Alike

1st Allister and Whitney Hunston with Frosty
2nd Mark McDowall
3rd Tracy MacDonald with Rusty

Best Dressed

1st Allister and Whitney Hunston with Frosty
2nd Lisa Anderson with Sarah
(tie) Ryan Peterson with Kaeto
3rd Tracy MacDonald with Rusty

Biggest

1st Larry Vezina with Jake
2nd Ryan Peterson with Kaeto
3rd Vanessa Kerwin with Damita

Obedient

1st Lisa Anderson with Tucker
(tie) Ryan Peterson with Kaeto
2nd Vanessa and Rochelle Kerwin with Damita
3rd Joy Taylor with Windsor

Smallest - 1st Lisa Anderson with Sarah
2nd Lisa Anderson with Sam
3rd Allister and Whitney Hunston with Frosty

Funniest - 1st Eric Stretch with Willy
2nd Tracy MacDonald with Rusty
3rd Daniel Peat with Tucker

Log Sawing

Women's 14 and under
1st Miranda and Heather
2nd Sara and Mandy
3rd Crystal and Leah

Women's 15 +

1st Peggy Kormendy and Phyllis
2nd Dawn and Marcia Jordan
3rd Margie Kormendy and Freda Roberts

Women's 15 + Individual

1st Karren Farr
2nd Sylvia Farr
3rd Joanne Vrend

Men's 14 and under

1st Tyler and Don
2nd Daniel and Robert

3rd Craig and Randy

Men's 15 +

1st Henry Renick and Ali Anderson
2nd Bruce Taylor and Willie Fellers
3rd John and Peter

Men's 15 + Individual

1st Henry Renick
2nd Ali Anderson
3rd Bruce Taylor

Mixed 15 +

1st Karen Farr and Ali Anderson
2nd Peter and Margie Kormendy
3rd Peggy Kormendy and Bruce Taylor

Rolling Pin Throw

Men

1st Ryan Peterson
2nd Bob MacDougall
3rd Jim Leary

Junior Men

1st Jared Brickner
2nd Tyler Nichol
3rd Trevor Rudniski

Junior Women

1st Heather Campbell
2nd Miranda Adam
3rd Sarah Patton

Women

1st Norah Patton
2nd Daryl Buckley
3rd Bev Mitchell

Chainsaw Throw

Women's

1st Charlotte C.
2nd Edith Henry
3rd Lorie Sprokkreef
Honourable Mentions:
Wendy Burns - style
Elizabeth - curve
Heather Campbell - youngest

Under 16

1st Jason Henry
2nd Tyler Nichol
3rd Don Tutin

Men's

1st Willie Fellers
2nd Ali Anderson
3rd Bruce Taylor

Egg Toss

Moms and Kids

1st Miranda Adam and Daryl Buckley

2nd Heather and Ruth Campbell
3rd Mitchell and Dorothy Irwin

Kids

1st Spruce Gerberding and Craig McCauley
2nd Johnathan Rusnak and OJ Rider
3rd Robert Campbell and Darren Bullen

Mens

1st Ali Anderson and Bruce Taylor
2nd Ryan Peterson and Willie Fellers
3rd Jimmy Close and Chris Cleland

Tobaggan Races
4 & under
1st David Gammie
2nd Farley McCann
3rd Caitlin Gammie

5-6

1st Stewart Paton
2nd Donald Russell
3rd Amy Ball

7-8

1st Sarah Paton
2nd Cameron Sprokkreeff
3rd Dorian Smoler

9-10

1st Matthew Webster
2nd Jessie Mitchell (tie)
Jonathan Rusnak
3rd Tyler Hunter

11-12

1st Trevor Rudniski
2nd JJ Flynn
3rd Andrew Sprokkreeff

0-4 with Adult

1st Tyrell and Mitch Sprokkreeff
2nd Slyvie, David & Caitlin Gammie
3rd Karen and Farley McCann

5+ with Adult

1st Barry Hunter and Cameron Sprokkreeff
2nd David Peat and Jonathon Rusnak
3rd Karen Dubois and Nicky Ball

(tie) Mitch and Kyle Sprokkreeff
Any Duo/Any Age
1st Kyle Sprokkreeff and Tyler Hunter

2nd Andrew Sprokkreeff and Tyson Knutson
3rd OJ Rider and Micheal Davidson

Skeet and 22 Shoot

22 Shoot under 15

1st JJ Flynn
2nd Melissa Flynn
3rd Onica Sprokkreeff

22 Shoot Adult

1st Brian McDonald
2nd Eric Vonflotow
3rd Mike Mahoney (tie) John Flynn

Skeet Shoot

1st David Proccee
2nd Chuck Rumsey
3rd Eric Vonflotow

Canoe Race

1st - 2 minutes 33 seconds: Terry Close, Jason Mann, George McLeod
2nd - 3 minutes 04 seconds: Ryan Peterson, Willie Fellers, Henry Remick

Air Band Competition
11 and under Solo
1st Amelia Warren Shoop Shoop Gal

2nd Kyla Boivin Luba
3rd Rhonda McBride Achy

Breaky Heart

Group

1st The Henderson Girls - Meagan and Karleen Hyash, Georgia Fraser, and Alexander Mann
2nd The Hee Haws - Alister and Whitney Hunston
3rd Star Dancers - Samantha Smith, Rosalee Smarch, and Tish Lindgren

11 and over Solo

1st Fenny Bowers Billy Joel
2nd Laine Bowers Where Do Broken Hearts Go?

3rd (tie) Stacy McDiarmid a Whitney Houston tune (sorry, we missed the name) Lisa Anderson

The Rose

Group

1st The Troggs
2nd It's My Party
3rd Vanilla Ice

Honourable Mentions:

Most Promising - The Spinettes
Judges Choice - Dyno Girls
Arm Wrestling

Men's

Heavyweight - Joseph Harty
Middleweight - Jason Mann
Lightweight - Ryan Peterson

Women's

Heavyweight - Sandy Sippola
Lightweight - Vicki Bradford
Six Sport Relay

Solo

1st Bob McDonald 33:19
2nd David Millar 40:30

Group

1st John Sherman, Leressa Stinson, Cynthia Hunt, Greg Bruner 34:23

2nd Clair Dragoman, Bob McCauley, Elizabeth Wood, Peter Wood, Carol McCauley, Glenn Noakes 38:19

3rd Trevor Williams, Celeste Michon, Ken Serink, Luke Fennell, Corrine Sciog 38:26

One Dog Pull

1st Carmen Dubois with Kodiak - 650 pounds

2nd Irwin with Susie - 500 pounds (tie) Rock Bovine with Polar 500 pounds

Kids Dog Sled Race

1st Misha Kennedy
2nd Isla Jordan
3rd Darlene

Kids Tug of War

Georgia Frazer
Isla Jordan
Seamus Cleland

RJ Nagano

Misha Kennedy
David Moi

Kids Smoosh Races

Spruce Gerberding
Milo Jordan
Jimmy Gatti

Michael Evans

Axe Throwing

1st John Anderson
2nd Bruce Taylor
3rd Tim Gerberding

Fifty Pink Flamingos Festoon Festive Fete



"But I thought the Bare Naked Ladies were going to be here." Photo by Sue Ward

by Sue Ward

Surely it has to be something special when a big Surprise Party turns to be all of that for the guest of honour. And that's the way it was on March 5th when many friends of Shirley Pennell waited in the Bonanza Lounge happily decorated with fifty pink flamingos, a great display of finger food specialties, a flaming cake, and gifts. Jonie Vickers has such a gift when it comes to getting folks together at their best!

Music, a little dancing, much laughter and chitchat and "Do you remember when....." There was a bar of course, but

there wasn't much need for liquor because the goodwill and happiness was born through respect and love for a talented woman who gave her heart to Dawson 18 years ago when she joined the staff of Robert Service School.

Shirley built her home "The Sign of the Raven" as one of the first to create a private residence according to Parks Canada's rigid regulations. I recall when, on hearing someone on my porch one evening, I discovered Shirley measuring my window casings. She had paid for the labour to prepare her casings as was told she's have to take them off and

change them for a different size. Shirley won her case by proving that "Dawson originals" had several different widths.

Shirley's home province was Ontario and summers will see her visiting her family, or some will make it up here, but the large gathering of friends and well-wishers was proof of this town's appreciation of a teacher, now Vice-Principal, continues to make time for first a lengthy stint with the Planning Board, and currently holding a seat on City Council.

"Many, many more Surprises to come, Shirley!"

A Yukon Saga, Part 8:

Squeezebox Superstar

by Phil Eccles

My reputation as an accordionist had spread to the Indian village of Moosehide — four miles downriver from Dawson, resulting in my receiving a request to play for one of their Friday night hoedowns. On Friday, an Indian plus his dog team arrived to convey me to this social event. The accordion and myself were buried in a mound of furs aboard the sled and off we went down the snow-covered Yukon River ice. It was an exhilarating trip with my guide riding on the runners behind me and the dog's feet literally flying over the snow with their tails streaming high as they alternately fired off rude by-products of their exertions.

On reaching our destination, I was taken to a cabin for a mug-up and to be introduced to the chief and the elders of the tribe. Each introduction was done with grave ceremony. I, as the only non-native person present, was treated as an honoured guest. After each introduction I paid my respects, first to the Chief and then to the Elders. First a fairly lengthy speech of thanks to the Chief and a similar but shorter speech to each of the Elders was given. A "peace pipe" in the form of a well-chewed cigar plus sips from a mug of raw gin accompanied each introduction. The puffing and the sipping just about finished me before we even got started on the main event!

The formalities being completed, I was escorted to the other

end of the village and into the community hall for the dancing. Once into the hall there followed a great chucking off of parkas, etc., during which time I took stock of the interior assembly. At each end of the hall there as a loft occupied with young and older women with many babies and small children. Beneath these lofts were more women, babies and small children. Some babies were being nursed and others were sucking on nipples attached to old coke bottles. Young and older men lined the walls. Two young men came in with some tribal drums and those plus my squeeze box would be the orchestra. Seated on the kitchen chair provided for me and accompanied with much whooping and stamping of feet for encouragement, I began the music.

I soon discovered that a repetition of snappy march music, lively polkas and double-time fox trots would put my appreciative new friends into a frenzy of whirling, whooping antics. The hall soon assumed the torrid aspects of a Swedish sauna. They all danced — the young, the old and the very old. On a couple of occasions, I was persuaded to down my accordion and join in the melee while the drums kept the rhythm going. This went on until well into the early hours of the morning. During a half-time break food was served consisting of a huge kettle of fish stew, smoked fish and huge chunks of bread. On conclusion of a novel

night I was presented with a beautiful pair of moosehide gauntlet-type mitts that were exquisitely ornamented with embroidery and beads. I was then loaded aboard the sled and driver and dogs soon had me back up river where I thankfully fell into bed. I believe I slept the clock around!

Christmas and New Years arrived and departed. There were happy times of parties and dances and parcels from home via 'cat' train from Whitehorse and when all that fun and frolic was over, a sort of gloom seemed to descend on the town. There was a general longing for brighter days, to see and to feel the warmth of the sunshine, but we knew that we still had a long wait. I, too, felt some of that gloom but my nature would not allow it to affect me to any great degree.

January and February drifted by and gradually the gloom began to be dispelled as the days slowly lengthened and brightened until finally the tip of the sun appeared and rolled briefly along a small section of the horizon. Now we knew that spring was on its way and soon we would be anticipating the arrival of the first steamship following the break-up of the river ice. We knew that first steamboat from Whitehorse would be bringing back friends who had wintered 'Outside', there would be new faces and supplies of vegetables, fruit and eggs. A new life appeared to the people of Dawson. It was contagious and the smiles became broader and more frequent. Spring was coming!



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Heritage Week

Their snowshoes snugly harnessed, the students set off from the dike to cross the river. Once into the campground, they breathed life into a fire started earlier by volunteers, and proceeded to boil the water for hot chocolate. Returning to the school later with rosy cheeks, they excitedly told of their experiences.

This was one of twelve ninety-minute workshops offered to students during Heritage Week (March 8-12), a joint effort by Robert Service School and the Dawson First Nation. The celebration gave students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, a better understanding of native culture, and a chance to have hands-on experience with traditional sports, beadwork, moccasin-making, trapping and fur-skinning, stick-gambling, bannock-making, Indian bingo, Han language, target-shooting, dog-mushing, and Dawson First Nation operations.

The week began with an assembly featuring welcoming words from Chief Steve Taylor of Dawson First Nation, and Robert Service School's principal and vice-principal, Carol McCauley and Shirley Pennel. The Parks Services provided a slide show of old photographs of Dawson City. As well, Department of Education Han Language teacher, Angie Joseph spoke, recounting the days previous to the Goldrush, when Lousetown was the site of a Han fishing camp, and Dawson was a moose-pasture. She emphasized the importance of language and culture, and wished everyone a week of fun learning in both areas.

Following the assembly the students were able to choose two workshops they would like to attend on their grades' "day". Each grade had one day set aside especially for them, with all grades from Kindergarten to Grade 8 participating in a mini-carnival on Friday.

Although the weather was sunny and comparatively warm for the carnival, the children welcomed the hot chocolate being served! Activities such as the egg-toss, the Chilkoote climb (an obstacle race through the Big Toy), and a piggy-back race kept everyone busy all afternoon.

The week-long celebration ended Friday night with a well-attended community pot-luck feast, followed by a legend acted out by Grade 2 students. The legend told how the raven stole the sun, and was directed by Angie Joseph. Following the legend, visitors from Fort McPherson, Tetlit Gwichin Chief James Ross, and Sub-Chief Robert Alexis Sr., presented Dawson First Nation with a beautiful flag from the Gwichin Nation which will be hung in the Tr'ondek Hall for all to see.



Snowshoe/Hot Chocolate-Boiling Workshop (Left to Right): Beverly Evans, Harmony Hunter, Melissa Flynn, Stephanie Cayen, Rosealee Smarch

The children really seemed to enjoy themselves and the new things they were learning, and the participation from the school, band, and community was overwhelming, with over seventy people helping with the workshops, mini-carnival, feast, and entertainment at the feast.

Although past years have seen Heritage Day celebrations, this is the first year that a week-long event was organized. It worked very well, and we hope to do a repeat performance next year.



Jim Smarch in the Snow-Carry Contest, Mini-Carnival



Lawrence Crayford high-kicking in the Traditional Sports Workshop



Warming up at the Mini-Carnival

A Hands-on Experience



Beading Workshop (Left to Right): Sarah Paton, Shauna Kormendy, Lynn Webster, Andy Levesque, Grace Jackson, Ceira Purington



The Parachute Event at the Mini-Carnival



Indian Bingo Workshop (Left to Right): Dorothy Roberts, unidentified student, Nathan Dewell, Vanessa Kerwin, Doug Smith, Sabrina Frangetti, Chantal Frangetti, Trevor Rudniski, Sarah Winton, Cougan Purington, Marion Roberts