

The Klondike Sun

February 28, 2007 Online Edition

Dawson City, Yukon



From the Quest Website

(Feb. 20, 2007) Lance Mackey has mushed his way into Yukon Quest history books, with his record run from Whitehorse to Fairbanks as well as matching runner-up Hans Gatt's precedent-setting three-in-a-row Championship performance.

Lance arrived at the Finish Line on the Chena River just before 2:00 pm Alaska Time, to a cheering crowd and his family and friends.

Making the 99 mile run from Chena Hot Springs in just over 11 and-a-half hours, Mackey shortened the record run time by at least 1/2 a day from Frank Turner's 1995 former fastest time.

Mackey's total run time for the 2007 Yukon Quest was 10 days, 2 hours and 37 minutes. The previous record time was 10 days, 16 hours and 20 minutes.

(Later that day) Hans Gatt arrived at the Finish Line at 8:40 pm Tuesday, giving his team 2nd place in the 2007 Yukon Quest. Hans was running about 6 hours behind Lance Mackey over the past several checkpoints, keeping pace

with the eventual Champion, but unable to close the gap with his 8-dog team.

Gerry Willomitzer and William Kleedehn arrived within minutes of each other last night. Gerry arrived first at 11:30 pm with a good looking team of dogs. He reported that he had not seen William since Chena Hot Springs.

Willomitzer told reporters that he was proud of his dogs and very cold.

Kleedehn echoed that statement when he arrived 3 minutes later at 11:33 pm. William and Gerry shared the finish chute while they snacked their dogs, but William left quickly saying 'I've got to get off of this cold river'. William's team finished very strong and finished in an impressive fast trot through the chute. "I put my veterans in the back and my young dogs upfront for this run," he told the crowd. "They don't even know that this is the finish line!"

**This edition of the online Sun
was prepared for posting on
August 18/07.**

Water Study Indicates No Danger from Lagoon

By Dan Davidson

A Water Impact Study produced for the Yukon government by Gartner Lee Limited indicates that an aerated sewage lagoon upstream of Dawson City's water supply would have little or no measurable impact on the quality of the town's water if anything should go wrong at the lagoon site.

The currently favoured spot for a lagoon is at the foot of the Dome Road, next to the ball park and just down the highway from the Tr'ondëk Subdivision. As with all the other proposed lagoon sites so far in this round of discussions, the location has raised local concerns about the water supply.

Gartner Lee was hired to carry out what YTG's Kriss Sarson called a desktop exercise to determine worst case scenarios for two types of potential problems. Sarson presented the report to Dawson's town council on February 20.

In the case of a leak from the lagoon site a small but steady flow of contaminants could "infiltrate into the groundwater and then migrate through the groundwater flow system and discharge at the river's edge."

In the case of a catastrophic failure of the lagoon, a breach of the berm around the pond, the study assumes that "the contaminant mass would flow overland (assumed to be an instantaneous process) and spill over the bank and into the river. Once in the river the contaminant mass would then be transported down stream into the vicinity of the production well capture zone."

The effects of a leak would be so diluted that it would not be measurable by the time the contaminants reached the well zone.

In the case of a catastrophic failure, the materials would move past the well zones so quickly that there would not be time for them to percolate through into the aquifer and pollute the wells.

A briefer look at potential problems that might be raised by flooding in either the Klondike or Yukon rivers indicated that well contamination would be the least of Dawson's problems in such a case. The town would be under water, a situation which it was felt would only come to pass if such flooding were a Yukon wide phenomenon.

This almost seems to be a vindication of the McLeay Environmental Ltd. report of 1998, which stated that Dawson's effluent is barely toxic at the outflow pipe and not detectable by the time the plume has travelled a few hundred metres downstream.

While planning a mechanical treatment plant between 2000 and 2003, the city was informed that its effluent was so weak that additional sludge would have to be trucked into the community from elsewhere to allow the processes in the sequencing batch reactor cells to commence.

During a lagoon pilot project just over a year ago, it was found that the initial plans for a four stage lagoon could be scaled back to two ponds because, once again, the effluent

proved to be relatively mild.

There has been speculation that if the council around the turn of the century had not chosen to plead guilty to the charge of allowing deleterious substances to flow into the Yukon River, those raising charges against the town might still be having to prove that the town's discharges were actually harming anything.

Those days are past, however, and the secondary sewage project, which is now under the care and control of the Yukon government, has currently to meet a December 2008 deadline.

Uffish Thoughts: Love on Tap - the messages we're sending these days

by Dan Davidson

In the commercial the camera pans around a car in which two people are making out very passionately in the front seat, the blond woman on top. As the camera pulls back we see a police car behind the other one. Just as we're thinking that something is about to happen, that perhaps the police are going to suggest the couple take it off the street, the door of the car opens, the officer gets out, straightens her uniform, tucks her hair up under her hat and returns to her cruiser, leaving a bemused but satisfied looking young man sitting in his new Kia.

Was it so powerful an aphrodisiac that she just had to pull him over? The message seems to be that all you need is the right car you too will be irresistible.

It's not restricted to cars, of course. I think this trend in commercials started with the young man using a certain deodorant before heading off to work, getting into the elevator with a female neighbour and arriving on the ground floor totally disheveled while she strides off having satisfied her uncontrollable impulses.

The same series of ads has had women madly nuzzling mannequins with the same scent sprayed on them, which really doesn't say much for either the men or the women.

Then there's the laundry detergent that smells so nice that the poor young man in the bus has every female in sight sniffing his fabric and sighing contentedly or, in a variation, one of the boys watching the game getting over contented during a victory hug.

Then there's the couple who goes to bed and starts fighting over who gets the sheets, only to become all friendly and (we assume) amorous when they each get a whiff of the fabric softener. Cue the classic rock slow dance music on the soundtrack.

The junior version of this trend can be found in the poor little boy who runs over and hugs the "best mom ever" after she feeds him a certain kind of chicken. Never mind that he's just a supper guest and that he has to be pried away from her by the voice that tells him his actual mother has arrived to pick him up.

What all of these things have in common of course is that they're paying homage to the advertising wisdom that

says sex sells. The chicken ad just goes to show how confused we are about the distinction between sex and love. Taken as a group, all of them suggest that the human animal is a pretty shallow creature, easily manipulated by the latest trend, a shiny paint job, an alluring scent or the gratification of our taste buds.

Granted that all of these ads are slightly amusing, written and filmed in such a way that we can all sit back and say "well, that would never happen" and "isn't that silly?" Yet they are still playing on those same urges, sending the same messages, and the humour simply serves to make them a little less blatant.

The message remains the same. Drive the right car, wear the right deodorant, use the right product and all the world will love you. It's no less a lie just because it's delivered with a nudge and a wink.

Truth in advertising? Just another example of an oxymoron.

Letter: The Great "Mutton" Controversy Continues

Dear Editor:

It was great to see your coverage of the "perennial problem" in Dawson re. window treatments and the Historic Bylaw. As the city moves ahead with its Heritage Management Plan, there will be more need for people in Dawson to take a serious look at how they choose to protect their heritage, and I'm glad that you're helping to get the word out there.

One quick note: the dividers in "multiple light" windows, or the fake ones used to create the same effect, are called muntins, not muttons. I thought you might not want people thinking that the bylaw favours the insertion of any animal products into windows, ovine or otherwise.

Cheers,
Michael Edwards
Historic Sites Communications Officer
Yukon Department of Tourism and Culture

Ed Note: I'd never seen the word spelled, just heard it, but when I ran a quick Google search based on what it sounded like before I finished the piece, this is what I got. Apparently a lot of people get this wrong.

*Muttons for 1985 Windows
From: dmeade@fuse.net
Category: Windows and Doors
Comments:*

Are there replacement muttons (grids, bars) for my 1985 wooden windows? We have replaced panes in 1996, 2001, and this year and we don't want to replace the entire windows for a few years. Three of my muttons are shattered and the house doesn't look right without the muttons. Thanks for any help.

Hollis Historic District Commission

Minutes of the December 1, 2005 meeting, Approved Copy

T. Declose also presented two options for replacing windows on the northwest and south sides of the building. He stated that he is presenting two options because the company is not sure which they will be able to afford.

Their desire is to use option 5, but that is the most expensive. At the very least, they will install option 3.

In option 3 they plan to replace two small windows on the southwest end of the south side with two picture windows matching the existing single pane picture windows below. The new windows will be fixed sashes with simulated divided lights with exterior muttons. Interior muttons will be added to the lower existing windows.

Dawson Cyber Forum Shut Down by Hacker Attack

By Dan Davidson

The cityofdawson.com discussion forum, hosted by John Steins, fell victim to a hacker recently. The attack erased all of the discussion threads currently under development on the forum.

While the entrance to the website remains, the front page of the forum was replaced by a black screen with a crude graphic representation of a skull with a sword through its head and an obscenity directed at "the USA & ISRAIL" (the hacker's spelling).

A further message says "Hacked by Amoune93", provides an e-mail address, the phrase "Sorry Admin" and some vaguely Arabic looking script in the bottom left hand corner.

In a message on the website Steins indicates that the hacker attack occurred on February 10.

"It's more than a prank because the coward wiped out my database with all the posts and other info."

Steins had a fairly recent backup of the forum content but is waited a few days to install it until he could look into the security issues that made the site vulnerable.

He doesn't know just why anyone would go after this site, which is mostly related to Dawson issues, but he does advance his suspicion that someone was offended by one of the recent discussion threads.

"This attack was more than likely prompted by a fairly robust discussion regarding religious issues. It might have been interpreted that there was criticism levied against Islam."

Steins had been engaged in a debate with several other posters about the utility of religion in general, advancing the thesis promoted by Richard Dawkins in his controversial book *The God Delusion*. Exchanges in this discussion had generally been thoughtful and well mannered, with no particular attention being paid to any specific religious or cultural group.

While Steins favours that explanation he admits there is another that's just as likely.

"Or he's just another pimply-faced thirteen year old hacker living in his parent's basement with no friends."

The Whitehorse Discussion Forum, at <http://towndog.ca/>, which runs from a link on the Dawson Form and has seen no activity since December 27/06, was not affected by this cyber vandalism, nor were a number of the other links from the Dawson forum, including Steins' own Mayor's Blog.

Smoking Ban for Bars would Drive Practice Underground

By Dan Davidson

Duncan Spriggs is very concerned that Dawson's council may enact a bylaw to prohibit smoking in the town's bars. This would be an extension of the town's existing 2002 bylaw which limited smoking to areas where those under the age of 18 were not permitted to go, or to the open air patio sections of restaurants.

Spriggs, who owns the Westminster Hotel, with a bar and a lounge, is quite certain that any further restrictions on



smoking in the town would have a serious, negative effect on the year round establishments that operate here.

Spriggs appeared before council on February 20, anxious about Mayor John Steins' plan to propose that the Association of Yukon Communities lobby the Yukon government to impose territorial legislation instead of leaving the matter to the various communities to deal with one by one.

Acknowledging that second hand smoke can be a problem, Spriggs described to council members the new air management system that he will have in place in his establishment before the summer tourist season.

Aside from worrying about whether he is wasting his money trying to deal with the problem, Spriggs was concerned about further losses if either YTG or the town were to act.

"I've spoken the owners of similar establishments in

Whitehorse, and the downturn in business it provoked there would be unsustainable here. They're a bit more resilient there, because of their population base, but here we've got a thin edge.

"I employ something like sixteen people year round and I just don't know what it would do to me. I think the impact ... is going to be on the three year round businesses."

Asked why there would necessarily be any damage if everyone had to follow the same rules, Spriggs responded that he's been told that bar smoking in Whitehorse has simply been driven underground.

"Sort of speakeasies have been set up. People buy the offsales (liquor) in bulk and resell them in their own basements. Underground or speakeasy type bars have developed throughout the community in private homes. Business just evaporated from bars. You might just be creating another problem."

As for the bar business, Spriggs says he has been told that it hasn't recovered yet.

Steins' proposed resolution would have AYC lobby YTG to "promote a smoke-free Yukon". He hopes to present it to AYC when it meets here in May and have it pass the annual general meeting of that organization.

Candidly, he doesn't think it will do much good, because he believes that the government will refuse to get behind this issue, but he feels moved to make the attempt.

His proposal was tabled to a later meeting, to allow more time for public consultation on the matter, and so that it could be discussed by all five members of council. Only three were present at that meeting.

Steins has spoken of introducing an extension to the current Dawson bylaw, but his preference is to have the territory act on a matter he feels ought to be within its purview.

KVA Looks for Ways to Expand Dawson's Tourism Potential

By Dan Davidson

After some initial trepidation about quorum and the problem of electing new executive members now that some of the former ones have been elected to public office, the Klondike Visitors Association held its annual general meeting on February 20.

The KVA has a policy of staggered terms of office, so that there are always, in theory, some experienced members on the board. Held over from the last board, with a year left to serve, are Karen Jenkins, David Millar, Jorn Meier and Eric Zalitis.

New members acclaimed to the board to fill six two year terms and two one year terms are Peggy Amendola, Brenda Caley, Barb Hanulik, Johnny Nunan, Heather Schmidt, Matt Van Nostrand, Kyler Mather, Mark Wickham and Brian Stetham.

The board will decide on executive positions at its first meeting.

Current chair Brenda Caley advised the audience of just under twenty people (quorum was 17 this year) that the

organization is concerned with re-imagining itself on a fairly basic level, given the changes in the nature of tourist traffic over the last few years.

With a grant from the territorial government's Dept. of Economic Development, the organization has conducted a



The KVA board. Back row (l-r): Brian Stetham, Kyler Mather, Matt Van Nostrand, Heather Schmidt, Mark Wickham, Dylan Griffith. Front Row (l-r): Jorn Meier, Eric Zalitis, Brenda Caley, Karen Jenkins.

Tourism Needs Assessment and decided on three priorities for the immediate future. All three would involve partnerships between the KVA and some existing group.

Caley said there is a need to try to establish a Receptive and Tour Operator, to package tours of the town in the manner that Gold City Tours used to do, such tours to include Gerties, and other attractions.

There is a need to restore historic buildings, and to do so in such a way that the structures are of some use to the community once they have been restored.

The third priority was to develop or host some sort of extreme race or competition, which would involve a partnership with someone already involved in such an enterprise.

Caley noted that the KVA, like many Dawson businesses, had trouble finding and keeping staff in 2006. This was an item for discussion at the second annual tourism futures meeting last fall, an event which began after a panic in 2005, but now seems to be a useful tool for debriefing the tourism season each year.

"We are not only competing with the rest of Canada for tourists, but also for our work force."

Special events this summer will include the World Goldpanning Competition (in addition to the Yukon event on July 1) as well as the Klondike Run motorcycle event. The latter has just been turned over to the KVA by the event's founder.

On the expense side, the KVA will be spending money on the casino (Gerties) in a number of areas, including the north wall of the building, which needs some attention. The KVA leases the building from the City of Dawson, and this

lease runs out in 2008.

On the operational side, the KVA will be developing a new business plan for the casino, which is its only stable source of revenue. Total revenue for the KVA in 2006 was \$2,964,075, with a profit of just \$126,324 after salaries and other expenses.

A History of the KVA

Submitted by Bill Holmes

It began as a publicity stunt in 1952, when Canadian Pacific Airlines revived riverboat service to bring tourists from Whitehorse Dawson City. A group of eager Dawson residents dressed up for the occasion in gold rush era costumes. This colourful welcoming committee delighted the passengers on board and a new tradition was born.

These dedicated volunteers soon organized themselves into the Klondike Tourist Bureau. In addition to their costumed receptions, they hosted tours of Dawson and the gold fields and treated the visitors to coffee, tea and home baking. Soon, the volunteers were hosting "Klondike Nights" at the Palace Grand Theatre, where visitors danced to live music, won or lost fortunes of phoney money at a casino, and enjoyed the antics of local residents who dressed up and performed theatre skits based on the rhymes of Robert Service.

Proceeds from Klondike Nights were used to create the first tourism pamphlets in the territory. The group bought the historic Palace Grand Theatre for \$1,000 to save it from demolition. The Tourist Bureau also set up Dawson's first auto court and campground.

In 1960, the aging Palace Grand was turned over to Klondike National Historic Sites who dismantled it, board by board, and reconstructed the present building at a cost of \$300,000. Klondike Nights returned to the refurbished theatre and became more popular than ever.

While the Klondike Tourist Bureau was the first tourism organization in the Yukon, it changed its name to the Klondike Visitors Association in the 1960's after the Yukon Travel Bureau was formed in Whitehorse.

In 1962, a Dawson City Festival for the Arts was organized to stimulate tourism. The off-Broadway stage show "Foxy" came to the Palace Grand with American actor Bert Lahr headlining a cast of twenty performers. In 1964 the KVA began its tradition of bringing professional entertainment to the Palace Grand, where the "Gaslight Follies" continued to entertain audiences six nights a week until 2003, when falling attendance and increased costs forced this fine tradition to be abandoned.

In 1966, the KVA acquired a placer claim at No.6 above Discovery on Bonanza Creek. Today tourists can still pan for real Klondike gold and keep what they find.

The Jack London Interpretive Centre in Dawson was developed by Dick North in conjunction the KVA and the Yukon government. London's original log cabin, discovered in the bush 120 kilometres south of Dawson in the 1960's, was reconstructed at its present location at the corner of Eighth Avenue and Firth Street. It's open seven

days a week from May through September, and the KVA employs two local part-time curators.

To further bolster tourism in the Klondike, gambling was legalized on a limited basis in 1971. At this point the KVA leased the Arctic Brotherhood Hall from the City of Dawson. It has spent more than \$1 million on improvements to the building and its site, transforming it into a casino that is still unique in Canada—with gambling, drinking and live entertainment all under the same roof. The building has gained international fame as Diamond Tooth Gertie's Gambling Hall. It's named after Gertrude Lovejoy, one of Dawson's best-known dance hall queens of the gold rush era. Lovejoy got her nickname after having a small diamond inserted between her two front teeth.

Over the years the KVA has provided seed money to start the Dawson City Museum and the Dawson Daycare. The annual Dawson City Music Festival grew from its beginnings as a KVA committee. The association also started the Canadian Airlines International Dome Race, which now operates on its own as The International Dome Race. Thaw-di-Graw, Authors on Eighth, Yukon Talent Night are a few more events produced by the KVA. It still sponsors and organizes the annual Commissioner's Ball, which celebrated its 33rd anniversary in 2006, and the outrageous Great Klondike International Outhouse Race on Labour Day Weekend.

Each Canada Day the KVA hosts the Yukon Gold Panning Championships at Dawson City, attracting participants from around the world. Winners are rewarded with trips to represent the Yukon at other international gold panning competitions. This year's winners will not have far to travel as the World Gold Panning Championships will be held here in Dawson this year, August 20th through 26th.

The KVA was involved in the restoration of the boyhood home of Canadian author and broadcaster Pierre Berton. The dwelling was acquired by the Yukon Arts Council in 1989 thanks to a generous donation of \$50,000 from Mr. Berton. In a joint project with the KVA and the Yukon Arts Council, the Berton House has been completely renovated at a cost of more than \$100,000 and is now the official home of the Yukon Writer-in-Residence Program. This historic home was recently featured on HGTV where it was remodeled and redecorated to provide a more comfortable retreat for the authors who travel from far and wide to participate in this program.

More recently, the KVA has worked with the NWT and YTG to promote the Dempster Highway and its long, secluded drive to the Arctic. Dawson is the official starting point for this journey and the Dempster corridor entices visitors from all over the world to come and experience its breathtaking beauty.

The Klondike Visitors Association continues to provide a strong presence in Yukon tourism, working with our territorial government to make sure Dawson and the Klondike remain at the forefront of tourism efforts.

What began as a publicity stunt back in 1952 has evolved into a unique success story that is the pride of Dawson City. The KVA is still a non-profit society, but

today pumps more than \$1 million annually into the local economy. It has not only funded the restoration of many local historic sites, but its attractions and events continue to entertain more than 60,000 visitors to Dawson City each year.

Dawson wins inaugural Dawson City Invitational Hockey Tournament

Submitted by Jason Flegel

On the February 9 weekend, the Dawson City Hockey Association hosted a recreational league tournament at the Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Center. Teams from Dawson, Pelly/ Mayo, and Whitehorse competed for the Weldy Young Cup, the new tournament's trophy. Through tournament play, Dawson City's Bombay Construction compiled the same record as Whitehorse's SWAT with two wins and a tie. Dawson was awarded first place as they had acquired a better goals for/ Goals against average. Second place heading into the playoffs on Sunday was awarded to SWAT, third to Air North, and the final playoff spot went to Cinderwood.

In the Semifinals, Air North competed against SWAT, with SWAT emerging victorious in a 4-2 win. Bombay Construction faced off against Cinderwood in the second semifinal game with Bombay winning a hard fought game 5-4.

The consolation game was played between Air North and Cinderwood in a very heated battle. Cinderwood emerged as the game winner and was awarded third place overall in the tournament.

The tournament final stage was set between Dawson City's Bombay Construction and Whitehorse's SWAT. These teams were arguably the hardest working teams involved in the weekend and the final game did not disappoint. This old-time hockey game had it all, goals, speed, and even a scrap or two. When the final buzzer sounded, Dawson City emerged the victor for the weekend in a 6-3 campaign against their Whitehorse competitors.

The community should be made aware that the Dawson City Hockey Association and the Bombay Construction hockey team collectively donated \$2000 to Dawson Non-profit societies. The DCHA donated \$1000 to the Dawson City Minor Hockey Association. Bombay Construction donated their tournament winnings of \$1000, \$500 was donated to the Dawson City Women's Shelter and \$500 was donated to the Dawson City Humane Society.

Tournament organizers for the 2007 Dawson City Invitational Hockey Association wish to thank the following for their help with this year's tournament; Klondike Visitors Association, City of Dawson, Eldorado Hotel, Downtown Hotel, Bombay Peggies Hotel, Hän Construction, Diamond Tooth Gerties, Jeff Webber, Chris Evans, Walt Liley, Dave Ezzard, Dale Gray, Nora's Concession, Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, Air North Hockey Team, Cinderwood Hockey Team, Dawson City Oldtimers Hockey Team, SWAT Hockey Team, Pelly Hockey Team, Whitehorse Refs- Scott & Jordan, Jay Farr.

Madame Zune: One of Dawson City's Unforgettable Characters

By Sylvia Sands Johnson

I was sitting in the Occidental Hotel in Dawson City around 1959. At that time there were more bars per capita in Dawson City than all of Canada. I was sipping on a gin and ginger, trying to forget how cold it was outside, when a woman entered the bar and sat down on a stool. I had no idea who she was, but she looked like she had just returned from an opera. She was beautifully dressed; her black coat had fur around the collar and on the sleeve cuffs. I wasn't accustomed to seeing a woman dressed like that in the bars so I went over to find out who she was. Later, she told me that a trapper friend had given her some of the furs.

She said, "My name is Madame Zune and I have lived here for many years. I'm a seamstress and I play the organ in the church." She was 64 years of age. She began to reel off lines that were a parody of Robert Service. Since I've always loved the poetry of Robert Service, I sat there spell bound. She was obviously well educated and had come from a good family. Her eyes were piercing and dark blue. Her black hair was worn in a stylish manner. Later, I found out she had come from a line of doctors from back east. They were descended from Ireland.

As we talked about the old days in Dawson City, she said, "On St. Patrick's Day I dyed my hair a bright green. That woke some of the locals up, I can tell you." We both laughed about that as I ordered another round. I was only in my 20s and I thought it would be rude to ask her if she was a 'real' Madame although, when I revisited Dawson in the summer of 2006, I was assured she had been.

Her colourful past meant little to me except to wonder how she had survived it all.

The second story she recalled happened near the beginning of WW II. It seems that every man in Dawson who was called to the service of his country gave Madame Zune one of his ties. These, with her special sewing ability, and made into a colourful and eye-catching skirt. She wore this skirt with great pride around Dawson during the war years. No doubt she could elaborate stories about each of these men.

Then, surprisingly, she invited me to her house (which I understand burnt down in later years). Having refreshed our drinks, she began to tell me a story about how she once stopped "in her own alley" by the Police.

"Do you believe that?" she added, "Right in my own alley." She was indignant. She had been inebriated, perhaps a little drunk when they picked her up. I had to laugh at the way she said in her own alley.

As it transpired, the Judge and his wife were personal friends of hers. So when she was brought before the Judge, he had no choice but to charge her with vagrancy. The fine amounted to \$20.

It was then that Madame Zune piped up, "Your honour, I will gladly pay the fine, but at this time I don't have the money. Is it possible your honour would be kind enough to lend me the money to pay for it?" The judge smiled and

handed her the money. She paid the fine and, once again, the old-timers in the old Pearl Harbour Bar had something to laugh about. Perhaps the Judge and his wife attended the same church in which Madame Zune was the organist. Coming from a musical family, how I would have loved to hear her play.

She said was a woman who "never believed in crying." She had been telling me that even though her husband was killed in the war and then a son, she played out her grief on the piano at the Summit Roadhouse. But she would not cry.

She maintained that "self-pity is self-destruction," as we parted at her door.

It was forty below zero with a clear moon shining when she generously added, "You have given me the incentive to live." I pondered her words as I left.

Earlier she had mentioned having a bout with cancer at the base of her spine.

Then she asked strangely, "I wonder? I wonder?" I think she knew then that it was not over, the cancer. I suggested she have it re-checked.

For weeks I wrote to her at Vancouver General Hospital from Granville, YT. I wrote long letters about everything that I thought might bring a smile to her face. She was very ill and the curtain was drawing to a close. I received one letter from her which I saved for years. It was very courageous and upbeat. Then I received a last letter and all I said, on the cover, was "deceased." It was one of the very sad days of my life.

Later I received a wonderful card from one of her sisters acknowledging a letter I had sent to them following Madame Zune's death. To me, Madame Zune will always represent the special, memorable atmosphere that still exists in Dawson City.

An excerpt from the autobiography I'm working on, "The Last Days of the Gold Dredge".

NWTel Soccer Championship

Submitted by Elizabeth Connellan

It was a gold medal performance by Dawson 7 and Under Soccer players Lulu Bartholomeus, Zack Bartholomeus, Nathaniel Boudreau, Ken Bradley, Will Connellan, Sam Crocker, John Dagostine, Emma Davis, Ethan Gaw, John Kolpin and Brandon Kormendy.

According to Coach Gaw the team played well, listened well and exhibited good sportsmanship during each of their five games during the annual Northwestel Indoor Soccer Tournament held in Whitehorse Feb. 9 -11, 2007.

Game Three against Murraya Dental was exciting as the Dawson crew battled back from a 3 - 0 deficit at half time to win 4 - 3. The team played their first and final games on the turf at the Canada Games Centre before enthusiastic crowds.

The team would like to thank NWTel, the Yukon Soccer Association, the other U7 teams, Coach Irwin Gaw and their Parents for the support, transportation and encouragement.



Yukon Quest 2007

Photos by Ed Vos