

**HISTORY OF THE VANCOUVER  
YUKONERS ASSOCIATION**

### DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the memory of thousands of true and loyal Sourdoughs who have passed over the Great Divide and whose high ideals of Brotherhood provide an example for all of us to emulate.



## HISTORY OF THE VANCOUVER YUKONERS' ASSOCIATION

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to express our appreciation to the New Horizons Program for their generosity in making us a grant of funds thereby making this work possible.

Regrets: That we have been unable to obtain photographs of two of our deceased stalwart supporters, the late Harry E. Colvey, President in 1961-62, and the late Hon. T. D. Pattullo, our Honorary President for 25 years.

For the Sourdough Committee:

Mrs. Lucille Hooker	C. W. Craig
John H. Bryne	R. L. Greenslade
Mrs. Helen Parker	Mrs. Corrie Heath
Jas. P. Begg	R. W. McLaren
Mrs. Anne Hutchings	Mrs. Louise Black



SONG TO THE YUKON

You may sing of the South,  
You may sing of the East,  
You may sing of the wonderful West;  
But no spot can compare  
With the Yukon so fair,  
It's the land the Sourdough loves best.

Where the Northern Lights glow  
On the beautiful snow  
There my heart will ever be,  
Neath the Heavenly Planes where  
King Borealis reigns, it's the  
Yukon forever for me!

John Dines, Sr.  
1924

John Dines, Sr., went to the Yukon in 1899 as a musician and remained a musician all his life. While passing through Lake Bennett, he took up a collection in the saloons to build the Church, which still exists there. He wrote many poems and songs. Played at the Palace Grand Theatre accompanying many prominent artists. For many years he was Dawson Fire Chief, highly respected by all. Passed away 1957. His daughter, Mrs. Solway Fyke now lives in West Vancouver.

## INTRODUCTION

By the 1920's a considerable number of ex-Yukoners had settled in Vancouver and other Pacific Rim cities. It was only natural that these Sourdoughs would get together from time to time at impromptu gatherings; to enjoy each other's company, to reminisce and keep alive those firm friendships formed in a far off land, a harsh land, but a land of happy memories. It was also natural that such meetings would generate permanent organizations with an executive and proper records, and as with similar organizations elsewhere, the Vancouver Yukoners Assn. was formed in 1928.

The reader looking for glamour and adventure will be disappointed. The following pages are simply a condensed history of our organization, it's beginnings, activities and transition. It is not a complete history, but contains most of the highlights and offers information to many of our members who may wish to delve into the beginnings as well as providing some background information on the numerous oldtimers who have laboured so strenuously for its success. It is particularly important to stress this latter point as so many of our original founders have passed away and are soon forgotten. In this sense we hope to continue to perpetuate a Fellowship of the North, to enliven and inform our readers as well as keep our history intact, should perchance our original records be destroyed.

The repetition of Annual Banquets and Elections may seem tedious, but they are all part of our story. The information contained herein has been obtained from our Minute books, general correspondence and from the memories of some of our older members.

We trust this history will be continued in the future and that the narrators will expand much more fully than we have done on the lives and activities of hundreds of Sourdoughs, living and dead, who have led such interesting lives.

We apologize for omitting an index. However, as all events are in chronological order, it should be reasonably easy to follow them.

The Committee

VANCOUVER YUKONERS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENTS

1928	DR. ALFRED THOMPSON	1949)	
1929	LIEUT-COL. H.D. HULME	1950(	TOM TELLEFSEN
1930	MAJOR J.J. McKAY	1951)	
1931	FRANK LOWE	1952(	WALTER HAMILTON
1932)		1953)	
1933(	B.R. DUSENBURY	1954(	A.H. CARNSEW
1934	J.S. McKAY	1955)	
1935	THOS. J. KEARNEY	1956(	W.H.S. MacFARLAND
1936	HENRY C. MACAULAY	1957)	
1937)		1958(	JAS. P. BEGG
1938(	CHARLES REID	1959)	
1939)		1960(	JAMES. E. HOOKER
1940(	R.A. BALIANTINE	1961)	
1941)		1962(	HARRY COLVEY
1942(	MAURICE DeLEON	1963)	
1943)		1964(	MRS. LOUISE BLACK
1944(	ARCHIE BLACK	1965)	
1945)		1966(	FRANK C. HEATH
1946(	THOS. A. LAMB	1967)	
1947)		1968(	R.L. GREENSLADE
1948(	W.E. HADDOCK	1969)	
		1970(	ALLAN H. FRASER
		1971)	
		1972(	R. CHAS. BEAUMONT
		1973)	
		1974(	W.A. HUTCHINGS

## VANCOUVER YUKONERS' ASSOCIATION

### Secretaries:

1928-1948 B.J. Parker  
1948-1969 Mrs. Helen Parker  
1969- Mrs. Florence W. Beaumont  
1961- Mrs. Evelyn Craig, Assistant Secretary

### Treasurers:

1928	W.M. McKay	1933	Chas. Reid
1929	Frank Lowe	1934-56	B.R. Dusenbury
1930	J.J. Walsh	1956-64	A.H. Carnsew
1931	B.R. Dusenbury	1964	Clayton S. Betts
1932	A. Scott		

### Chaplains:

1934-1948 Rev. Geo. Pringle  
1949-1951 Dean Driscoll  
1953-1960 Rev. J.W. Ellis  
1960-1968 Rev. R.W. Hibbert  
1968- Rev. J.W. Ellis

Among the many Auditors are included Archie Black, W.E. Haddock, A.H. Carnsew, F.C. Heath, M.H. Jones, E.E. Mason, C.S. Betts, W.A. Hutchings, C.D. Fyfe, W.E. Coutts, G.G. Fyke, H.G. Armstrong, B. Barnwell, Andrew Baird, Present Auditors are W.D. Coutts and G.G. Fyke.

### Honorary Presidents:

The Hon. T.D. Patullo and Hon. Geo. Black were Honorary Presidents for 25 years until their demise. Other Honorary Presidents were Mrs. Helen Parker, Andrew Baird, John N. Spence, Robert Piper, B.R. Dusenbury. No appointments in recent years. J. Aubrey Simmons.

### Life Members on our Roster July 1, 1974:

Mrs. Archie Black	Mrs. George Pringle
Mrs. Jas. Hooker	Mrs. Bert J. Parker
Mrs. Frank C. Heath	Mrs. W.E. Haddock
Mrs. Maurice DeLeon	Mrs. Tom Tellefsen
Miss Eve Deane	

Among the many members who have entertained us with their talent, we note:

James Hooker, Lucille Hooker	Mrs. Janet Owen
Bill Estabrook	Mr. & Mrs. Victor Knight
Stan Field	Mrs. Dave Gourlie
Mrs. Angus McLeod	The Parker girls, Jean, Pop & Liz.
Mrs. Beatrice Lorne (Smith)	

## Yukon Order of Pioneers

It is our intention to deal but briefly with this subject. Jack McQuesten, who entered the Yukon in 1874, was the moving force and first President of the original Yukon Order of Pioneers, established at Forty Mile in 1894. One qualification, residence in the Yukon Valley since December 31, 1885. From the picture in our possession, it would appear the membership was about 18. In 1897 Y.O.O.P. Lodge No. 1 was founded in Dawson, Y.T. Later, Lodges were founded at Mayo, No. 3, and Whitehorse, No. 4. Other Lodges were formed in Circle City and Seattle. On August 19, 1921, Y.O.O.P. Lodge No. 5 was granted a Charter in Vancouver with a Roster of 88 Members. For the sake of posterity, we are attaching a list of members. However, this Lodge functioned but a short time and appears defunct in 1922. The following excerpt from a letter from the Grand Lodge at Dawson, dated November 5, 1930, states:

### Re Y.O.O.P. Vancouver Lodge No. 5

"Am taking the liberty of writing you re Charter of above Lodge, which was issued by the Grand Lodge, and forwarded to Harold Brown, at that time Secretary, August 19, 1921. The Lodge functioned but a short time. The last letter I find on our file was addressed to Walter Hamilton, Secretary and dated December 29, 1922, asking for payment of per capita tax which were in arrears at that time."

We are unable to ascertain the reason for its short life. We can only surmise and speculate. Membership was restricted to males only with a lengthy residence in the Yukon which would preclude many Vancouver Yukoners being eligible. We surmise, also, that groups of Yukoners, both Y.O.O.P. members and others, gathered together on social occasions from time to time and it is probable such mixed gatherings were more popular and detracted from the stricter atmosphere of the Lodge. Whatever the reason, the Vancouver Yukoners appear to have emerged about this time without any formal organization or records and continued so until 1928. It is interesting to note that on February 28, 1928, a Banquet and Dance was held, attended by 190 persons, at the Ambassador Cafe. This festivity was called "Yukoners' Reunion" which indicates an Annual affair. It is also interesting to note the first recorded meeting of our Association was held a week later under the title "Yukon Reorganization", which further indicated previous activity. We further note that many of the Y.O.O.P. members were prominent at our first recorded meetings, including Maurice DeLeon, Dugald Donaghy, Jas. Green, Walter Hamilton, Capt. Irving, T.J. Kearney, Fred Mills, Henry Macaulay, J.S. McKay, T. McSmart, T.D. Pattullo, Chas. Reid, Archie Scott, J.J. Walsh, Norman Watt and Dr. P.F. Scharschmidt.

We will now proceed with the official history of the Vancouver Yukoners' Association and record verbatim the Minutes of the first meeting.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF Y.O.O.P.

TO DATE, MAY 5, 1921

Allan, Wm. A.	Insley, Edward	Pearson, W.L.
Armstrong, Wm. H.	Irving, Capt. John	Peppard, E.L.
Bergman, Cap. J.	Kearney, Thos. J.	Raggett, Walter
Booth, A.E.	Kent, John A.	Reade, Gavin
Brown, Harold	Lawrence, J.B.	Reid, Chas.
Benson, Ed. O.G.	Matheson, Alex M.	Roberts, Wm.
Caskill, D.A.	Mills, Fred	Scharschmidt, Dr. P.F.
Crofton, H.A.	Moncrieff, Robert	Scott, Arch. W.
Cramer, Donald W.	Morgan, Joseph P.	Scott, Thos. P.
Cummings, Ralph E.	Mortin, R.W.	Simpson, P.L.
Cunningham, W.J.	Murphy, Stephen H.	Sloan, Wm.
Dallinore, A.H.	Macaulay, Henry C.	Smith, Geo. J.
Deacon, J.H.	Mackay, John S.	Smith, Peter
DeLeon, Maurice	McDonald, John D.S.	Sonier, T.F.
Donaghy, Dugald	McDonald, Sam	Stein, Isadore
Donohoe, John A.	McIntosh, J.W.	Stewart, Hector A.
Dunn, J.	McKay, Dave	Strong, Zera
Eilbeck, Robert J.	McKay, Horace T.	Switzer, R.B.
Falconer, James H.	McKenzie, D.C.	Thompson, J.W.
Fleming, R.	McLellan, S.G.	Tillar, John D.
Fraser, Jas. Duncan	McLennan, D.F.	Vernon, George
Goodwin, Walter L.	McLennan, R.P.	Vogee, A.
Graham, J.C.	McLeod, Angus W.	Walsh, J.J.
Green, James A.	McLeod, Murdoch G.	Watt, Norman A.
Hamilton, Walter R.	McPhail, F.F.	Willison, Fred
Hartin, Joseph	McSmart, Thos.	Wishart, James
Hewett, Edwin B.	Nelson, Andy	Woolaver, Frank
Hockin, John	Nixon, James.	Wright, H.T.
Holmes, Richard H.	Oliver, James	Wright, W.H.
Hoskins, Joe	Patullo, Thos. D.	

All members are earnestly requested to call at the office of Bro. Geo. J. Smith, 330 Seymour St., Phone Sey. 2931 and leave their address; also to sign duplicate charter roll for use of Dawson archives.

YUKONERS REORGANIZATION

First meeting of above was held at the Piccadilly Cafe, 581 Granville St., Vancouver, 8 P.M., Tuesday, March 6, 1928.

Dr. P.F. Scharschmidt in chair. 17 present, names in hands of Secretary.

Report of caterer's committee accepted and payment of Dinner A/c of \$270.00 approved.

Moved by J.J. Walsh:  
Sec. by P. Smith:

"That a Yukoners Association be formed".

CARRIED

Moved by Col. H.D. Hulme:  
Sec. by F. Slavin:

"That an Executive of ten be appointed, and that five be a quorum, and that the Executive elect the officers of the Association".

CARRIED

J.J. Walsh nominated Mr. Bert Parker as Secretary-Treasurer.

Nomination carried unanimously.

The following were nominated for the Executive:

P.F. Scharschmidt	Doctor Thompson
Frank Lowe	Lt. Col. H.D. Hulme
Chas. Reid	J.J. Walsh
Major Wm. McKay	Clarence Craig
John Mellish	Bert Parker

Nominations approved unanimously.

The following were appointed the Ladies Auxiliary:

Miss Kate Ryan	Mrs. Bert Parker
Mrs. J. Moore	Mrs. Sunderland
Mrs. Herman Robinson	

Moved by J.J. Walsh:  
Sec. by Major McKay:

"That the surplus funds from the Yukoner Dinner be handed to the Secretary-Treasurer".

CARRIED

Moved by Col. Hulme:  
Sec. by Miss Ryan:

"That the membership fee be \$1.00 per year, Fiscal year to end Dec. 31st.

CARRIED

Moved by J.J. Walsh:  
Sec. by Col. Hulme:

"That Mr. Noel Robinson, of the Morning Star newspaper be the official chronicler and that he be made an honorary member".

CARRIED

Moved by Major McKay:  
Sec. by Col. Hulme:

"That a vote of thanks be tendered the Committee in charge of Dinner arrangements, and to Mr. Chas. Reid for donation of cigars, etc".

CARRIED

It was decided that the next meeting of the Executive be held at 5 P.M., Tuesday, March 20, 1928, at the offices of Major McKay, 736 Granville St.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Chairman

Sec-Treasurer

17 Members present at the First recorded meeting:

Mrs. J. Moore,  
T.W.P. Smith  
F.P. Slavin  
Tom Bell  
C.W. Craig  
J.W. Mellish  
Geo. M. Farsman  
Wm. Matthews  
B.J. Parker

Fred Mills  
Frank Lowe  
Kate Ryan  
Mrs. C. Louise O'Hara  
Col. H.D. Hulme  
Maj. W.M. McKay  
J.J. Walsh  
P.F. Scharschmidt



The first Meeting after Reorganization 1928

YUKONERS ASSOCIATION OPENS WITH A BANG

. . . . .

An interesting function took place Friday evening at the opening of the newly decorated headquarters of the Yukoners Association, Castle Hotel, donated to his fellow Klondikers by Maurice de Leon and associates.

President Dr. Alfred Thompson, ex-M.P. for the Yukon was assisted by his executive; Vice-president Lt.Col. H.D. Hulme, Treasurer Major W.M. McKay, Secretary Bert Parker, Chas. Reid, P.F. Scharschmidt, J.J. Walsh, J. Mellish, Over one hundred Yukoners were present including Sheriff Chas. McDonald, Capt. John Irving, Dr. Z. Strong, Harold Brown, Ross Moulton and J.P. Morgan.

Musical selections were provided by the orchestra of the Vancouver theatre. Songs by Jack Black and Chris Owen. Ten year old Irene Davis won the hearts of the Sourdoughs by her clever rendering of "The Call of the Yukon" by Robt. W. Service.

The Hon. Dugald Donaghy, in the speech of the evening, wittily described his advent into the Yukon.

An interesting function was the handing over of the Charter, in trust, of the Yukon Order of Pioneers, Vancouver Lodge 5.

A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Maurice deLeon and his associates for the entertainment provided. The headquarters are now open daily to all Yukoners and their friends.

- - - - -

SOURDOUGHS ALL

What though we never mused a trail,  
Nor drove a Husky team;  
What though we never mucked a mine  
Nor panned a golden stream!  
We still can claim a bit of the North  
For we've felt its sting and bite!  
And we have watched the Northern lights  
As they danced through the long, long night!

A verse from a Poem by Rev. Everett S. Fleming, B.A., B.D., S.T.M.  
January 20, 1968

1928

Two weeks later, the first executive meeting was held and the following officers elected:

Pres. Dr. Alfred Thompson  
Secy. Mr. B.J. Parker

Vice-Pres. Lt.Col. H.D. Hulme  
Treasurer Major W.M. McKay

We cannot go into elaborate detail or colorful stories of the history of our members, but we will endeavor from time to time to give a brief profile on some of the characters who have been instrumental in shaping our organization. Dr. Alfred Thompson, our first President, went to the Yukon in 1899, practising medicine in Dawson, where he soon became well and favorably known. He went in for politics, was defeated in his first bid for City Mayor by Henry Macaulay, then entered Federal politics and was elected for three terms as Conservative M.P. for the Yukon. In 1924, he moved to Vancouver where he soon built up a large medical practise. The Doctor had an affable, persuasive personality and made an excellent chairman. His contribution to our early beginnings was invaluable. He passed away in 1940.

Another interesting sidelight, Clarence Craig, one of the original executive members in 1928, is still a very active member of the 1974 Committee, 46 years later. Johnny Mellish, another member of the original Committee, is also an active member. Quite a record.

Apart from nominations, the main order of business was setting up a committee to find a suitable meeting place, also a drive for new members. The Committee subsequently reported that a very suitable room was being provided by Mr. Maurice DeLeon, proprietor of the Castle Hotel and a former Yukoner. Furthermore, he offered to furnish the room to our needs AND FREE. What more can we expect? The good old Yukon spirit.

C.R. Settlemeir, a former newspaper man, was placed in charge of publicity.

On June 8, our first social evening was held in our new quarters. A gala time was had and many new members enrolled. The 17th of August was celebrated by a basket lunch and sports events for the young in Stanley Park. During the first winter five dances were held (what a lively bunch) and one smoker. No specific dates for such events, just promoted from time to time. No gold pans and for many years no charge of any kind. It is also recorded that Y.O.O.P. Charter No. 5 was being held by us in trust. Three years later, a letter from the Grand Lodge January 30, 1931 states:

"The Grand Lodge in session have decided to leave the Charter in your possession, subject to their call. It would be a little irregular to make a gift of it to the Association, but the Lodge unanimously decided to leave it in your possession as above".

1929

The first order of business was setting up a Committee to arrange the Annual Banquet held March 7, 1929 at the Castle Hotel. Tickets were \$1.50 each. No other information disclosed.

J.J. Wilson, a Calgary realtor and retired R.N.W.M.P. Sergeant, was founder and President of the Canadian Arctic Brotherhood of Calgary. He approached us concerning the possible joining of the two Sourdough Associations, but we were a bit cool about the idea. However, there were active clubs in other cities and Wilson was quite a missionary.

On March 31, an emergency committee meeting was held to listen to Wilson and to a representative of the Alaska Yukon Pioneers from Seattle, for the purpose of forming a loose Federation of the three clubs. After discussion, the general idea was favoured and later, at a general meeting, it was decided to send delegates and participate in a huge Sourdough Stampede being organized at Seattle in August. You will learn more about this affair under the heading "International Reunion Inc." However, our organization refused to bind itself to any firm commitment for union.

Notes from the General meeting April 4: "Moved by J.J. Walsh, seconded by Major McKay, that the Executive be increased to 12 members. Carried". Members elected to the Executive were Ross Moulton, Tom McSmart, W.W. Moore, T.J. Kearney, Archie Scott and Archie Black. The Secretary was voted an Honorarium of \$35.00."

Election of Officers

Pres.	H.D. Hulme	Vice-Pres.	W.M. McKay
Treas.	Frank Lowe	Secretary	Bert Parker

Lt. Col. H.D. Hulme, our second President, arrived in Dawson in 1898, via Chilcoot Pass and set up a law practice. In 1900 he formed the first militia unit in the Yukon, "Dawson Rifles". He left in 1904 and opened a practice in Vancouver. Served with distinction in First World War. He was also our official representative at the historic Sourdough Stampede held in Seattle in 1929. He was an efficient organizer and very active for years in our group. Died in 1937.

A letter was also received from the Seattle Alaska Yukon Pioneers, soliciting a roster of all Yukoners in B.C. They hope to collect 25,000 names in all and issue a name and address book for sale at \$1.50. No action appears to have been taken at the time, but apparently at a later date, this book was issued. It was entitled the "Golden Book", quite attractive and a number of them are still around.

At the Canadian Memorial Chapel, 16th & Burrard, a beautiful "Yukon Memorial Window", was dedicated by the Rev. Geo. Pringle. This lovely art work was paid for by our members and the details of the window were arranged by the clergyman-in-charge, Lt.Col. Fallis. Our window is in the north east corner of this lovely Church and is well worth a visit. "A Symbol of Comradeship". A Biblical scene that portrays Jonathan and David making a covenant. The Historical panels depict the Chilkoot Pass, of Gold Rush fame, in 1898, and the Royal Mail - Dog train and carriole."

copy of letter from Canadian Memorial Church:

My dear Mr. Parker -

I wish to thank you for all your kindness in helping me arrange the dedication of the Yukon Window. It was said by many to be one of the most inspiring services that has been held in Canadian Memorial Chapel. A great deal of the credit is due you. I am enclosing a copy of a letter for your information and guidance, regarding the Yukon Window. I have taken your advice and have written at length to Sheriff MacDonald. However, I sincerely hope that you will cooperate in every way possible as you suggested when we parted the other day.

Mr. Frank Lowe also told me, as he left me that he was deeply interested and he felt sure there would be no difficulty in raising the money. I do hope that the names to be placed on the plaque for the Yukon Window will be a true representation of the history of the great North. I am leaving Sunday night, June 30th, for the Peace River Country, and hope that you may have a pleasant summer.

Sincerely yours, G.O. Fallis

At one meeting, it was moved to issue and sell 1,000 copies of Joe Brewer's poems, the proceeds to go to assist him. He was blind, poor man.

A stampede for 1930 was discussed.

During the early years of the organization, several committees such as membership, finance, entertainment and visiting, were set up. The latter committee was very active, visiting the sick. No business was transacted at the social gatherings which usually were dances. An Annual picnic on the 17th of August was kept up for many years.

Among many others, Frank P. Slavin, an active member, passed away. He was a famous pugilist in the early days and obtained one of the first gold concessions granted in the Yukon, which he subsequently sold to his buddy, Joe Boyle, for \$500.00. He arrived in the Yukon in 1897 with \$3.00 in his pocket. Other oldtimers passing away included A.A. Jones, R.H. Corbett, Cap. Bergman.

40 Members present at the 3rd Annual meeting. The Secretary reports 258 members of which 127 are paid up.

The President submitted a report on amalgamation with Seattle and Calgary Associations. The Committee's decision to "go it alone" was unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

It was reported that 200 of our members and all our officers attended the Sourdough Stampede at Seattle on August 16, 1929, headed by a detachment of the R.N.W.M.P., and Vancouver City Police Band.

The third Annual Banquet at the Georgia in March was a great success. No figures are provided but all seats were taken.

Among those crossing the Great Divide during the past year were Bob Lowe, J. Eskine, Coolgardie Smith, A.D. MacKeen and Mrs. Dugald Donaghy.

Newly elected Executive members were Major M.M. Marsden, Chas. Metcalf, B.R. Dusenbury and Jas. McDonald. Officers elected: Pres. W.M. McKay, Vice-Pres. Frank Lowe, Treasurer J.J. Walsh, Secretary B.J. Parker.

Our 3rd President Major W.M. McKay arrived in Dawson in 1898 with the R.N.W.M.P. via the White Pass and left in 1904. Served in World War 1, studied law and in 1932 was appointed senior magistrate for the City of Vancouver. A very staunch Yukoner and active in our Club for many years.

It was decided to hold the 1930 Sourdough Stampede in Vancouver and a strong Committee was set up to organize it, M.M. Marsden in charge. This affair, the most ambitious of our projects to date was slated for August 14 - 16th inclusive. Contributions were solicited from the City, large business firms and private citizens. A list of 25 Honorary memberships were conferred on prominent donors, thousands of badges were distributed, and publicity mailed to all parts of Western Canada and the U.S. There was some friction or misunderstanding with Seattle regarding their Police Band, seating arrangements and speakers, but is noted our genial Secretary managed to soothe the feelings of Vic Marion, Seattle President. The Stampede played a prominent part in the Exhibition Parade, accompanied as it was by a detachment of R.N.W.M.P., 2 Police Bands, etc. One day at the Exhibition was "Yukon Day". We occupied one building with mineral displays, including \$20,000.00 in Gold, and also a special display of Yukon vegetables shipped out for the occasion. It was a great success with an estimated 1500 Sourdoughs crowding the Hotels.

One of the motions passed at the Stampede was a Resolution as follows:-

"For the respective Governments proceed to construct the Alaska Highway".

There is no financial statement extant, but it is noted that 70 contributors donated \$2,300 and a \$1,000 surplus was added to our funds. Pretty good considering the great depression was here. A piano was purchased from Crone Storage for \$150.00.

1931

235 tickets were sold for our March Banquet. Tickets \$1.50 ea. Profit \$1.68. Hotel charge \$1.25 per head.

The membership has jumped to 346 of which 186 paid up. 70 persons attended the Annual meeting. Officers elected - President Frank Lowe, Vice-President and Treasurer B.R. Dusenbury, Secretary B.J. Parker. New Executive members were Chas. Reid, R.A. Ballentine, J.S. McKay, Dr. Z. Strong. Hon. T.D. Patullo and Geo. Black, M.P. were appointed Honorary Presidents and continued in that capacity for more than 25 years.

Frank Lowe, our 4th President, went to the Yukon in 1898 via the White Pass. Prior to this date, he was the first appointed City Marshall for Skagway, 1897. Came to Vancouver in 1921, employed by Canadian Window Bakeries and took a very active part in our Association for many years. Died in 1955.

A Special committee was set up to investigate hardship cases. At that time a good part of our revenue was used to alleviate distress, as per one meeting - \$20.00 to Joe Brewer, \$25.00 to Beatrice Lorne, a loan of \$50.00 to T. McSmart, \$100.00 to John McFarlane. The sick visiting committee was also most active. \$215.00 was collected for Joe Brewer. Our member, Judge Walsh was appointed Lt. Governor of Alberta.

A motion was passed to send a letter of congratulation to Bishop I.O. Stringer on his appointment as Archbishop of Ruperts Land. Known as the Bishop who, short of rations, ate his mukluks on the trail. He was appointed as Bishop of the Yukon in 1908 and served in that capacity for 24 years. Following is a letter received from him:

"I wish to acknowledge your kind letter of May 25, containing a resolution from the Vancouver Yukoners Association, expressing congratulations and good wishes to Mrs. Stringer and myself, on my election as Archbishop of Ruperts Land. Would you please extend my hearty thanks to the members of the Association when there is an opportunity. I value more than I can say your good wishes.

One thing I shall miss in this Northern field is the loyal friends and companions amongst the pioneers of Yukon, both here and along the coast. Please convey to the members my heartiest thanks and the assurance of good wishes to one and all.

Again thanking you, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

(signed) Isaac O. Yukon "

1931 cont.

Copies of letters received from Hon. T.D. Pattullo, Hon. George Black, and from Lieutenant Governor W.W. Walsh:

"I wish to thank you very much for your letter of May 18, which just arrived advising me of my election as an Honorary President of your Association.

I appreciate very much the courtesy, and am certainly glad to be associated with all the good old-time Yukoners.

Very faithfully yours,

T.D. Pattullo "

"Kindly convey to the Association my appreciation of the honour conferred upon me by electing me as its Honorary President.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

(signed) George Black "

"I am in receipt of your letter of the 25th of May with copy of resolution of congratulation to Mrs. Walsh and myself passed at your annual meeting.

Coming, as it does, from those with whom I was so closely associated so many years ago and my acquaintance with many of whom I so delightfully renewed last summer, I appreciate it very much and would ask you to convey my thanks for it to your Association on the first possible opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) W.W. Walsh

Lieutenant Governor. "

1932

The March Banquet was held at Hotel Georgia. Only 185 persons attended, a big drop from previous years.

At previous Stampedes held in Seattle and Vancouver, serious consideration was given to forming an International group to include all the various Sourdough Clubs in America. A Constitution was drawn up and in 1931, The International Sourdough Reunion Inc. was incorporated and we were invited to join. We asked for a copy of the Resolutions for further study.

60 persons attended the Annual meeting. Officers elected for the coming year: President B.R. Dusenbury, Vice-President J.S. McKay, Treasurer A. Scott, Secretary B.J. Parker. New Executive members: Tom McSmart, Axel Erickson.

Our new President, B.R. Dusenbury, a former Ontario school principal, arrived in Dawson in 1900, was employed by the Northern Commercial Co. for 5 years; then went to Circle, Alaska and then to Fairbanks where he became Manager of the Fairbanks Banking Co. He moved to Vancouver in 1909. "Dusy" as he was usually called, was an immaculate, meticulous, articulate and energetic person, and being a perfectionist, he sometimes lost patience with more easy going types. As Treasurer, his accounts were always accurate. As a collector of funds he was most successful and as an organizer of events such as Banquets and Reunions, he was most efficient. As President, Vice-President and Treasurer for a total of 28 years, his services to our organization were outstanding.

We would like to add here, as part of our history, that Bert and Helen Parker were Secretary for a continuous period of 41 years, from 1928 to 1969, and a great deal of their work was outside the line of duty.

We have been singularly fortunate over the years in having a long line of dedicated officers and committeemen, but we feel we should be especially grateful for the outstanding contributions of these three people to our cause and their willingness to take on all burdens and chores, particularly in the early years of our Association. Mr. Dusenbury passed away in 1959.

At this Annual meeting, it was decided to use the prefix "Sourdough" in addressing or referring to fellow Yukoners. According to our many members who attended the Sourdough Stampede in Calgary, it was a real wild and woolly affair - lots of colour, etc. J.J. Wilson of Calgary, nominated President of the International. We were not yet a member.

The matter of affiliation with the International was discussed at a general meeting on December 12, 1932. The vote for affiliation was carried, provided the action was cleared by our legal advisor and that assurance be received that per capita dues would be limited to 10¢ and that we have the privilege of withdrawing at any time. These conditions were verified and we joined in 1933.



1932 cont.

A Coffee urn was donated by Chas. Reid. This vessel has quite a history being used at the great Fire of 1886 in Vancouver to provide coffee for the firefighters. Before and after the fire, it was in use at the old Hastings Mill.

\$75.00 was distributed at Christmas to distressed members.  
350 names on the Roster, 196 paid up.

Among those crossing over the Great Divide during the past year were "Packer Jack" Newman, Capt. Jno. O'Brien, who went to the Yukon in 1874, Ralph Vroom, Alex McCarter, Bob Lavery, Thos. S. Lippy, one of the real lucky ones, Judge Craig, Dave Cunningham, Frank Barry, Judge Jackson, Kate Ryan, F.T. Congdon and Gen. R.P. Clark.

At the General meeting: moved by C.D. Hulme, sec. by Chas. Metcalf "That all retiring Presidents shall ex-officio become supernumerary members of the Executive". Carried.

As an aside to our history, a diary yields this information on Mayo. Mrs. Aldcroft sold her bread at 50¢ per loaf; Dawson papers 25¢ per copy. Geo. Nagano and Ma Fisher sold meals at \$1.00 per main course, either beef, caribou, moose or rabbit. Beer \$1.25 per quart, but outsold 6 to 1 by home brew beer. A bath at Jean Binet's Hotel \$1.00. Lowest coin in use 25¢.

-----  
THE BEAN POT SONG

To the tune of Mocking Bird Hill.

A tired old musher came over the hill,  
And saw the tallow candle on my window sill,  
Then his heart filled with gladness,  
For some how he knew,  
The Bean Pot was ready and I'm ready too.

Chorus:

Tra la la, Tra la la, it gives me a thrill  
To talk about the bean pot where all get their fill,  
Tra la la, Tra la la la - there's peace and good will,  
Round that friendly old BEAN POT where all get their fill.

No Pass word was needed, no padlock on the door,  
T'was never too crowded, always room for one more;  
It wasn't a palace for it had dirt for a floor,  
There was warmth, there were beans, there were high hopes galore.

There's a jackpot, and a gold pot, their stories are old.  
But just how to find them, none ever have told  
So the jackpot and the gold pot are a deep mystery  
But that friendly old Bean Pot is SOURDOUGH HISTORY.

Christine Ives.

1933

333 Persons attended the Annual Banquet at the Georgia.  
\$1.50 per plate.

As these were depression days, a Committee was appointed to raise money to assist needy members. As we were operating without a Constitution, a committee was formed to formulate one and draw up By-Laws. This work was completed in November and held over to 1934 general meeting.

B.J. Parker and Frank Lowe were delegates to the International held in Los Angeles.

Among the motions passed at the general meeting: to authorize the committee declaring a vacancy, should a member absent himself for 3 consecutive meetings, except for cause.

The entire 1932 Executive officers were reelected for the coming year. Henry Macaulay and Jim Green were added to the Executive. It was also decided to contribute \$5.00 towards a souvenir being presented by the Sourdoughs to President Roosevelt.

Among the many oldtimers who passed away during the past year were Dr. Scharschmidt, Dan Coates, "Arizona Charlie" Meadows (Palace Grand Theatre), Casey Moran (reporter), Mrs. F.C. Wade, J.J. Wilson, one of the architects of the International Reunion, and Bob Henderson. Poor Bob, still bitter from his experience in the North and penniless, due to his generosity in helping his poorer neighbours; left insufficient in his estate for burial purposes. Our members assisted and were eventually reimbursed by his family. Mrs. Lucas, who nursed him during his last illness, presented our Association with a large framed portrait of Bob. The following letter from our Secretary to his son covers the details of the funeral arrangements (see letter). Among others deceased were Hec Stewart, E.E. McCarthy, Frank Manley, W.A. Black, Jack Lamb, Eddie Farr, Dick "Waterfront" Brown, Andy Cruikshanks, Black Jack McDonald, Fred Milton.

This was the year of the big trek of the unemployed to Ottawa, the birth of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (C.C.F.), The Regina Manifesto.

Item: Mrs. George Black in her "My Seventy Years" states that when she went over the Chilcoot Pass in July 1898, the "Young officer of the Mounties told me that since the previous May, 18,000 men had passed the post, and I was the 631st woman".

from R.W. Hibbert's "Nuggets in the Gold Pan"

copy of letter ffrom Secy. of Vanc. Yukoners Assoc. to Bob  
Henderson's son:

3426 W. 33rd Ave.,  
January 31, 1933.

Henry Henderson, Esq.,  
Rogue River,  
Oregon, U.S.A.

Dear Henry:

I sent you a telegram a week ago tonight informing you  
of your Father's death here in Vancouver on that day.

He was buried last Friday at 2:00 P.M. from Kearney  
Undertaking parlours and had a very large funeral.

The papers here had a great deal to say of the death  
and burial and had good pictures of him on the front page. The  
end was very peaceful, he went to sleep a while before he died and  
never woke up, died with a smile on his face and I can assure you  
that everything possible was done for him in his last days by his  
friends here.

The funeral arrangements were all made by the Vancouver  
Yukoner's Association. The Rev. George Pringle conducted the  
services. He is buried along-side your Mother in Mountain View  
Cemetery.

I hope this meets with your approval Henry. I will send you  
copies of the Alaska Weekly, which gave a good account of his death  
and will, I am sure give a good account of the funeral. There were  
eight Honorary Pall-Bearers: Dr. Alfred Thompson, Col. H.D. Hulme,  
Maj. W.M. McKay, Frank Lowe, B.R. Dusenbury, Pres., J.S. McKay, Vice-  
Pres., Chas Reid, Treas., Bert J. Parker, Secy., Yukoners' Association.  
The pall-bearers were Chas. Metcalf, Jack McLeod, Axel Erickson,  
Capt. J. Irving, Tom McSmart and Hank Cole. They were all old  
friends of your Dads.

Two ex-commissioners of the Yukon Territory, W.W.B.  
McInnes and Alex Henderson and Dawson's First Mayor Henry Macaulay  
were also present. I never saw as many old Yukoners as there were  
at the funeral.

I am enclosing the bill from Kearney & Co. also a bill for  
a wreath from Jas. Forbes which I ordered for the family.

Capt. Jno. & Mrs. Lucas did everything possible for him in  
his last days and deserve a great deal of credit.

If there is anything further that you would like me to do,  
please let me know.

1934

A record number of 417 persons attended the Annual Banquet at the Georgia.

Even at this early date, discussions were held to try and interest Government officials regarding an Alaska Yukon Highway but no interest could be developed.

It was also decided that pictures of all Association Presidents be obtained; also that of the Secretary. During these early years Executive meetings were sometimes held on a weekly, sometimes monthly basis and quite frequently during summer months.

Sometimes we were in the Banking business, such as "loan to Mrs. Anne Logan \$50.00". Loans outstanding ran from \$100.00 to \$200.00 during the depression.

Election results - Pres. J.S. McKay, Vice-Pres. T.J. Kearney, Treasurer B.R. Dusenbury, Sec. Bert Parker. New Committee members J.J. Walsh, Chaplain Rev. Geo. Pringle. We have little information on our new President. He went to the Yukon in the early days, where he practised law. He returned to Vancouver some years later and carried on a law practice. He was active for a number of years in the Yukoners. Passed away 1940.

At the Annual meeting - Moved by W.E. Haddock, sec. by Frank Lowe. that our new Constitution and By-laws be adopted. Carried.

Among our deceased members we note committeeman Axel Erickson, also Dominic Burns, Tom Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Frank Slavin, Capt. McFee.

The depression was really hurting. We note a letter to Premier Pattullo, an old Sourdough himself, requesting employment where possible to some of our more needy members. Small funds were distributed from time to time and indirect assistance was quite common. The following letter being a sample of the many such efforts to help our members.

- - - - -  
The summer..no sweeter was ever,  
The sunshiny woods all athrill;  
The grayling asleep in the river,  
The bighorn asleep on the hill;  
The strong life that never knows harness,  
The wilds where cariboo call;  
The freshness, the freedom, the farness,  
O God! How I'm stuck on it all!

Robert W. Service.

copy of letter from Vancouver Yukoners' Assoc. to City Engineer, Vanc.

3426 W. 33rd Ave.,  
Vancouver, B.C.  
Feb. 2, 1933.

Chas. Brakenridge, C.E.,  
City Engineer,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

You have had on your staff for the past year, in the capacity of Rodman, one Fred McMillan of 3505 West 39th Avenue.

We are told that he has had a months notice as from February 1st.

This boy is the sole support of his mother, sister and brother and is the son of the late Geo. McMillan, M.E., who died on or about June 1st, 1931, while examining some mining property on Jervis Inlet. George McMillan was a pioneer of the Yukon, and also of British Columbia and spent a lot of money in development work of one kind and another and died broke.

This Association has helped his widow since his death, and would be very grateful to you if you can find it convenient to keep Fred on your staff as the family will be indigent if he is out of work.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours very sincerely,

VANCOUVER YUKONERS' ASSOCIATION

1935

The March Banquet was a gala affair. 415 persons attended. The Banquet was well written up by all the local papers. Somebody had given complimentary tickets to 3 reporters.

65 Members attended the Annual meeting. Election of Officers resulted as follows: Pres. T.J. Kearney, Vice-Pres. Henry Macaulay, Treas. B.R. Dusenbury, Secy. Bert Parker.

Our new President, Thos. J. Kearney, went to the Yukon in the Gold Rush days and opened a Grocery store in Dawson and one on Bonanza. He returned to Vancouver in 1911 and went into the undertaking business on West Broadway; this firm is still in existence and is operated by his son, Frank. Thomas Kearney spent many years on our Executive committee and was particularly active in assisting our poorer members in their affairs. He passed away in 1942.

George & John Pringle

Rev. George Pringle was elected Chaplain and a letter of condolence sent him on the death of his brother, Rev. John Pringle. As we have a file on these two remarkable brothers, we will devote a few lines to them. John and George C.F. Pringle born in P.E.I., were Presbyterian Missionaries who went North separately in 1898 and 1899 and served such communities as Atlin, Grand Forks, Hunker Creek, Dawson and other points in the Yukon. Both men were strong specimens physically, mentally and spiritually and thus fitted in well with the local scene, leaving a deep impression on all concerned. George became known as the "Sky Pilot of the Yukon" and John was renowned for his prowess on the trail. They left the Yukon prior to the first World War and subsequently joined the armed forces. John went over with the first Canadian Contingent and attained the rank of Lt. Colonel. After the war he eventually ended up doing missionary work along the North Thompson River. George became a hospital Chaplain during the war and spent sometime on a hospital ship. John lost a son in the First World War and George lost a son in the Second World War. George not only took an active interest as Chaplain in our organization for 14 years, but also a deep interest in the International, in which organization he was appointed an Honorary Vice-President. He was in great demand as a speaker and a poem of his was adopted in 1934 as the official grace for Sourdough Banquets -

We thank Thee, Our Heavenly Father, for all They gifts-

Hallow our intercourse this happy evening -

Bless Thou this food, O Lord, we pray

And gently guide us on Life's strange way.

When this Trail ends, and no longer we roam

Take us safely across to our Heavenly Home.

Amen.

1935 cont.

George Pringle was also largely responsible for the Yukon Window in the Canadian Memorial Church. For many years George served the Coast Missions. He also published a book - Adventures in Service. He passed away in 1949.

The Executive Committee also selected B.R.Dusenbury to place his name in nomination as President of the International and to offer to host the International in Vancouver for 1936. Our invitation was accepted and Mr. Dusenbury became our first member to become President of the International Sourdough Reunion Inc.

A Committee was set up to supervise the 1936 Reunion and immediately called upon the Vancouver Publicity Bureau, the Jubilee Central Committee, The Exhibition Society, B.C. Hotels Association for advice and support. In due course, after such assurances were received, it was decided to go ahead.

Among our members passing away during the year were our former committeeman Major M.M. Marsden, Frank Hanly, Tom Adair, Hon. J.D. McGregor, E. Lee, Walter Hamley.

Memo: No records were kept but it is estimated that more than 1,000,000 persons are unemployed in Canada, 13,000,000 in the U.S.A.

Letter received from Kate Rockwell:

"Dear Sourdoughs:

I have just received the invitation to your Annual Banquet and Ball, March 15th, and I wish I could be there with you. You know it is the handclasp of you my friends that gives me courage to "Carry On" when the trail seems a little hard and steep - and my one prayer is to prove worthy of the faith you have shown and so to each and every one of you - Greetings and the wish for "Happiness to you my friends".

Sweetheart of the Sourdoughs

(signed) Kate Rockwell

1936

60 persons present at the Annual meeting. Elected President Henry Macaulay, Vice-Pres. Chas. Reid, Treas. B.R. Dusenbury, Secy. Bert Parker. No change in Committee members.

Henry Macaulay went to the Yukon in 1898 via the White Pass, entered into business for 10 years and became first Mayor of Dawson in 1902. Came out in 1908, settled in West Vancouver and went into the real estate business. He made an excellent chairman and was very active in our affairs for many years. In 1940 he was chosen President of the International. Passed away 1944.

320 persons attended the March Banquet. The big event of the year was the International Reunion held from 4th - 7th of September. A special committee was formed under the able chairmanship of B.R. Dusenbury. The committee borrowed \$200.00 from the Association and set up their own operation, which consisted of obtaining funds from collections and Stampede proceeds. Banquet tickets \$1.50. Grand Ball \$1.00. Unfortunately there are few details apart from the part that it was recorded as a huge success and the \$200.00 loan, plus profits of \$629.00 were returned to the Association. These boys were real money makers. The efforts of Dusenbury and Parker were especially appreciated and it was unanimously voted to give them a present out of the profits as a slight token of thanks for their strenuous efforts. It may be of interest to the reader to know that the early meetings of the International were called Stampedes, but later this name was dropped and the proper word Reunion came into use.

By 1936 a restricted old age pension scheme, over age 70, based upon a means test was introduced in the Provinces but not initially in the Yukon. Our organization therefore drew up a Petition to the Minister of the Interior to correct the situation. In the meanwhile, a committee of two, Dusenbury and Reid, were appointed to investigate needy members of our organization deserving assistance. May we add that when pensioners died leaving an estate, any pensions paid to them during their lifetime were deducted from the estate and returned to the Government. Needless to state, such occurrences happened infrequently. \$20.00 wasn't much but when street car fares were a nickel, eggs 15¢ per doz., bread 8-10¢, such a sum could be very helpful.

Among the oldtimers passing away were committee member Jim Green and Mrs. J. Green, Dr. A.S. Grant, Billy Rendell, Randy McLennan, Jack Tremblay, Mrs. Arthur Wilson, Mrs. Geo. Potter, Geo. Barnes, W.W. Moore, Mrs. Dick Gillespie, Mrs. Dr. J.N.E. Brown (Faith Fenton), "Chicken Billy" Anstett.

Item; King George V died January 30, 1936.



1937

CORONATION YEAR

In January, new dishes, silverware, etc. were purchased to accommodate 150 persons.

60 persons turned up for the 9th Annual meeting. At the subsequent executive meeting - Elections - Pres. Chas. Reid, Vice-Pres. Archie Scott, Treas. B.R. Dusenbury, Secy. B.J. Parker. Executive members were R.A. Ballentine, Frank Lowe, J.S. McKay, Maurice DeLeon, T.R. Moulton, Tom McSmart, Harry Clegg, Lt. Col. H.D. Hulme. This group were elected from a list of 20 nominees.

Pres. Chas Reid arrived in Dawson via the Edmonton Trail in 1898 and mined on Bonanza. Left in 1907 and was subsequently Chairman of Vancouver Harbour Board. In the 1940 Federal elections as Liberal nominee, he contested the Yukon Federal seat. Mrs. Geo. Black won by a small majority. A man with strong personal views, he made a valuable contribution during his long service on our Executive committee.

As we enjoyed a permanent home at that time in the Castle Hotel, it was customary each year to obtain pictures and photographs to hang on the walls.

The International Reunion was held in Toronto and Messrs. Hulme and Dusenbury were dispatched as delegates. Seven other members also attended.

There were 114 paid up members. The Annual Banquet was held in March, no particulars.

The Secretary was instructed to interview Beatrice Lorne with the possibility of recording a couple of songs to entertain the old Sourdoughs in Dawson Hospital.

Lt. Col. H.D. Hulme, active in our organization since its inception, passed away. A severe blow as he was one of our most dedicated members and was also instrumental in helping to set up the International. Other oldtimers included Louis Brier, Tom Chisholm, Capt. J. Irving, Jim Cody, Dr. W.W. Chipman, B.M. Behrends, Curly Munro, John DeLeon and a former active committee member J.J. Walsh. Also T.G. Bragg, Lyman Black, J.T. "Wings" Wilkinson, John Black, R.J. Berton.

Item: King George VI, Coronation May 12, 1937

1938

Tickets for the Banquet and Ball at the Georgia were sold for \$1.00, the cheapest on record. No other particulars.

Elections: Pres. Chas. Reid, Vice-Pres. Archie Scott, Parker and Dusenbury reelected for coming year.

110 members attended the Annual meeting. Geo. Black, Dr. Z. Strong and A.D. McInnes were scrutineers at the election. Jack McLeod was only new committee member elected. During the 30's and 40's and later, a slate of 15 or 20 nominees were selected by a nominating committee from which 12 members would be selected.

At the Annual meeting, our old friend, Capt. Goddard of Seattle, also enlivened the meeting with his very interesting pictures of the Trail of 98, taken by himself.

Among those oldtimers crossing the Great Divide were Geo. C. Walker, John L'Abbe, W.L. "Foxy Granpa" Walsh, Capt. Turner, Jack Matheson, Jean Reid, Geo. Keiler, Ewen Morrison. Mrs. Service, mother of the poet, passed away in Vancouver. She was the first lady to be awarded the silver bracelet at the International Reunion.

Item: From R.W. Hibbert's "Nuggets in the Gold Pan"

What can I say, what dare I say about the Aurora Borealis? Bring along your city neon lights, and all the powerful searchlights of the world, and see them reduced to sputtering candles in the presence of the shimmering, pulsating, swirling Borealis as it swings across the heavens on a cold Yukon night, like unto celestial fireworks commemorating the first day of creation, when "God said, Let there be light and there was light, and God saw that it was good."

The Aurora "is not good for the eyes of man  
'Twas a sight for the eyes of God."

"Then in our awe we crouched and saw with our wild uplifted eyes,  
Charge and retire the hosts of fire in the battlefield of the skies.  
They rolled around with a soundless sound like softly bruised silk,  
They poured into the bowl of the sky with the gentle flow of milk.  
In eager pulsing violet their wheeling chariots came,  
As they poised above the Polar rim like a coronal of flame.  
From depths of darkness, fathomless, their lancing rays were hurled.  
Like the all combining searchlights of the navies of the world."

1939

Tickets to the Annual Banquet and Ball sold for \$1.25 each. A profit of \$19.60 was shown. Mr. Dusenbury was a wonderful Treasurer. Every event he handled showed a profit.

75 persons attended the Annual meeting. Election results were: President R.A. Ballentine, Vice-President Ross Moulton, also Parker and Dusenbury. No change in committee.

R.A. Ballentine, our new President, arrived in Dawson in 1897 via the Dyea Trail; mined on Gold Bottom for a number of years, left for Vancouver in 1912. During his long membership, he was highly regarded for his principles and high moral tone in his dealings. He passed away in 1948.

A letter of welcome composed by Mr. Dusenbury, was forwarded to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on their Canadian visit.

Motions were passed to obtain pictures of Messrs. Reid and Ballentine. Also one composite picture of the Executive committee. A letter of appreciation received from Hon. C.F. Lascelles, Secretary to the King & Queen. A letter was sent to the Native Sons of B.C. notifying them of our selection of Rev. George Pringle as recipient of the Annual "Good Citizen Award".

The International was held at Oakland. 25 persons from Vancouver attended.

Those crossing the Great Divide included Past President J.S. McKay, whose presence will be missed. Also Mrs. Bertha Troberg, Capt. Williams, Kenneth Harper, Geo. Trites, Bert E. Collyer, Geo. Potter and Jim McKinnon, "The boy orator", and Max Landreville.

From R.W. Hibbert's "Nuggets in the Gold Pan"

Let us turn to some of the finer things of life. Directly in front and within a stones throw of one another are three laundries. Picking up a newspaper, dated July 5, 1898, the eye is caught by a delicately worded ad:

"Maries Riedsello, from New York City  
now has parlours in Dawson City.  
Massage Treatments      Russian Baths  
Scurvey Treated            Vitality Restored

The proprietess may well be commended for her diplomacy in equating Dawson with New York, as a companion city. Possibly, too, her wide experience in New York may have given her special qualifications for the treatment of scurvey in her Yukon parlour.

Do not overlook Madame Trembley. A picture taken June 27, 1899 carries this conspicuous sign

PURE COWS MILK      LEMONADE  
SODA WATER            MILK SHAKE

It is assuring to know that the milk as advertised came from pure cows, but what about the milk that was derived from impure cows? In the milk shakes maybe? Perhaps the pure cow in question is the one imported by

1939 cont.

Cow Miller, arriving June 9, 1899, and was so welcomed by homesick former farmers that the first milking sold for \$40.00 and thereafter \$1.00 a pint.

The dentists flourish, too, according to the shingles locating their places of business. Wharton, Benson, Lee, Gillis, Wells, Merchant and others of the forceps fraternity will take care of toothaches and other dental problems. In all probability, you may have your cavities filled with gold mined from your own property on the creeks, giving it all a personal touch.

D.A. Gillis, on the automobile situation in 1913:

"Last winter (1912) C.A. Thomas, accompanied by George Black made the trip over packed snow of the overland trail between Dawson and Whitehorse, the entire distance of 365 miles in 33 hours actual travelling time. This was the first car to make the run over that route."

NOTE: The reader of today will likely estimate that this road test gives a speed of about 11 miles an hour, which contrasts so violently with present speed records. But lest that eleven miles record provoke a condescending smile or smirk let it be remembered that the car used was amongst the first manufactured - that the time of the year was a Yukon winter - and that the trail was really a trail not a modern freeway.

Later in the spring of 1913, Joe Boyle drove his car over the entire road in good time.

One fullpage ad in the Sourdough edition by Greenfield and Pickering buoyantly declared

"WE HAVE THE ONLY 7 PASSENGER TOURING CAR FOR RENT  
IN THE KLONDIKE"

1940

There were 110 paid up members, a drop from previous years. 314 persons attended the March 4 Banquet of which 24 were complimentary. The Georgia charged \$1.00 per head. Tickets were sold for \$1.25 providing a surplus of \$22.00.

75 members attended the Annual meeting. Pres. R.A. Ballentine reelected, Vice-Pres. Maurice DeLeon, also Parker & Dusenbury back in their old place. New committee members Ben Craig, George Smith.

The war was on, bringing restriction on travel. The International was held at Yakima and permission was obtained to purchase excess U.S. funds for our delegates. Past President Henry Macaulay was elected International President.

Our Association donated \$50.00 to the National Air Fund. A committee was also set up to assist the Ambulance Fund.

A social evening for November 8 was held in honor of Robert W. Service. His wife and daughter also attended the meeting. Among Sourdoughs crossing the Great Divide during the past year were our highly regarded first President, Dr. Alfred Thompson, whose loss was felt by all, also Bob Allen, Chas. Anderson, Billie Moore, Judge Wickersham, Dave McKay, Hector Morrison, Sam McCormick, Capt. Staples, Mrs. T.G. Bragg.

From Minutes April 24, 1940:

"Moved by Sourdough Reid, seconded by Sourdough DeLeon, that a membership committee consisting of Sourdoughs McSmart, Clegg and Smith, with power to add, be formed for the purpose of adding new members to the Association". Carried.

Every few years membership drives took place, although no information is provided on their techniques, results, etc., except to report good results.

During the first 12 years of its existence, our organization held between 4 to 6 socials a year. The dates were announced before each social. However, in 1940, the Castle Hotel kindly advised they have set aside the second Friday of each month as Yukon night. Thereafter, we were able to meet on a regular basis.

Item: Lord Tweedsmuir, Canada's first native born Governor General, passed away February 24, 1940.

1941

Tickets for the March Banquet were again set at \$1.25. 340 members and friends attended.

55 members attended the Annual meeting. 22 ballots for election of executive committee. Subsequently the following officers elected: Pres. Maurice DeLeon, Vice-Pres. Archie Black, Treas. and Secretary unchanged. New committee members Alex Matheson, John Mellish and Dr. Z. Strong.

Our new President, Maurice DeLeon, went to the Yukon in 1898. With his older brother he was engaged in the Hotel business in Dawson for many years. Came to Vancouver and continued in the Hotel business, acquiring an interest in the Castle Hotel and due to his generosity we obtained adequate space, free of charge, for almost 30 years. Apart from this significant donation, he also contributed sums up to \$500.00 at a time to assist us. Furthermore, he left \$2000.00 to us in his will.

The International Reunion was held, but due to currency restrictions few Vancouverites were able to attend. However, delegates DeLeon and Macaulay were able to go.

Among those crossing the Great Divide were Bob Macaulay, Dr. Wm. Catto, Speiler Kelly, John Mellish, Sr., Mrs. Chas. McLeod. A.H. Cameron, Mrs. Alfred Thompson, Frank Britton.

Despite the sums distributed to needy members, the financial statement for 1941 disclosed assets of \$993.00, including promissary notes from members for \$153.00. Part of this prosperity was due to free rentals from the Castle Hotel. Still we can see the fine hand of Mr. Dusenbury with his annual surpluses. Too bad he wasn't our Minister of Finance in Ottawa.

## 1942

From the Minutes; "Moved by Sourdough Scott, seconded by Sourdough Macaulay, that the 1942 Banquet be held on the Saturday nearest to Geo. Washington's birthday." We suppose this motion was to attract as many U.S. Sourdoughs as possible. However, in February, it was decided to cancel the Annual Banquet and hold a Social instead.

A Finance committee was a permanent feature, its main purpose to raise funds to send delegates to the International and provide assistance to indigent members. A visiting committee was also quite active.

During the year our funds ran low, but were helped out by a donation of \$100.00 from Pres. Deleon, for relief purposes.

50 members attended the Annual meeting April 10. New Committee members elected were Jack Evans, W.E. Haddock, Tom Lamb. At a committee meeting all 1941 officers were reelected.

The International Reunion was held in Seattle. Our delegates were M. DeLeon and Chas Reid. Many Vancouverites attended.

One interesting resolution passed August 10 - "That the P.G.E. Railway be made a part of the proposed R.R. to Alaska", and presented to the International at Seattle.

Among those crossing the Great Divide as noted in the 1942 Annual Report are, Harry Strong, Garnet C. Watt, John Gibben, Dick Gillespie, Frank Pike, Mr. & Mrs. T.A. Firth, Dr. D.J. Ball, Mrs. W.W. Moore. In listing the number of deceased persons, we use the names quoted at the Annual meeting so that most of the list actually passed away in the previous calendar year.

Six well attended socials were held during the year, but the 17th of August picnic was cancelled and does not appear to have been reactivated.

### Item: Banquets

Between 1928 and 1974, the March Banquet was cancelled on 5 occasions. In 1942-1943 and 1944, due partly to smaller membership and largely due to war time travelling restrictions, also in 1948 and 1954 when the March Banquets were cancelled in favour of the International Reunions in September. The largest attendance at any Banquet was in September 1948 when 642 persons attended.

The cheapest Banquet 1938	-	\$1.00 per ticket
The most expensive 1974	-	\$7.00 per ticket

1943

On February 16, 1943, it was decided to postpone the March Banquet.

One of our members, Mrs. Geraldine Sharp bequeathed her small estate of \$127.94 to us at the same time requesting us to look after some funeral expenses which amounted to \$60.00.

At the Annual meeting April 10, Pat McIvor and Tom Tellefsen were elected to the Committee. Subsequently elected: Pres. Archie Black, Vice-Pres. Tom Lamb. No change in Treasurer and Secretary.

Our New President Archie Black, went to the Yukon 1904 where he operated a prosperous meat business. Married Louise Forrest in Dawson 1912. Left the Yukon 1920, came to Vancouver and was active in our organization almost from its inception, and one of its most popular members. Passed away 1956.

\$25.00 was donated to the George Pringle Bursary Fund.

National flags were exchanged with the Seattle Pioneers. Discovery Day was celebrated, not by a picnic, but for the first time, a Social.

Among those crossing the Great Divide April 30, 1942 to April 30, 1943 were our highly respected Past President Thos. J. Kearney, George Pringle, Jr., Jack Wyness, Wm. Rendell, John Hawksley, Judge Robertson, Mrs. Amande McKay, Capt. McLeod, Mrs. Dr. Strong, Howard McMillan, Mrs. Agnes McPhail, Horace McKay and many others.

At the Annual meeting April 10, the President remarked that it was a very successful year and no doubt it was relatively successful, as far as the various activities of the Association were concerned. However, the steady death toll of ninety-eighters and other Sourdoughs was having its effect and we see a gradual diminishment in active membership during the 40's. However, this trend appeared to reverse itself in the 50's and we note a record membership in the 1960's, as people leave the Yukon and retire to Vancouver. Also the sons and daughters of Pioneers began to join us. We also firmly believe the clientele built up by our Secretary, Helen Parker, was a major factor.

Item:                    Advertisement

New Plymouth Sedan for sale, \$695.00 U.S.



1944

For the 3rd year in a row, it was decided to postpone the March Banquet. Travel and other restrictions during the war were deterrents, also a dwindling membership. However, it was decided to hold a Banquet in 1945.

At the Annual meeting Tom Ainsworth, James Hooker and Dan Matheson were elected as newcomers to the Executive Committee. Messrs. Black, Lamb, Dusenbury and Parker were subsequently re-elected as the Officers of the Committee.

There is very little to report upon this year.

Among those crossing the Great Divide were our Past President, R.A. Ballentine, Committee member Thos. McSmart, both of whom have done yeomen work for our organization; Geo. Howes, Dr. J.N.E. Brown, Vic Grant, Mrs. Henry Macaulay, Mrs. John Wyness, Chas. Wynn-Johnston.

During the war years, Robert Service spent a short time in Vancouver at Sylvia Court. The following is a letter he wrote in response to an invitation to one of our socials:

Sylvia Court,  
Vancouver,  
18th August 1944

To Vancouver Yukoner's Association  
Castle Hotel,  
Vancouver.

Dear Friends:

Many thanks for your kind invitation to be present at your gathering. I would love to attend but an unfortunate cold has caught up with me after two years of immunity, and an angel with a flaming sword will not allow me to whoop it up in the evening with a bunch of the boys and girls...

If you should be having another show before my return to the banana belt I will be glad of a bid, and in the meantime I send greetings to all old friends and new, and hope for a future opportunity to prove my good fellowship.

Hoping everyone will have a rousing good time,

Yukonically yours

(signed) Robert Service

1944 cont.

In 1944, our Executive consisted of the following members:

Tom Ainsworth	T.A. Lamb
Archie Black	Frank Lowe
Ben Craig	B.J. Parker
B.R. Dusenbury	Wm. Styles
W.E. Haddock	Tom Tellefsen
James Hooker	Dan Matheson

Past Presidents R.A. Ballentine, Maurice DeLeon were also on the Committee.

HEARTS ACROSS THE BORDER

A neighbor must be heaven sent  
To seem as fair as this  
Who wouldn't share a continent  
with such a next-door Miss?

Northern Lights are in her eyes;  
Her skin like northern peaches  
Her hair is ripened wheat that lies  
Along the prairie reaches.

And in the States we all agree  
We're glad that it's in order  
To clasp, not Hands across the sea  
But Hearts across the Border.

Dear Folks:

You have been so good to us in so many ways that we would like to express our appreciation in some more substantial way than by words for they seem to mean so little for what is in the heart. We do appreciate your friendship.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

(signed) Clara and A.J. Goddard

Capt. Goddard was the first President of the Seattle Alaska Yukon Pioneers.

1945

The Constitution was changed to allow all Past Presidents to be ex-officio members of the Executive. As there were 6 Past Presidents still living, the Committee received quite a boost.

The Banquet & Ball at Hotel Georgia was held for the first time since 1941. 302 persons attended. Tickets \$1.50 each.

At the Annual meeting April 13, the word arrived that President Rossevelt had died, so a letter of condolence was sent to the U.S. Consul in Vancouver.

Messrs. Burd and Crosbie were added as new Committee members. Subsequently the following officers were elected: President Tom Lamb, Vice-President W.E. Haddock. Secretary and Treasurer unchanged.

Tom Lamb, our new President, went to the Yukon in 1903. With his two brothers, he mined for several years and returned to Vancouver in 1910 and with their savings entered the lumber business and logged in various parts of B.C. He was a hard worker for our group and served a number of years on our Executive. He was also International President in 1954.

Sourdoughs who have crossed over the Great Divide during the past year (1944-45) include Past President Henry Macaulay, who has been an active member of 17 years and also was International President in 1940; Judge Macaulay, who presided over the Yukon Court for many years, Mrs. Tom Tellefsen, Turner Townsend, Jim Fairborn, Mrs. Ainsworth Sr., Harry Chapman, Billy Williams, Herschel Stringer, F.G. Berton, father of Pierre Berton.

Memo: An advertisement in the Whitehorse Star 1910 -

Stanfields unshrinkable underwear. This is made of Nova Scotia wool which means the best in the world. Everybody should wear it in the Yukon.

Arctic Trading Co.  
F. Martin, Mgr.

1946

The Annual Banquet was held at the Georgia. Prices up to \$1.75 per ticket now. Inflation has started.

At the Annual meeting, Secretary Parker was made a permanent member of the Executive committee following the same procedure as per Past Presidents.

New members elected to the Committee were Capt. Wm. Cowley, John Fulton and Chas. Vifquain. Subsequently all the Officers were reelected for the coming year.

Dr. George Pringle was still Chaplain and Messrs. Hon. George Black and Hon. T.D. Pattullo were still Honorary Presidents. For 18 years Executive meetings were called for 5:00 P.M., now changed to 8:00 P.M.

The International was held in San Francisco. Messrs. Lamb and Parker attended.

Deceased oldtimers during past 12 months included Joe Brewer, who was blind for many years and received much needed assistance from us; Bob Craig, F. Schink, Beatrice Lorne Smith, "Song Bird of the North", Jas. Gibbon, James Wilson, Mrs. Kenneth Forbes, Norman A. Watt and Col. R. Field.

During the 1940's, attendance at Executive meetings was only fair. Few of the Past Presidents attended meetings. One must recollect that during the first 20 years of existence, our Committee included Sourdoughs of the old school, strongly individualistic, sprinkled with a few lawyers and politicians and so, while the Minutes of meetings seem smooth and placid, such was not always the case, and at times, we are told, discussions became quite acrimonious which may have been a reason for absences. In two elections, with 12 present, 5 persons were nominated for Vice-President, 2 withdrew and the other three battled it out. Also the President could always depend upon his heavyweights, Messrs. Parker and Dusenbury to be there and possibly some members would take the false position that their presence didn't count. Today 1974 attendance at meetings is around 90%, quite a change.

1947

It was decided to host the 1948 International and a Committee was set up to organize it. As usual Mr. Dusenbury was the pivot and G.M.

The March Banquet drew a crowd of 342 persons. Mike Mañoney, well known Sourdough, now living in Ottawa, was guest speaker.

Elections: William Pringle was added to the Executive Committee. Subsequently W.E. Haddock was elected President and Thos. Ainsworth Vice-President. Ben Craig had been the official receptionist for many years and was continued in that capacity.

Our new President, W.E. Haddock, went to the Yukon in 1898, did some mining with his brother and father. Also was in the men's clothing business for awhile. Left the Yukon in 1904, was married in 1905, lived in Winnipeg and worked for Eatons for 16 years, then came to the Coast. Was very active in our organization for many years. Passed away 1953. His oldest son, the late Courtenay Haddock, was Mayor of Victoria in 1968.

We were much saddened by the demise of our faithful Committee member, T. Ross Moulton, who went to the Yukon in 1896, first to Circle City, then to Dawson. Went into the Customs in 1903, left the Yukon 1911. Among others crossing the Great Divide were Hank Cole, Tom Newman, G.B. Joy, Davie Elliott, Herb Winaut, Mrs. Wm. Styles and our former Committee member, Archie Scott, who has made such valuable contributions to our organization. Also Mrs. Dave Ballentine.

Item from R.W. Hibbert's "Nuggets in the Gold Pan:

It is amusing to consider the fact that nicknames have been assigned for or based on some comparatively incidental reason but have been transmitted even up to the present, now known quite generally by all Klondikers. There is Waterfront Brown, Deephole Thompson, Soapy Smith of Skagway fame, and Bible Smith who is reputed to be a brother of Soapy, Gumboot McLeod, K.T.M. Johnstone as distinct from Rubberneck Johnston, Cow Miller, Spieler Jack. To the Klondiker the first or Christian name of the above is frequently unknown and unnecessary.

1948

W.E. Haddock reelected President, Tom Tellefsen Vice-President. New Committee members Messrs. Corby, Dick Pringle and F.C. Heath. The management Committee was increased from five to seven members and the Executive Committee was increased from 12 to 15 members. As there were 7 Past Presidents eligible to serve, our Executive has grown to 22 Members.

Klondike Kate, through Mrs. Haddock, presented the Association with a birthday cake on its 20th Anniversary.

127 members are recorded as paid up.

The March Banquet was held as usual. Over 300 in attendance and a surplus of \$282.00 acquired.

The International Reunion was held in the Vancouver Hotel on August 12 to 15th inclusive. Bert Parker was President of the International for 1947-48 and occupied the chair. Charges: Registration 50¢, Banquet \$2.50, Ball \$1.00, picnic 75¢ - Total \$4.75 per ticket. As usual the financing was held separate from the general fund. \$400.00 was borrowed from W.T. Styles to commence operation. Without any advertising 642 persons attended the Banquet. Some financial figures - Donations from merchants:

Merchants --	\$1,300.00
Sales of tickets	2,517.00
	<hr/>
	3,817.00
Surplus transferred to General a/c	745.00

From all accounts a highly satisfactory affair.

After 20 years of dedicated service, our highly respected Secretary, Bert Parker passed away shortly after he chaired the International. He went to the Yukon in 1898, was Circulation Manager for the Yukon Sun and Klondyke Nugget for many years. Came to Vancouver in 1918 where he joined the B.C. Forest Service. As Secretary, genial, handsome Bert Parker could always be depended upon to use his charm to sooth the ruffled feathers of fellow members when occasion demanded it. His story "A Kid in the Klondike" was serialized in McLeans Magazine in 1953. Some of his material was used by Pierre Berton in his book "The Klondike".

Mrs. Helen Parker was elected temporary Secretary in his stead.

Donations of \$25.00 made to Community Chest. \$50.00 for Christmas cheer and \$50.00 to the Alaska Weekly for their co-operation during the International.

The annual dues were changed from \$1.00 each person to \$1.00 for man and wife. \$1.00 for a single person.

1948 cont.

A special drive was prepared for new members. No record of how or results.

Among those crossing the Great Divide were Wm. Holden, Jas. Ryan, Mike Walsh, Jack Faulkner, Pat Egan, Geo. Sibbald and Wilfred Stringer.

- - - - -

FRIENDS OF THE GOLD RUSH DAYS

I wish I were with you tonight,  
To talk of the days that are gone,  
I wish I were there by your side,  
To join in an old fashioned song,  
But, I can't  
So I send to you Memories,  
Of trails neath the far Northern Light,  
And I send you the Love of a Sourdough,  
And the wish for all good thoughts tonight.

While you grasp the hand of a Sourdough friend,  
And you live once again those thrills,  
Searching again for the Rainbow's End,  
In the far Yukon's Northern hills,  
Won't you pause a Moment,  
And in silence stand,  
While we breathe a Prayer for a Vanishing Band,  
Our Sourdoughs \*\*\*\*\*

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

Faithfully,

Kate Rockwell Van Duren



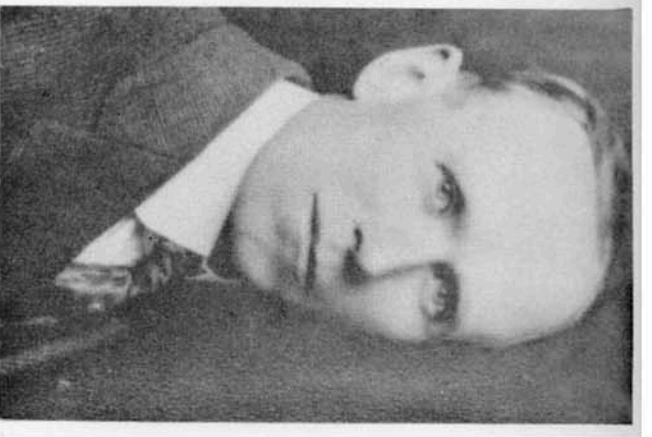
DR. ALFRED THOMPSON  
President - 1928



LT. COL. H. D. HULME  
President - 1929



MAJ. W. M. MCKAY  
President - 1930



FRANK LOWE  
President - 1931



B. R. DUSENBERRY  
President - 1932-1933  
President International Saurboughs - 1935



J. S. MACKAY  
President - 1934



THOMAS J. KEARNEY  
President - 1935



H. C. MACCALLUM - President - 1936  
President International Saurboughs - 1937





**CHARLES REID**  
President - 1937 - 1938



**R. A. BALLANTINE**  
President - 1939 - 1940



**MAURICE DE LEON**  
President - 1941 - 1942



**ARCHIE BLACK**  
President - 1943 - 1944



**THOMAS A. JAMES**  
President - 1945 - 1946



**WM. E. HADDOCK** - President - 1947-1948  
President International Scoutboughs - 1950



**T. TELLEFSEN**  
President - 1949 - 1950



**WALTER HAMILTON**  
President 1951-52  
Pres. International Scoutdough Reunion 1960

1949

The following members were elected to the Executive for the coming year:

Ben Craig	Allan H. Fraser	R.E. Piper
Frank Corby	Jas. Hooker	W. Pringle
Robt. Dick	Frank C. Heath	W.T. Styles
Dr. Allan Duncan	Walter Hamilton	Tom Tellefsen
F.C.O. Edwards	Wm. Lawton	Chas. Vifquain

Subsequently elected for President, Tom Tellefsen, Vice-President, Frank Heath, Treasurer B.R. Dusenbury and Secretary Mrs. Helen Parker.

Tom Tellefsen, our new President, went to the Yukon in 1898, established a stationery business in Dawson. Left in 1903. Came to Vancouver 1906, setting up business as an Auditor, later joined Brooks Corning Supplies for many years. He was also Editor of the B.C. Oddfellow. He was President of the International in 1958. A cheerful, gregarious man, well liked by all and always interested in community affairs. Died in a car accident 1965.

It was moved and carried that the Secretary's Honorarium be increased from \$50.00 to \$65.00 per annum.

The International was held in Los Angeles. The Annual Banquet reports 294 dinners at \$1.75 were served. A \$22.00 surplus ensued.

A Wedding Anniversary card was sent to Capt. & Mrs. Goddard of Seattle on occasion of their 63rd Wedding Anniversary. The Captain was one of the first steamer Captains on the upper Yukon River. He was influential in forming the International Reunion, was a great friend of our Association and he and his good wife usually attended our Annual Banquets.

It was moved that whenever the names of deceased members are read out at our Social gatherings, that a minute's silence be requested.

Our Chaplain for 14 years, the Rev. Dr. George Pringle, passed away. Among other oldtimers who crossed the Great Divide were Harry Fletcher and James Thompson. A complete list of deceased Sourdoughs was not prepared this year.

We were particularly saddened by the passing of George A. Jeckell. The exact date of his decease is missing from our records. While not a member of our Association, he was respected and honored by thousands of Yukoners. He went into the Yukon as a school teacher in 1902, was Comptroller in 1913 and made Commissioner in 1932. With a budget of about 1% of the present one, he was able by skilful administration to keep all the essential services going and managed to look after the human side and needs of the old Sourdoughs. A man of utter integrity and simplicity. A school in Whitehorse has been dedicated to his memory.

1949 cont.

The old coffee urn, donated to us by Chas. Reid, is of no further use to us. We have donated it to the Vancouver Archives. We quote the following letter from Major Matthews:

CITY ARCHIVES  
Vancouver

CITY HALL  
2nd Sept. 1949

COPPER COFFEE URN  
(large; square)  
HASTINGS SAWMILL

Dear Mrs. Parker:

On or about Dec. 2nd last, 1948, the President, Executive and Members sent us an old copper urn for preservation.

This afternoon it came back from Messrs Henry Birks & Sons where it had been sent to have its story engraved upon it. I represented to Mr. Wallace Parker, in charge of the manufacturing department of Messrs Birks, what was wanted, and he recommended that the engraving be right on the urn itself, and not on a small plate affixed to it. So that there has been engraved with skill and beauty, the following inscription.

COFFEE URN

FROM

HASTINGS SAWMILL COOKHOUSE

-φ-

Hot coffee for the refugees  
of the GREAT FIRE  
13th June  
1886  
was made in this copper urn.

-φ-

Presented by  
THE VANCOUVER YUKONERS ASSN  
1948

It would be most agreeable to me if you would be so kind as to let the President and Members know that we admire the astuteness of sending this old relic to us. It is displayed in a prominent place and is, already, attracting the attention of those who come here. It is beautifully engraved; we are quite proud of it; it is a valuable acquisition.

With my deep respects.

J.S. Matthews. CTTY ARCHIVIST

1950

For the Annual Banquet 315 tickets were sold at \$2.25 each. A loss of \$35.00 was shown (very unusual for Dusenbury). 40 persons came from Seattle. New Names elected for the Executive were: Harry Jones, John G. Ford and J.C. Fulton. The Officers were all reelected for a second term. Dean Swanson was delighted to act as Chaplain.

The International Reunion was held in Portland. Our Committee recommended that Chas. Reid be our choice for President, but we were overruled and W.E. Haddock appointed instead.

It is noted the ladies are getting a bit stingy with the sandwiches as a shortage developed at several meetings. When brought to their attention, the ladies ever after brought more than sufficient and the surplus was donated to others. For many years through the kind services of Sourdough Johnny Melville, such surplus has been donated to an orphanage.

21 Members crossed the Great Divide last year. No list on file, but we notice Mrs. Cowley and Mrs. Randle.

One of our Secretary's problems was receiving and answering letters regarding lost relatives. Such letters would be received from Canada, Australia, U.S.A. and Europe, requesting information on relatives or friends who had resided in the Yukon many years ago. Our Secretary would make numerous enquiries among members, sometimes enquiring through the International, and occasionally locating some one but usually the reverse. It was a time consuming chore, especially in the earlier history of our group.

In March an Honorarium of \$65.00 was voted to our Secretary, earned ten times over.

Sourdough Geo. T. Moir has written and published a book - title, "Sinners and Saints".

On January 10, a disastrous fire destroyed St. Mary's Hospital in Dawson and caused the death of Sister Mary Gideon. The Hospital was founded in 1897 by Rev. Fr. Judge, S.J., but was taken over by the Sisters of St. Ann in 1898. Many of our members responded to our appeal for funds to assist in relocation of the Hospital.

1951

A Report on the March Banquet shows that 225 Tickets at \$2.50 each were sold, a sharp drop from attendance at previous affairs. A charge of 75¢ was made to latecomers who arrived late to take in the dancing. However, this resulted in a paltry take of \$5.25 and was discontinued in future years. A deficit of \$64.00 occurred. A special committee was set up to find seats for older members. We understand a blizzard was responsible for the small attendance.

Murmurs began to circulate about this time regarding the unnecessary length of the speeches. It was many years, however, before such murmurs bore fruit.

Membership buttons were prepared by Birks and sold to the members for \$1.00 each. Harry Jones donated three dozen much needed cups and saucers.

During the past few years a charge of 25¢ admittance was made for members attending socials. This charge was now discontinued and substituted by the Gold Pan. In the 50's the collecting was frequently done by the ladies.

New Committee members elected were W.H.S. MacFarland, John Melville, Dan Livingston and Arthur Carnsew. Officers elected - President Walter Hamilton, Vice-President Art Carnsew. No other changes.

Walter Hamilton, our new President, born in Quebec, attended London Ontario Military School, went to the Klondike via the Ashcroft Trail in 1898, mined on Sulphur Creek for 3 years, entered the mail service and was in charge of Northern mails in Whitehorse, where he was married and came out to Vancouver in 1908. Served Vancouver City as an alderman for 5 years and secured Victory Square for the City after the War. He was also active in Real Estate. At aged 86, this remarkable old Sourdough wrote his book "The Yukon Story". Hundreds of hours of research were required for its well documented contents, which should be required reading for any student of the Yukon. Apart from City politics, he was one of the founders of the Social Credit Movement in British Columbia. Among other activities he was an N.C.O. in the Dawson Rifles, a militia unit formed in Dawson in 1900 by Capt. H.D. Hulme. Also served as International Reunion President in 1960. Quite a remarkable career. Passed away 1964 at age 91.

It was noticed a new Sourdough Club has been formed in Ottawa, likely due to Otto Nordling; Miss Margaret Ogilvie, Secretary.

43 New members were welcomed this year. Apparently our recruiting committee are getting results. Some of them are Northerners, but the majority are sons, daughters and grandchildren of the courageous band of men and women who conquered the Trail in '98. These

1951 cont.

newcomers cement new friendships and carry on the traditions of the North.

During the past year 16 of our members have crossed the Great Divide. Among them are Sourdough Halcomb, Mrs. F.O. Wilson, Dr. Brock Clarke.

Dean Swanson, our Padre, suggested a special Church Service for the Association, but the response lacked warmth and the idea was dropped. However, at a later date a fine turnout took place at the Cathedral.

THE CLEANUP

Here's to you, Partners, the season is done;  
Gleaned is the pay streak-the old dump is run;  
Grist of the glacier-your grub stake has won.

Cached is the shovel, the sluice head is dry,  
Windlass abandoned, the tailings spread by;  
With dust in the poke, we're facing the sky.

We scoured the tundra, rift, gulches and vale;  
In quest, near and far, we've followed the trail,  
Game to the finish whatever travail.

Trekged and stampeded, prospected the land;  
Fed the old rocker, sifted the sand;  
Hydraulicked, drifted, ground, sluiced and panned.

Calloused with hardship, furrowed with pain,  
Rocked with that torment, the wayfarer's bane,  
Blood-howl of wolf packs, raving the sane.

Gored with truck of the Chechaco brand;  
Goaded and battered, ribs up and slammed,  
Harried and censured, dogged and damned.

Yea! Scathing the blizzard but sun balm at last.  
Scars of the venture are healed firm and fast.  
Regret and resentment dissolved in the past.

We laud you, Sourdough, whether Klooch or old Buck,  
Whose heart, hand and faith, whose patience and pluck  
Cheered us aplugging through gumbo and muck.

Whatever the going, we tackled the dare,  
Fearless of failure tho' meager the fare,  
Through day's gloom or gloaming, your spirit was there.

What of reward? There's naught of our mind  
That covers the treasure, the gist of the grind;  
This be our measure-The Love of our Kind.

Comes now Our Cleanup and yours to behold;  
Agleam in these fiffles are nuggets of gold,  
Old friends and memories to have and to hold.

Kind permission of Mr. Frederic Atwood.

1952

346 persons paid \$2.50 each to attend the Annual Banquet. A deficit of \$145.00 occurred. At the next meeting it was decided that future banquets should be self-supporting. 50 guests from U.S.A.

Some reasons for recent Banquet deficits have been the large number of complimentary and expensive entertainment. Usually complimentary went to the newspapers, the padre and wife and several out of towners, also the entertainers, anywhere between 15 to 30 altogether.

22 new members were obtained during the year. 150 members attended the Annual meeting April 7 - a record, we think. Herb Lintner was elected to the Executive Committee. All the Officers were reelected for the coming year.

The matter of a theme song for the Yukon was discussed, based on a poem and song written by Johnny Dines Sr. We used the Poem as our Frontispiece.

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Craig held their Golden Wedding Anniversary. All the Executive members were invited as well as many other members. Sourdough Craig has served for more than 20 years as an active member of our organization.

There is no mention in the Annual Report regarding Sourdoughs crossing over the Great Divide.

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THE FIREWEED

Of all the flowers named in song,  
Which to the woodland nymphs belong,  
The fireweed in her glorious dress  
Transforms the earth with her caress.

From timberline to lonely dale  
She sings her song and like a veil  
Hides all the bare and barren ground,  
Until a garden there is found.

The forest fire's unseemly blot  
She covers now, and on the spot  
Where blackened embers strewed the ground,  
Her wreaths of fiery weed abound.

And when the winds of winter blow  
Her silken seed pods on the snow,  
A pure white shroud with crystals set  
Shall be her winter coverlet.

By Mrs. Sarah Drury Taylor of Whitehorse, Yukon.

317 persons attended the Annual Banquet at the Georgia. Ticket prices at \$3.25 are beginning to escalate in price. A surplus of \$69.00 was shown. At the next Executive meeting following the Banquet, Sourdough Dusenbury, who, over the years had made nearly all Banquet arrangements, rebuked the Banquet committee for their lack of cooperation in assisting him in the arrangements and neglecting his letters, etc. In future, he said, closer cooperation would be essential. Vice-President MacFarland admitted being one of the culprits and stated that as Sourdough Dusenbury seemed so capable, the committee had gotten into the bad habit of leaving everything to him. A hearty vote of thanks was then tendered to "Dusy" and he appeared much mollified. The Secretary was also thanked.

Again we see complaints raised by members on lengthy speeches at the Banquet and it was decided an effort must be made to curb them.

Elections: Sourdough Kearney, Colvey and Rev. J. Ellis elected as new Executive members, and the latter appointed as Chaplain. Sourdough W. Pringle later resigned and Otto Nordling was appointed to his place on the Executive.

The International raised the per capita dues from 10¢ to 15¢ and our Executive were very unhappy, not due entirely to the increase but the fact that we were not consulted about the matter. However, it was decided to accept their decision.

It was decided to host the International Reunion in Vancouver for 1954, and tentative plans were made. As usual "Dusy" was elected to run the show. Fort Langley had previously organized a Sourdough Association and now invited our members to attend their Annual Carnival to which a large number responded.

Art Carnsew was elected President, W.H.S. MacFarland, Vice-Pres, Secretary and Treasurer unchanged. We notice the President was elected for a 2 year term. We also notice he was reelected the following year. Art Carnsew went to Dawson in 1938, left in July, 1949. He was employed as an accountant and assistant to Andrew Baird with the Y.C.G.C. He has been an active member since his arrival in Vancouver and when his term as President expired, took on the post of Treasurer for many years.

It was decided to cancel our March Banquet and concentrate on the Convention and to invite Robert Service to the latter.

Among those crossing the Great Divide were Past President W.E. Haddock who contributed so much to our Association; J.P. Smith, a 98'er who returned to Vancouver in the 20's and became an expert on mining law, Mrs. A.J. Goddard of Seattle, a good friend of ours and the first woman to obtain a Pilot's license on the Yukon River, also Dr. W.E. Thompson and Mrs. Evans.

A hearty bon-voyage was given Sourdoughs Archie and Louise Black, who are to sail to the Old Country on the 28th of May.



1954

At the Annual meeting, the following new Executive members were elected: James Mason, G.W. McKay and Clarence Craig. Since the inception of the organization Hon. Geo. Black and Hon. T.D. Pattullo had annually been elected Honorary Presidents. The name of Aubrey Simmons was now added. All 1953 Officers re-elected.

As usual, Treasurer Dusenbury was elected to head the Convention, set for August 16 - 19. Sourdough Lamb who was elected in 1953 as President of the International, will chair the proceedings at the Hotel Vancouver. As usual, lists of businesses were proposed for possible donations. Tickets were \$8.00 each to cover all events.

It was decided to have Sourdoughs Craig and Nordling collect background information and anecdotes on some of our members.

The Convention was a huge success. Mayor Fred Hume attended and Hon. Geo. Black, M.P., the Hon. T.D. Pattullo and A. Simmons were among the principal speakers and requests to shorten their talks proved of no avail. Robert Service sent his regrets and enclosed a poem. Ticket Sales \$3,834.00. M. DeLeon \$500.00 gift, and public donations \$1,669.00 - Total \$6,003.00, a profit of \$1,330.00 was transferred to our operating account. An Honorarium of \$200.00 was donated to "Dusy" for the terrific work he accomplished. It was decided that in future affairs, a definite time limit would be given each speaker.

There were 185 paid up members.

For the first time in our Banquet History, were called up by the Hotel Vancouver caterer about a staff gratuity. We had never paid any in the past. He said it was customary at large Conventions to give 10% of the Bill as a gratuity. This would amount to \$250.00. After discussion \$100.00 was forwarded.

Our staunch and loyal supporter, Past President Maurice DeLeon passed away in August. During his long membership of 26 years, he had saved us thousands of dollars in rentals. He also contributed many cash donations and now in his Will, he bequeathed \$2,000.00 to our Association. Apart from financial support, he and Mrs. DeLeon were gracious hosts to all Sourdoughs at garden parties held at their home each summer. One of the very best and his presence will be sorely missed. Since his demise, Mrs. DeLeon has maintained a close relationship with us and for many years continued her garden party.

It is likely we will soon be obliged to look for a new meeting place.

1955

The Annual Ball was held March 12. Four speakers, Mrs. Berton, Lulu Fairbanks, W.A. Ellis and George Black were all warned to restrain their talks to 5 minutes and Rev. Hibbert, the main speaker, to 15 minutes. 255 attended. Tickets \$3.25 each and a deficit of \$135.00 was shown.

At the Annual meeting, Clayton Betts was added to the Executive. At the Executive meeting, W.H.S. MacFarland was elected President, James P. Begg, Vice-President. No other changes.

Our new President, Warren H.S. MacFarland, a Stanford University Mining graduate, went to the Yukon in 1908 with Yukon Gold Company (Guggenheim). After 15 years, went to Fairbanks as Assistant General Manager for Fairbanks Exploration Co., returned to Dawson in 1934 as General Manager of the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation. Retired in 1958. A handsome, courteous, intellectual, rather sensitive man. He acquired an International reputation on the technology and economics of placer mining. A highly moral person. He and his wife, Ruth, set high standards for the community. Deceased 1966, predeceased by his wife 1958.

The International was held at Eureka, Calif. and according to our delegates, Helen Parker and T. Tellefsen, it was very successful on all counts and the amount of hospitality shown the delegates was almost embarrassing. \$50.00 expense money was awarded to each delegate. Helen Parker was elected Assistant Secretary to the International.

1955 appears to be the year the McBride and Dawson Museums were opened, as we were approached for anything of historical interest.

468 names are shown on the roster of which number 208 are paid up. No improvement in membership during the last couple of years and it is decided to start another recruiting drive.

It is noted that we have \$3700.00 Bonds in the Treasury.

Past President Frank Lowe died in February. One of our original founders and a committee man for more than 20 years. His forceful presence will be missed. In his will \$300.00 was bequeathed to our Association.

Another Committeeman of long and outstanding service, Ben F. Craig passed away November 12. He left Ottawa in 1898 with Wm. Ogilvie to open the first official Post Office in Dawson. Another link with the past gone. His son, Clarence, has succeeded him on the Executive.

Among others crossing the Great Divide, were Major Dick Burd, Bert Gartley, Robert Hooker, D.J. Ryan, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Donnenworth, Major Doug Edwards, Alex Forbes, Capt. Breaden, Mrs. L. Sendall, Frank Corby, the latter a former committee member. Also passed away was Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, a prominent member for many years, who was associated with a number of social activities to upgrade services to disabled children, unemployed persons and Childrens' Aid Societies and other worthy causes.

1955 cont.

Robert W. Service was unable to accept our Banquet invitation. We quote verbatim the letter we received from him. Also the Poem he enclosed with his letter, February 17, 1955.

Monte-Carlo  
17th. Feb. '55.

Dear Mr. Dusenbury:

Please accept my sincere thanks for your so cordial invitation to my family and self to be present at your Annual Banquet.

I am very proud of my link with the Vancouver Yukoners' Association. I will always think of them with enthusiasm and have many fond memories of friendship and brotherhood.

I know that they are doing much good in the community, and have given many people who were in need a helping hand. May they long continue to express the gracious spirit of the High North.

For myself, I am as you know, in my eighty-second year and as Shakespeare so beautifully says:

"I am just an old coot  
Who aspires to stay put."

I do not think I will again dare to traverse the bounding main; but take my word that if I do it will be just to be with you.

Apropos of age I enclose a bit of verse which you might have some nice guy read aloud. You can hand it to the press if they are interested.

Love to all you folks, male and female.

Yukonically Yours

(sgd) Robert Service

SERVICE POEM

LAST OF LIVING IS THE BEST

The last of the living is the best;  
The olden years are golden years,  
When there will come a rhythmic rest  
Beyond the tempest and the tears;  
When memories of wine and song  
Are bravely buried in the past  
And we to home and love belong,  
The best of living is the last.

The shawl and slipper days are good;  
This I can stalwartly affirm,  
As I defy in mellow mood  
The petulance of waiting worm.  
For now I am my utter own,  
Playing the pantaloons with zest,  
A monarch on an armchair throne,  
The last of living is the best.

And so sweet people have no fears;  
I tell you from a brimming heart,  
Old age is rich with hope and cheer,  
You may rejoice ere you depart,  
A child-wise calm will come to you,  
The pain and passion overpast,  
Ah, you will see my say is true;  
The best of living is the last.

Feb. 1955

1956

In January it was decided that apart from the Dance orchestra, entertainment and speeches be abolished. Heath and Craig were Mover and Seconder. Despite the small crowd at the Banquet, about 210, it was voted a huge success, particularly by the membership who wish to do some visiting. A gratuity cheque for \$72.90 was made out for Georgia Hotel employees, but as they seemed to know nothing about gratuities, the cheque was destroyed and one for \$20.00 forwarded to Mrs. Cribbs, the head waitress.

After 25 years of dedicated service, Mr. Dusenbury, due to ill health, was obliged to resign. We have already dwelt on the significant contribution which he has made to our cause. He was appointed Honorary President.

At the Annual elections, Ed. Hickey was the only new member added to the 14 man Executive. President, Vice-President and Secretary reelected. Art Carnsew was elected to take the place of Sourdough Dusenbury.

57 of our members attended the International at Portland. An allowance of \$15.00 expense money was granted a number of oldtimers.

Our beloved Past President Archie Black passed away. His cheery presence and wise counsel will be greatly missed. Also crossing the Great Divide were Honorary President T.D. Pattullo, who went to the Yukon in '98. During his long tenure as Honorary President, he always made yearly contributions to our support. Also passing away were Mrs. I.O. Stringer, widow of Archbishop Stringer, Mrs. A. Coldrick, Rev. George Hughes, Kenneth Forbes, Frank G. Wilson, Ben Thomas, Mrs. S.M. Cookman, Aubrey Tennant, Milton Owen, killed in an airplane accident, Gene Hogan, W.J. Garret, Alex Forrest, and J.T. Patton who was President of the Y.C.G.C. for many years following the ousting of A.N.C. Treadgold; also Dave Ballentine of Dawson.

It may be of interest to learn that for the first time in our history, ladies were considered for the Executive. It is noted that Mrs. H. Lintner asked why women weren't nominated. However, she was shot down when Mr. Dusenbury informed the meeting that ladies were welcome to form an Auxiliary. However, the idea eventually bore fruit.

1956

"Villa Aurora"  
Monaco.

To Mr. Begg, Chairman of Vancouver  
Yukoners' Banquet and Ball to be  
held in Hotel Georgia March 10 at 6:30 P.M.

Dear Mr. Begg:

Greetings to all old-timers and may they be  
blest like me with hearts of cheer and twinkling eyes.

I enclose a recent bit of verse which might  
be read to the gang and then passed on to the Press if  
they want it.

Sincerely, signed "R. Service"

OLD SOURDOUGH

One meal a day is all I eat  
At eighty-three;  
From bed I leap with bounding feet  
Into the sea:  
A man who swims each morn at seven  
May hope for Heaven.

With ardour of an eager boy  
I hail the day;  
I have a rendez-vous with joy  
Along the way;  
Or hap'some humble victory  
To hearten me.

How long and sweet my life has been!  
Maybe because  
When everything was not serene  
I bluffed it was;  
And still I live with rythym though  
My tempo's slow.

They tell me sourdoughs never die,  
Just dim away!  
Well, I'm a pretty tough old guy  
And wait the day  
My Golden Wedding will be due,-  
"Be seeing you."

Robert W. Service.

1957

75 members attended the Annual meeting April 12. Allan H. Fraser was added to the Executive. Jas. P. Begg was elected President, Clayton Betts, Vice-President. The Vice-Presidency was a spirited election. For the second time noted, 5 names were placed in nomination for the post. A.H. Carnsew as Treasurer and Helen Parker as Secretary were also confirmed.

Our new President, Jas. P. Begg, went to the Yukon in 1921 and for some years served on the S.S. Tutshi. He later joined the Customs Department and served at the Summit, Carcross and Whitehorse. Left the Yukon in 1946 and retired from Government service in 1965. Jim has always been keenly interested in our organization and also the International of which he was President in 1963. Outspoken and highly regarded, has been one of our outstanding members.

After 29 years of rent free premises at the Castle Hotel, due to the generosity of the late Maurice DeLeon, we were now obliged to seek other quarters. An inventory of our furniture at this time discloses the following items which must be moved:

- A large number of photographs and pictures,
- 2 large flags, Canadian and American
- 2 Gold Pans
- 1 large aluminum coffee pot
- 1 electric hot plate
- several dozen cups, saucers, silverware

The above will be taken care of by Clayton Betts. 1 Mason & Risch piano in care of J.B. Hardy. We then moved to the Academy of Arts building on Broadway, rentals \$25.00 monthly.

Our March Banquet was held as usual at the Georgia. It was decided to sell the tickets at less than cost in order to assist some of our less prosperous members. 297 members attended. Deficit \$206.00. This deficit policy was followed for a number of years. It was also decided to discontinue the "Dinner Photograph" of the Head table, which had been a custom since 1928.

A letter and poem was received from Robert W. Service and copied and distributed at the Banquet. A copy of Klondike Kate's Will was also distributed.

Villa Aurora  
Monte Carlo  
15th Feb. 1957

Dear Mrs Parker:

"(Incidentally that was the birth name of my mother) -- thanks for your nice long letter and all your news.

I rejoice to hear of old friends. I am sorry Billy Sime has been knocked out, but am glad to know old Compt is still in the ring. Farming may not mean wealth but it sure spells health.

Of course I remember you, and the Banquet, and Bert's brave speech, and his tribute to you. It is still vivid.

If you see Jean rambling round say hello for me. In the eighties it is hard to have hundred per cent health, but I still rate seventy-five. I hope you and yours are all well, and with very kindest regards, remain

Your sincere friend

(signed) R.W. Service

I wish I could dance a Rock and Roll with you after the Big Feed on the 30th March.



To the

VANCOUVER YUKONERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL BANQUET, 1957

Whate'er your brand of hooch may be,  
Mumm's Extra Dry or barley bree,  
Or vulgar beer,  
Sourdoughs, across the sea tonight  
To you I raise a beaker bright,  
Of joy and cheer.

Far in my sunny Southern home  
I stare across the fairy foam  
In pensive mood;  
In spirit, at the very least,  
I'm with you at your merry feast  
Of Brotherhood.

And here, in seven years from now,  
I'll still be one of you, I vow,  
A wise old guy;  
I'll prove that Yukon hearts are stout;  
With you at ninety and not out,  
Age I'll defy.

Old Timers I don't want to boast,  
But let me offer you this toast,  
May never dawn  
Find you faint-hearted on the trail,  
The guts God gave you never fail,-  
SOURDOUGHS, MUSH ON!

R.W. Service  
Villa Aurora  
Monte Carlo  
Monaco

1957 cont.

There were 187 paid up members. Collections are slipping.

The Annual financial statement March 31, 1957 disclosed a large deficit (no amount mentioned) and a committee was set up to remedy this situation. (Dusy is already missed)

Mrs. Berthelsen, a good friend of ours and President of the International, died suddenly. She usually attended our March Banquets. Our Tom Tellefsen filled in as President and was elected for the following year. Mr. Gordon Lee of Victoria wished to host the International in 1958, but our Executive opposed the idea for a number of reasons.

Among Sourdoughs crossing over the Great Divide during the past year: Mrs. Matthew Watson, Mother of Bruce Watson, a true pioneer, who travelled the Trail of '98 and spent 60 years in the Yukon. A good neighbour and a helping hand were among her many attributes. Also E.O. Finlayson, who also went over the Trail of '98 and was accountant and Manager of the same branch Bank, Bank of B.N.A. (Bank of Montreal) for 39 years; as far as we know a Canadian record. A confirmed bachelor, punctual, meticulous, courteous, conservative and a good judge of human character, he was part of the Dawson scene. He was 87 years old. Others passing away were J. Hoodman, R.L. Pelton, Mrs. Stanfield, Mrs. Fred Hickling, E.A. Grant and many others. Klondike Kate, now Mrs. Van Duren, also passed away.

Klondike Kate (Van Duren)

Passed away February 1957. As Kate became a legend in the North and was, for many years one of our staunchest members, and as we have a file on her, we considered it advisable to give a little outline of her life.

Kathleen Rockwell was born in Junction City, Kansas in 1880, went to a Convent school in Spokane where she learned that she had the ability to dance, sing and entertain. When she was 15, she and her Mother went to Valparaiso, Chile, on a 4 masted schooner to join a relative living there and where Kate obtained a job in a kindergarten. She later joined her Mother in New York, also joined a touring troupe which went broke. Next joined a chorus line in New York. When the Yukon Stampede commenced, she settled her Mother in Seattle and made her way as far as Whitehorse, then returned to Victoria, B.C., where she became a member of the Savoy Theatrical Company of 173 members, which reached Dawson in 1900. Very shortly, Kate was the Belle of the Ball and sometimes earned up to \$750.00 a night for dancing her Flame Dance, singing and serving drinks. Unfortunately, she took up with Alex Pantages, who offered her a partnership in his show, which she largely financed from her earnings. They later went outside and opened up 4 theatres. When Pantages married, the partnership, never in writing, was ended. Kate had to sue for her share and received a paltry \$5000.00.

## Klondike Kate, cont.

For awhile she ran a small theatre in Victoria, also did some entertaining. In 1914, she married a handsome Cowboy, Floyd Warner and moved to Bend, Oregon. The marriage did not last.

In 1937, she married an old admirer, John Matson, a quiet miner, who remained in the Yukon all his life. Kate would visit him each summer. Johnny died in 1946. Matson Creek, a tributary of the 60-Mile River, is named after him. She later married Mr. W.L. Van Duren, a retired accountant, who survives her. During her long membership in our organization, she was always most thoughtful in making little suitable gifts. We also have on our files a number of her warm hearted letters. Her Will is as follows:

### MY WILL

And all that I can leave you  
Are memories of the past-  
The dreams we dreamed together  
That were too sweet to last.

To the tired and weary hearted  
Burdened down with all life's ills,  
I leave the sunrise on the desert  
And the twilight on the hills.

To the lonely and the old folks  
Many walks down Memory Lane...  
Hand in hand like childhood sweethearts  
May we wander once again.

To the boys and girls who told me  
When their foolish feet had strayed,  
I can leave at least the knowledge  
That they never were betrayed.

To the ones who bandied gossip,  
Tore my heart with two-edged words,  
I leave my full forgiveness  
To combat the bitter words.

To the friends who were so faithful,  
Through my laughter and my tears,  
I leave peace...and contentness,  
For their declining years.

KATE ROCKWELL

1958

242 paid guests attended the March Banquet; a deficit of \$191.00 occurred. Tickets were sold at \$3.25 each and the Hotel charged \$3.50. A staff gratuity of \$25.00 was also passed. At the next Executive meeting, when the Banquet was discussed, some fault was again found with the turkey. When the deficit was discussed, it was moved by Sourdough F. Heath, seconded by Sourdough Colvey, that future tickets should cover the cost of the dinner, but the motion lost 6-2.

Jas. P. Begg was reelected President, Clayton Betts, Vice-President stepped down and was replaced by James Hooker. Messrs. Andrew Baird, John N. Spence and Robert Piper were elected Honorary Presidents. Chas. J. Vifquain resigned from the Executive and was replaced by Mrs. Louise Black, the first lady to be elected to our committee. Mrs. Helen Parker and T. Tellefsen were delegates to the International at Long Beach. 7 of our members also attended.

In the fall, we moved into the Y.W.C.A.' Rentals \$17.50 per meeting. Executive meetings were held at Mrs. Louise Black's home.

The Fort Langley Klondike Association held their Annual Carnival. A number of us attended.

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Vigner, real oldtimers, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Our 29 pictures become a problem. The Library agreed to take them but would not display them. The Chamber of Mines, Museum and Archives couldn't use them, so they went their way to Clayton Betts' basement.

There were 266 paid up members, a large increase from the previous years.

We notice the Executive consists of 14 elected members and 7 Past Presidents, a total of 21.

Robert W. Service passed away in September. A cable sent to Mrs. Service, Monte Carlo, read as follows - "Sourdoughs gathered last evening and stood in silent prayer for our beloved Sourdough Robert and wish to express our deepest sympathy to you in your bereavement". Signed, Vancouver Yukoners' Association.

See attached article.

## ROBERT WILLIAM SERVICE

### BARD OF THE YUKON

While a great deal has been written about the Bard, it behooves us to set out a brief history of his life and efforts.

R.W. Service was born in Preston, England, January 16, 1874, the oldest in a family of ten children. To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Stanley Service of Ottawa is the only one still alive.

The father was a Scot and manager at that time of the Commercial Bank of Scotland at Preston, England. His mother was English, Sara Emily Parker. The name Service is a Huguenot one. Robert, who was usually called Willie by his family, first went to work for a Bank in Edinburgh at age 14. Incidentally the family moved to Scotland when he was five. He spent seven years on his job and during this time he discovered his faculty for rhymes and lyrics. By the time he was 16, more than 20 of his three verse lyrics had been published in Scottish papers and magazines. None had been rejected and he actually received half a crown (60 cents) for one of them. For several years, however, he lost interest in this work. He came to Canada in 1895 with \$5.00 in his pocket. After wandering around Vancouver Island for awhile, he took on a job as farmhand with the Corfield family near Cowichan. After a year on the farm, he went to California, where he tramped all over the State, living largely on oranges and biscuits. After a year of the sunny South, he returned again to the Corfield ranch, where he was given the job of Postmaster and storekeeper. He was very happy on this post which was not too demanding and lived well with the family. There were 5 Corfield brothers, some of whom are still alive. According to one account, he became acquainted with C.H. Gibbons, a newspaperman, who persuaded him to pursue his poetry and had one of his poems, an incident of the South African War, published in a Victoria paper and later, another poem was published, about 1903, possibly "The Little Red Cent". Also, according to Gibbons, he was instrumental in assisting Service in getting a position with the Canadian Bank of Commerce. In his autobiography, Service does not mention these incidents.

He does state in his book "Ploughman of the Moon", that when he left the farm, it was with the intention of being a schoolteacher which required a Normal School Certificate, and while studying, he composed a three verse Lyric (no name), which he sent to Munsey's Magazine and for which they paid him \$5.00--pretty good for an hour's work, he thought. He gave up the teaching idea and obtained the Bank job. He served at 3 branches in B.C. No names are mentioned, but we surmise they were Vancouver, Victoria and Kamloops. He was transferred to Whitehorse in 1904, where he served 4 years. He was entranced with the cool, harsh crispness of the Yukon and its interesting Pioneers. During his stay in Whitehorse, he mixed very little with the local society, but loved to go to dances. He relates "I have never been popular. I was polite and pleasant but leaned back socially. My lonely walks were my real life; the sheer joy of them thrilled me. I exulted in my love of nature and rarely have I been happier!" A shy man and a loner with empathy for the down and out.

Robert William Service, cont.

His first poems "Dan McGrew" and "Sam McGee" were written to pass away the time, but later he decided to continue with enough material for a small book. By Christmas 1906, he had sufficient material on hand. He mailed the manuscripts to his father, then living in Toronto, who took them to the Ryerson Press, a Methodist Church organ. "Songs of a Sourdough" was an immediate success and remained his most popular work.

He was moved to Dawson in 1908 where he soon completed "Ballads of a Cheechako", then "Rhymes of a Rolling Stone". His next effort was a novel "The Trail of '98". He took the manuscripts outside to his publisher in New York, then visited his family in Alberta for 3 months, after which he took an epic boat and canoe trip to Fort McPherson on the McKenzie River, over the Divide to the Porcupine and hence to Dawson. Shortly after, in 1912, he left the Yukon, never to return.

In the meantime, royalties from his books were pouring in. He left the Bank in 1910 and purchased a cabin on the hillside, which is now a Yukon shrine.

After leaving Dawson, he went to Europe as a Toronto Star reporter, covering the Balkan War. When the first World War broke out, he joined up as an ambulance driver and as a result produced "Rhymes of a Red Cross Man". This last work headed the best seller list for 9 months in the Bookman. He states "at one time I averaged 3 poems a week and in five months had written 60. In 1915, he wrote "I write of the things of today for the people of today" and he gave people what they wanted, melodrama, sentiment, vigorous excitement and thrills. In his modest way, he again mentions "They keep people awake at night, but they are synthetic plots, not stories. I was really ashamed of them and when people praised them, I winced". Reviewers used the word vivid. Yes, they were so vivid, they were almost convincing. Totally entertaining. "I regarded myself as a cross between Kipling and Sims".

Among other works, his "Barroom Ballads" were published in 1940 and well received and he continued turning out rhymes almost until his demise. He also was the author of at least 6 novels and, although well received by the public, did not arouse the same interest as his poetry.

Service liked France and settled there permanently after the First World War, near Monte Carlo. He had a villa at Lancieux, where there is a street named after him.

He married a French lady and had 2 daughters, Doris and Iris. Doris died in early childhood and Iris married Llewelyn Davies, Manager of the Bank of Monte Carlo.

Robert William Service, cont.

His mother, Mrs. Sara Emily Service, after the death of her husband, came to Vancouver to live with her son, Peter. She took a keen interest in our organization, attended the International Reunion in 1936 and was the first lady to be awarded the "friendship Bracelet" in honor of the oldest lady attending the Reunion. She passed away in 1938.

When the Germans invaded France, R.W. Service fled abroad. He visited Vancouver briefly in 1944. Returned to France in 1945.

In 1948, with his wife and daughter, he made a special flight to Vancouver to attend the International Reunion held here and was one of the guest speakers. He was a great admirer of the Parkers and it was Bert's invitation to him which prompted the visit.

In subsequent years, he found it impossible to accept invitations but continued to keep in touch by letter and sometimes by a special poem.

He died September 13, 1958, aged 84.

A Memorial seat in a Park in Cowichan has been dedicated to him.

A very extraordinary man.

"And so they dreamed and they vaunted  
Millionaires to a man,  
Leaping to wealth in their vision  
Long ere the trail began.  
Big shiny nuggets like plums  
There in the sand of the river,  
Gouging it out with their thumbs."

Villa Aurora  
Monte Carlo  
15th Feb. 1958

Dear Mrs Parker:

I was tickled to get your kind invitation to the Sourdough Supper. Believe me, I feel honoured and grateful, and wish I could accept. But as you know I am now in my eighty-fifth year and if I ambish to live to be a hundred I must not flout Providence by foreign faring. Please assure all the vintage sourdoughs I am with them in heart and spirit (or spirits) though I am obliged to cultivate slow motion in my movements. I wish I could hail the old gang with a cheer, but the best I can do is to wish them well for another year. So bless us all and once again with guts and grit MUSH ON!

With kind regards to you

Personally

Robert Service



Here is a bit of verse you can have read at the Banquet  
and if you wish pass on to the Press. It will be included in  
my Fall book:

Rhymes of a Reprobate.

SOURDOUGH'S LAMENT

When I was a Klondike high-roller  
I tilted my poke with the best  
And though the climate might be polar,  
I'd plenty of hair on my chest.  
Now while I've no trace of rheumatics,  
And maybe I shouldn't complain,  
I'm worried because I just ain't what I was,  
And I wish I was Eighty again.

I still have my love for the ladies  
Chuck grand-mammies under the chin;  
Yet having a horror of Hades  
I'm kindo' allergic to sin.  
Aye, though the hooch-bird be a-singing,  
I'm deaf to its dulcet refrain;  
When the going gets rude you've just gotta be good,-  
Gee! I wish I was Eighty again.

Some claim that the Nineties are naughty,  
Them statements I grieve to reverse;  
You've got to be humble not haughty  
To jigetty-jog of the hearse.  
I blink at a blonde in bikini,  
I shrink from the wink of champagne..  
But reforming, by heck! What a pain in the neck!  
Gosh! I wish I was Eighty again!

1958 cont.

Claude H. Bermingham

It was a stunning surprise when solicitor, L.A. Parsons, in the estate of Sourdough Claude H. Bermingham, deceased, informed us that \$10,000.00 had been bequeathed us and a further bequest of 1/13 of his estate, to help perpetuate the Association. When we received the 1/13th share in 1959, it amounted to \$3,447.00. All these funds were invested in Bonds and made a most welcome addition to our finances. We were unable to thank anyone as Sourdough Bermingham left no relatives. We have good reason to believe that Miss Eve Deane, Secretary to J.P. Smith, during her many interviews with our benefactor, had some guiding influence in the disposition of the estate. We are grateful to her. She is now a Life Member.

Sourdough Bermingham was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1872, attended Trinity College and subsequently moved to Canada. He arrived in Dawson in 1900 where he spent a number of years at various jobs including newspaper work. In the 1920's, went to Mayo and teamed up with C.R. Settlemeir to go prospecting. In 1929 they sold their claims to the Treadwell Yukon Mining Co. for an amount exceeding \$100,000.00, payable over 2 years. In 1933, he left Mayo and later came to Vancouver, where he passed away on his 81st birthday.

- - - - -  
AN INDIAN LEGEND

The Slide

This legend is in connection with a heavy land slide which, it is obvious, occurred at some time on the hillside back of Dawson.

An Indian Chief who lived under the shadow of the mountain had a beautiful daughter who was sought in marriage by the son of a neighbouring chief. As a result of negotiations between the two chiefs, the beautiful daughter was promised in marriage if the son proved a good hunter and trapper, which he did. On the day set for the bridal feast the Indians with the chief and his daughter asked permission of their visitors to retire to the mountain side for a final parting ceremony. When safely out of the way, the medicine man of the tribe started his fetish working and caused the slide to occur, which buried all visitors, including the bridegroom, thus the beautiful daughter was saved from being taken away from her people.

From "Nuggets in the Gold Pan" by R.W. Hibbert