

The POWDER MAGAZINE

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ELSA, YUKON TERRITORY

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Season Ends For Overburden Drilling



Terry Levicki examines an aerial photograph through the stereoscope, while Jim Ellerington contemplates—a new ore body?

How would you like to work ten-hour shifts outside in an isolated area that requires the use of respirators, ear protectors, and enough clothing and stamina to protect you against the different sorts of weather that can be expected between April and November? You're strong enough? Then you just might qualify for a job with the overburden drill crew.

Although the working conditions are not very desirable, overburden



John Currie bags a sample of crushed rock dust for the assay lab, while Qwen Moore watches the drill.



Above the treeline, the drill and compressor at Lucky Queen look like artillery on a moon base.

drilling is a necessary and important part of the exploration mining process. Through its drilling program, the Exploration Department discovered ore that led to the starting of production at the Townsite, Dixie, and Husky Mines.

In the Elsa-Keno area, UKHM holds a block of claims sixteen miles long and one to two miles wide. Galena Hill and Keno Hill are the usual sites for drilling, because the ratio of silver to lead is generally higher on those hills than in surrounding areas.

Most overburden drilling is done through permafrost. According to Chief Exploration Geologist Jim Ellerington, this is an advantage, because permafrost is solid and doesn't "give". In many areas, permafrost extends to 500 feet below the surface. Where moss or muskeg covers the ground, the earth usually stays

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Draftsman Peter Alfano. After Peter receives the assay reports on overburden drilling, he plots the drill holes on a map. Then he makes a section of each individual hole, showing the amount of lead and silver for every five feet drilled. Geologists Jim Ellerington and Terry Levicki examine each cross-section to decide whether or not it is worthwhile doing more drilling in that area. (Peter says his biggest headache is his sore back.)

Consumers Arise! Be Aware!

Don't complain to yourself — do something. When you, as a consumer, have a problem, take action.

This advice was offered by Lois Smith at a meeting for consumers held at Mayo in October. Miss Smith is a consultant with the Vancouver office of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. She was invited to speak at a meeting of the Consumers' Association of Canada in Whitehorse. After several residents of Mayo and Elsa voiced interest in talking with her, Miss Smith made a brief visit to Mayo.

The main purpose of Miss Smith's visit was to make consumers aware of the services provided by DCCA. One of the Department's most important functions is to act as a liaison between the consumer and the retailer or manufacturer, or between the consumer and an appropriate government department. Miss Smith said DCCA wants a fair deal for both the businessman and the consumer.

The Low Debtor Program is a special service offered by DCCA. If you are over your head in debt, you can find out how to get out of debt. The government subsidizes legal fees for this project.

Have you just invented a superior kind of snow-making machine? You can obtain a patent for it with assistance from the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. DCCA also helps those who want to copyright their poetry, designs, or other art works.

A number of laws exist to protect the consumer, and it is the duty of DCCA to enforce those laws. However, it is also the duty of the consumer—that's you—to report problems to the Department so the laws can be enforced for the protection of other people.

Under the Weights and Measures Act, a package that promises to contain a certain quantity of a product, must contain no less than the amount stated on the package.

DCCA enforces the Combines Act, which deals with trade practices, false statements, and misleading advertisements.

Electrical and gas installations are inspected to make sure they conform to certain requirements laid down by the government.

The Precious Metals Law requires identification of the amount of precious metals used in watches and other items.

The Food and Drug Act is enforced by the Health Protection Branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare. Mr. Roberts, at 212 Main Street in Whitehorse, is the inspector for the Yukon.

The Hazardous Products Act is concerned with hidden safety hazards. Items may be banned, or manufacturers may be required to meet certain specifications. For instance, it is now illegal to sell Jequirity beans in Canada. These beans, now known to be poisonous, used to be imported from Mexico for use in necklaces or as eyes in toy animals. Carbon tetrachloride can no longer be sold privately. Used in dry-cleaning, it is a solvent whose gas is poisonous. Household chemicals, such as cleaners, bleaches, and polishers, must carry labels showing the hazards involved and advising first aid treatment if these substances are mishandled. Also under the Hazardous Products Act, children's car seats must meet certain requirements.

The Textile Labelling Act states that all items manufactured after June, 1973, must indicate the manufacturer's name and address, as well as the types and percentages of materials used to make the particular item. Care labels and Canada Standard sizing in children's wear are voluntary.

What to do if you are unhappy about a product or the service of a dealer? Don't, said Miss Smith, throw a tantrum. Try to stay cool. Get your facts straight, then go to the dealer or write him a letter. If this doesn't get you satisfaction, complain to the head office of the dealer. If you are still unhappy after using these approaches, write to The Consumer, Box 99, Ottawa, Ontario. Or write to DCCA, Box 10059, 700 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C. But, Miss



Flying Kris Pavlovich follows through on a long shot during a strenuous singles match. This year, the Badminton Club has about sixteen active members playing two nights a week.

Smith emphasized, be sure to go to the dealer first. In any case, do something. Complain to the merchant about that shirt that fell apart after only two washings, the milk you bought that turned out to be sour, or the new camera that doesn't perform properly.

Want to keep informed? DCCA offers many attractive, easy-to-read, FREE brochures about their services. "Consumer Contact" is a newsletter published by the Department. It provides information and advice of interest to consumers. If you want to receive regular copies of this newsletter (it's free), write to The Consumer, Box 99, Ottawa, Ontario.

The Consumers' Association of Canada, a non-profit, non-government organization, puts out a valuable magazine six times yearly. The subscription costs \$4.00 per year. You can order yours from CAC, 100 Gloucester Street, Ottawa K2P 0A4, Ontario.

CAC has been responsible for many achievements of benefit to Canadians. After pressure from CAC, the government set up the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Also through the efforts of CAC, we now have the Hazardous Products Act, the Textile Labelling Act, addition of vitamin C to apple juice, expiry date labelling on vitamins, and non-deceptive bacon packaging. CAC continues to press for better standards for consumers.

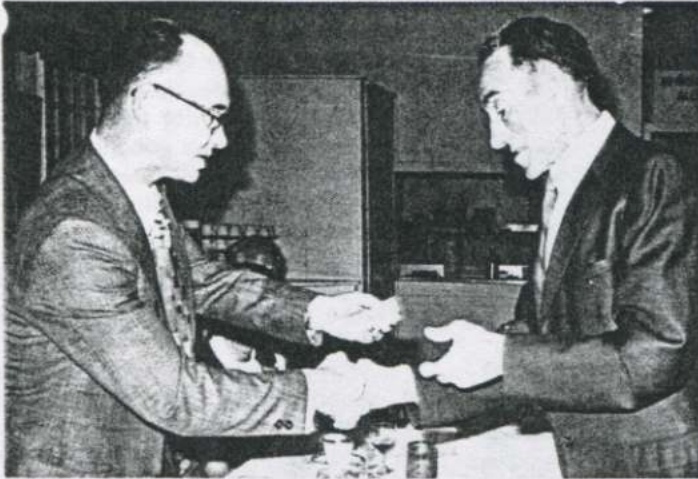
CAC has an active branch in Whitehorse. This group is respons-



This Christmas, invite a miner home for dinner.

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Oldtimers Honored at Banquet



Frank Schroyen has the longest record of continuous service. Here he receives a twenty-year pin.



Bill Case presents a ten-year watch to Albert Nawrocki.

It was leisurely dining, fond memories, and tributes at a special dinner October 27 honoring employees with more than ten years of continuous service to UKHM.

The evening began with cocktails at the Curling Club Lounge. After that, festivities switched to the Cook-house, where the oldtimers enjoyed a banquet featuring tenderloin steak, Cornish game hen, and deep-fried prawns. For many, the celebrations continued into the small hours.

After dinner, Mine Manager Bill Case expressed gratitude for the service of the long-time employees. He also paid tribute to the devotion of the wives, without whom, he said, the dinner would have been a much smaller affair.

Mr. Case said that, considering ore reserves and the price of metals, the future looks very good for United Keno Hill Mines. An added boost is the Company's copper deposit in the Minto area, which, said Mr. Case, is

almost certain to be a producing mine someday.

Mr. Case then presented watches to those employees with more than ten years of continuous service to UKHM. Those who have served the Company for fifteen or twenty years received silver pins.

The Company plans to make this dinner an annual affair.

Below is a list of employees with more than ten years of continuous employment at August 31, 1973, showing starting date of unbroken service with United Keno Hill Mines.

Frank Schroyen, June 11, 1949
 Arvid Grundmanis, June 6, 1951
 Vivian Brynmor Mills, July 23, 1953
 Louis Tjemsland, Jan. 7, 1954
 Frank Wasse, May 21, 1954
 Anton Sgorzelski, July 15, 1955
 Carl Skoreyko, Jan. 23, 1956
 Jack G. Andison, April 12, 1956
 Horst Munzenberger, June 6, 1956
 Wiktor Zochniak, April 17, 1957
 Konrad Berg, May 8, 1957
 Horace H. Raymond, Oct. 19, 1957

Andrew Proudfoot, May 8, 1958

Louis Maszu, June 13, 1958

Dieter Broszio, March 31, 1959

Leo Wozniak, June 3, 1959

Stanley Socha, Aug. 3, 1959

John Holzapfel, Jan. 5, 1960

Pietro Mancini, Jan. 17, 1960

Wojcisch "Albert" Nawrocki, June 3, 1960

Steve Binder, July 8, 1960

Louis Hochet, July 19, 1960

Steve Karabanowicz, Aug. 25, 1960

Alois Kiss, Nov. 16, 1960

Herbert Kriebel, May 3, 1961

Ralph Mease, July 26, 1961

Renny Burian, Sept. 28, 1961

George Vale, Oct. 4, 1961

Otto Lind, May 4, 1962

William George Bennett,

June 21, 1962

Istvan Racz, Sept. 6, 1962

Gunther Rentmeister, Nov. 12, 1962

Rudolf Franke, Nov. 27, 1962

Josef Wuerr, May 3, 1963

Robert S. Andison, May 21, 1963

Robert E. "Dutch" Van Tassell,

May 22, 1963



It was a fun evening, with everyone trading stories about the way it used to be. Enjoying their dinners are Louis Tjemsland, Ann and Andy Proudfoot, Ilse and Horst Munzenberger, and Katherine Berg.



Five of the fifteen employees in the Transport Department are oldtimers—Frank Schroyen (Supervisor of Transport), Horace Raymond, Ralph Mease, Carl Skoreyko, and Bob Andison.



Did their choice of costume bring out secret desires? We'll never know, but they all had a good time at the Elsa School Hallowe'en Dance. Here are members of the band—"Amigos" Dirk Rentmeister, Hansi Wozniak, and Peter Grundmanis—with "Sweet Petunia" Lorna Case, "Black Pirate" Bobby Binder, and Principal "Dirty Hippy" Bob Damm.

The Fire That Wasn't

Many people chipped in to help build the dressing rooms beneath the Rec Hall. Dirk Rentmeister was one of them. On the night of Oct. 23, he was busily pounding a nail into a board. In a flash, his hammer slipped, and hit—no, not his thumb—the sprinkler head. The sprinkler quickly set off the fire alarm. Soon, the town was vibrating with a clanging sound. Beneath the Rec Hall, steam and water flooded the dressing rooms to douse the "fire".

Fortunately, the plumbers came to the rescue.

Upstairs on the badminton courts, the fire alarm and steam pipe activity came through only as a muffled, but bothersome, noise. Badminton players were so keen on outwitting their opponents, they never realized there was a fire alarm. And so the games went on.

As for Dirk Rentmeister, he has decided to give up carpentry for awhile, and stick to pushing buttons on his record player.



Norman Case and Ralph Mease are busy sawing boards for the floors in the Hockey Club's dressing rooms underneath the Rec Hall. The Lions Club started the project two years ago. However, only a pit was dug. This year the Hockey Club got the ball rolling, and many people are helping. After completion, there will be two rooms, each thirteen feet wide, sixteen feet long, and six-and-a-half feet high. One room will be used to store Hockey Club equipment. The other will be open for skaters to change and warm up.

CONSUMERS (Continued from Page 2)

ible for broadcasting the "Yukon Consumer" program on CBC Radio. CAC in Whitehorse also sends out newsletters and other bits of information. To become a member, write to CAC, Box 4416, Whitehorse. CAC is concerned with anything that affects consumers.

DCCA offers some sound advice on consumer problems — "The best person to help you is you, yourself. Give it a try."

SEASON ENDS (Continued from Page 1)

frozen below a depth of eighteen inches. Near Husky Mine, however, the permafrost is not continuous. Pockets of water kept hampering drilling procedures.

Operated by an air compressor, the drill at Lucky Queen penetrated the earth to a depth of about 150 feet at a rate of fifty feet per hour. However, under very good conditions, it is possible to drill down 300 feet.

But overburden drilling is only one step in the exploration process.

According to Jim Ellerington, it's all very scientific — no work is done with the aid of rumours, willow rods, or clairvoyants.

First, a geologist studies geological reports of a certain area and samples the mineral content of streams in the region. Next comes claim staking and line cutting. Pickets are placed at 100-foot intervals, and the trees are cut to make a corridor two to three feet wide. (If you look at Sourdough Hill from a distance during the winter months, you can see the effects of line cutting. The hill resembles a cake cut into rectangular pieces).

After line cutting, a geologist maps the area. At each of the 100-foot markers, the soil is sampled from a depth of about one foot. A large amount of lead and silver found in a whole series of samples may indicate a vein in the area.

Overburden drilling follows soil sampling. If the results look promising, diamond drilling is done. A diamond drill can penetrate the earth much deeper than an overburden drill.

Providing diamond drill results are good, a program of underground exploration is carried out. And if all goes well, a new mine may be opened up.

As the overburden drilling season ends, exploration geologists Jim Ellerington and Terry Levicki are looking forward to a winter of evaluating the summer's drilling results and plotting next year's program. Jim says there is never a lack of places to drill. It seems these hills are a bottomless mother lode!

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