

The POWDER MAGAZINE

26 EDITION

ELSA, YUKON TERRITORY

APRIL, 1976

Mill Super Designs Company Decal

Mill Superintendent, Arvid "Butch" Grundmanis, is the man responsible for the creation of U.K.H.M.'s new decal, pictured at right. The design depicts the Husky Mine headframe against a backdrop of Mt. Haldane.

The crest was originally designed as a cover for the menus given out at last fall's Long-Service banquet. When the idea of a company decal arose, Butch simply added a color-scheme.

The new decals now adorn all Company vehicles and smaller versions are being issued to employees for their hardhats.

Though Mr. Grundmanis has not taken art lessons, he is a keen oil painter - his home is full of his paintings of our local scenery.



"Butch" Grundmanis admires his creation.



This recent arrival to our view of the McQueston Valley is a feeder for the Lime that is being added to the Settling Pond to provide better control of Mill effluent.



Contest

As a point of great historical interest, the Editors are sponsoring a contest to determine the "Oldest Inter-Office Mail Envelope in Existence."

What is required is that you verify the last date, or thereabouts, that the first person named on the envelope could have been in Camp, then pass along this information, and the envelope, to the Editors of the Powder Magazine, care of the Elsa Post Office.

Contest closes June 15, 1976. Winner will receive \$5, stuffed inside his antique envelope!





A local lady, Beatriz Gailitis, is among those featured in a recently published book titled, *Yukon Women*.

Beatriz, a ten-year resident of Elsa, is the wife of U.K.H.M.'s Electrical Department Head, Johnny Gailitis.

The article on Beatriz was written by Anthea Bussey, former Powder Magazine editor, and one of the four co-authors of the book sponsored by the Yukon Status of Women Council.

In the wide-ranging article Beatriz says one of the main problems with living in a mining camp is "lack of privacy - we're crowded together." Another is the uncertain future of a mine. "They never know how long they're going to go."

But "the women should learn to adapt. If you start complaining, each day turns worse."

Beatriz feels that once a person has adjusted to northern isolation, the Yukon offers unique opportunities for self-development. "The harshness of the Yukon makes you mature quickly. All of us are steadily changing but I'm completely different from the way I used to be. Here you have more time than Outside because the winter is so long. You can do lots of things like embroidery and knitting. I run out of time because I have so many things to do."

BIGFOOT

Call the "thing" the Abominable Snowman, Sasquatch, Bigfoot, or whatever, these hairy hominoids have been reportedly seen in our area. In the April, 1975 edition of *Argosy* magazine, writer Jim Scott says of these mysterious ape-like monsters:

"I have found tracks in eastern Washington through the Rocky Mountains via the Dawson Creek area to the Ross River-Keno Hill region of the Yukon Territory. Near Keno Hill, two friends of mine in their snowmobile saw 14 of the monsters. They were bedded down in the snow. When the snowmobile approached, the things raised up and lumbered off into the brush."

The History of Silver King

by TERRY LEVICKI
(Chief of Exploration at Elsa)

The first silver mine in the Keno Hill area was the Silver King Mine. The Silver King claim was staked in 1906 by H.W. McWhorter when he found argentiferous galena in Galena Creek, approximately 4 miles south of the present-day town of Elsa on the Mayo Road.

In 1913 McWhorter leased the claim to Jack Alverson and Grant Hoffman, who shipped 59 tons of ore to the smelter at Trail, B.C. They received \$269 a ton.

Thomas Aitken and Henry Munroe acquired the lease in 1914 and sent 1,180 tons of ore during 1914-15 to be smelted in San Francisco. In 1915 the Aitken Shaft was sunk and stoping yielded 2,566 tons bearing an average of 215 oz.-ton Ag. The mine closed in the spring of 1918.

In the next ten years a few short-lived operations came-and-went, yielding little, then in 1929 Treadwell Yukon Corp. obtained options on Silver King for \$165,000 and the nearby Webfoot and Webfoot 2 claims for \$300,000.

In 1930 a 200 ft. shaft was sunk and levels established at 100 ft. and 200 ft. Ore width was 5 ft. and was very high in zinc. Ruby silver was plentiful in the upper workings. On the Webfoot claim No. 2 shaft was sunk to 200 ft.

Treadwell continued mining until 1931. It had been intended to move the Wernecke

Mill to Silver King; however, since Silver King was high in zinc, and a smelter penalty was incurred when zinc was over 10% in the concentrate, and silver price was low the options on Silver King and Webfoot were dropped.

In Oct., 1933, Treadwell resumed operations and sunk No. 3 shaft 120 ft. to facilitate mining known high-grade. A new option for purchase of the Silver King Group from H.C. Ferguson and Jack Hawthorne for \$50,000 was taken by Treadwell in 1935; Silver King was re-opened, dewatered, and No. 3 Shaft sunk to 200 ft. A new shoot of high-grade (No. 2 Vein) was found. Mining continued until June 1939, when the mine closed.

Production reported during Treadwell operation totals 126,395 tons yielding 8,115,819 oz. Ag. for an average grade of 64.2 oz.-ton Ag.

In the early 1960s U.K.H.M. did some production and exploration work on the site. Production was approximately 20,000 tons of ore in 1963, and 23,000 tons in 1964. Work was discontinued late in 1965 after the mine yielded only 7,500 tons of ore.

In total, the Silver King workings are estimated to have produced 12-15 million oz. of SILVER.

(This is the first in a series of articles on the old mines in this area.)

SPRINGTIME IN THE YUKON



APRIL SHOWERS - BRING MAY SHOWERS



NURSERY SCHOOL GRADS. Moving into the Big Leagues of Kindergarten next year will be, from L-R: Adam Mease, Stacy Thomas, Marco Zotta, Elsa Gailitis, and Suzanne Sherwin. (Missing: Cathrina Carlisle, who also graduated this year.)

Foreman Receives Safety Award



Electrical Shop Foreman, Larry Crowther, recently was awarded a safety certificate for having completed 17,408 shifts without a man under his supervision suffering a lost-time accident.

The award, from the Mining Association of British Columbia, was presented to Mr. Crowther by Mine Manager George Dundas and Safety Supervisor, Rudi Franke.

Mr. Crowther's accident-free record dates from October, 1969.

Larry has lived in the Elsa area since 1959.

Since Discovery Day, August 17, 1896, in excess of two hundred million dollars worth of gold has been found in the Yukon.

Trekker Tricked

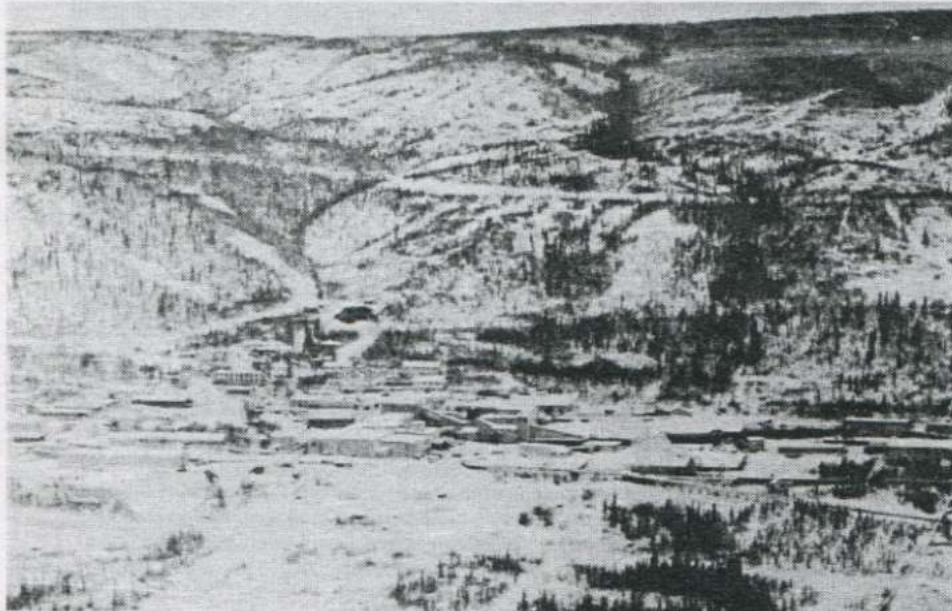
When Paul Roberts trudged into Keno City on April 22nd, it was the end of a 750-mile walk through the Alaskan wilderness that was to make him \$6,000 richer. •

Roberts, 32, of Honolulu, expected to collect a certified cheque for that amount at the R.C.M.P. station in Mayo - his winnings on a bet he could walk from Anchorage to Keno in 48 days. He made it in 36½. But when Roberts opened the envelope at the station he found two \$1 bills and a note containing slurs against the black, former

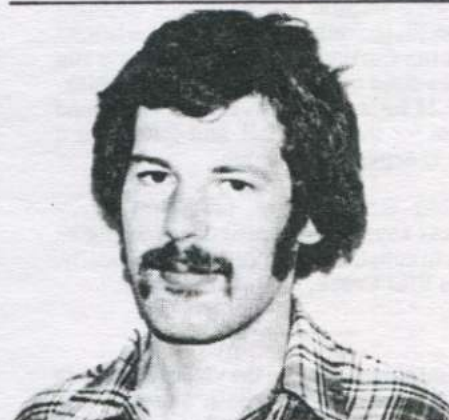
green beret paramedic. He made the bet with 11 people on March 13 only three days after he arrived in Alaska from Hawaii.

Roberts made the hike alone, wearing snowshoes, and was bound by the wager not to use skis or hitchhike.

He did not name the welchers but threatened to if the bet wasn't paid - and soon. He said he felt like "an idiot, a Yukon nut." He is now living on \$150 won in side bets with some Canadians, who he says, "are more honest."



EVER WONDER WHAT ELSA LOOKS LIKE FROM THE AIR?



A recent addition to Engineering staff is Surveyor Christopher Thomas, a graduate of the Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall, England. Mr. Thomas is accompanied by his wife, Andree, who is planning to provide a much-needed local service - that of Seamstress.

Out of the Mouth of Babes

Coming out of the Rec. Hall one day recently I stumbled over little Robyn Andison, four-year-old daughter of Heavy-duty operator, Bob Andison.

"What were you doing in there?" she asked.

"Running laps to get in shape," replied I.

"Well where do you live?" she continued.

"Up there," I said, pointing to the Apartments.

"Up there, near the Main Office."

Obviously perturbed by the reference to Main Office, she pondered for a few moments then said matter-of-factly, "Oh, you live in HEAVEN!"

E.R.A. NEWS

The Elsa Rec. Association showed a net loss in 1975 of \$3,877.96, based on total income of \$159,769.86, and total expenses of \$163,647.82, according to figures in the audited year-end financial report.

The Beer Parlour was the major profit-maker, clearing \$17,015.34, on income of \$70,074.47 and expenses of \$53,059.13. This means that, excluding pool table revenue, the Parlour sold about 105,000 bottles of beer last year. Curling Rink profit was \$3,304.70, after expenses of \$53,162.08 on an income of \$56,466.78.

Major reasons for the net loss, according to new E.R.A. president, Larry Thomas, were a \$5,000 deficit at the Coffee Shop and \$7,800 in maintenance and general operating costs.

"The outlook for this year is improved because we no longer run the Coffee Shop and U.K.H.M. has agreed to provide general maintenance and bookkeeping to E.R.A. free-of-charge," Mr. Thomas reports.

Not included in the profit-loss picture for 1975 were Capital Expenditures totalling \$50,145.02, including \$32,519.14 for artificial ice at the Curling Rink, \$2,119.70 for a rug and ice-cube machine at the Curling Rink, \$4,911.18 for a projector, screen and sound system for the Rec. Hall, and \$595.00 for a skate sharpening machine.

In other E.R.A. news, president Larry Thomas says the Executive is working on plans to construct two playgrounds locally, one in Flat Creek, the other in Elsa.

A friend stopped me on the street one day in April recently to complain about everything in general and nothing in particular except that he felt generally "bitchy". "What do you think it is?" I asked. "Spring break-up!" said he.

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THE POWDER MAGAZINE is published

by

The Yukon Press

for

United Keno Hill Mines Limited
Elsa, Yukon Territory

Editors: Don & Anne Percifield

Photographer: Noel Crummy Jr.



ROCKHOUNDS. (L-R) Warren Zalken, George Partridge (Chief Geologist), Jeff Franzen, and Larry Carlyle.

The Geology Department

(By the Geologists)

The one thing the Geology Dept. does best is function. The first function of a "Beat" Geologist is to beat the 8 o'clock siren. That's why he's called a "beat" Geologist - because by the time he gets to work, he's too tired to do any! Once he gets his "second-wind", the Beat Geologist begins his mine "run-down". This is accomplished by means of ladders running down into the stopes. Once there, the Geologist runs his paint can up-and-down-and-around to "mark-up" the working-place face, and not infrequently, his own. It is no wonder that a

Geologist can feel run-down at times, in which case he has, in the jargon of the trade, an office day.

Office days entail, primarily, tracing-out vein paths, or plotting. If one or more Geologists are mumbling quietly, they are, in all likelihood, plotting. They may be plotting against E.R.A. for not bringing in any restricted movies, they may be plotting against their neighbors, the Engineers, or they may be plotting the overthrow of a dip slip separation showing up on the office Playboy calendar.



PEEWEE "NORTHSTARS". Several Elsa pee-wees were part of a northern region all-star team which competed at a tournament recently in Whitehorse. The team is as follows: Kneeling, L-R - Sergio Pritchard, Ritch Nagano (Dawson), Clifford Genier (Mayo), Blair Mease, Mario Pritchard; Middle Row, L-R - Arnie Williamson (Trainer), Ralph Barchen, David Skoreyko, Peter Nagano (Dawson), Paul Snider (Dawson), Fred Taylor (Dawson), Charlie Hoeberechts (Coach); Top Row, L-R - Gustav Gabor, Reg Stenstrom (Mayo), John Taylor (Dawson), Dale Hutton (Mayo), Herman Melancon. (Photo: C. Hoeberechts)