

Past still present

Relics of a colourful past are constant reminders of the challenge that faced the men and women who sought fabulous wealth or the solace of self-sufficiency in the North.

Along the scenic Thirty-Mile Section, there is silent evidence of the days when thousands of people swarmed up the river in search of gold. An old steamer, the *Casca I*, lies on the shore near the site of an unused telegraph station. The rusted wire strands of the old telegraph line can be glimpsed occasionally from the river. The station is now protected as an historic site by the territorial government. Further along the river, abandoned native settlements, solitary cabins and old wood camps, the refuelling stations for the stem-wheeled paddle steamers, can be seen.

The scenery changes as constantly as the colour of the river water. The towering bluffs give way to rolling hills and isolated basalt rock cliffs. Opportunities for hiking are many and the panoramic views of the valleys and distant mountain ranges are well worth the time and energy spent on side-trips.

Dawson City a must

A highlight of any trip down the Yukon River is a visit to Dawson City, strategically located where the gold-bearing Klondike River joins the Yukon. The restoration of many of its buildings has recaptured the colourful personality of Canada's oldest city north of the sixtieth parallel. Robert Service's hill-top cabin is open for visitors intrigued by the Yukon magic that inspired the famous northern poet. Today, Dawson City is part of the Klondike Gold Rush International Historic Park, a co-operative undertaking between Canada and the United States.

The Yukon River, being one of the least difficult in the Territory to negotiate by canoe, invites family groups. White-water enthusiasts who want to try the challenge of canoeing in remote areas and for whom the rigour of lining and hauling canoes shin-deep in icy currents is merely invigorating should try the Big Salmon, Ross or Macmillan rivers.

Canoeing the Yukon rivers, and retracing the routes of the early explorers and goldseekers will delight those who crave the adventure and solitude of almost untouched wilderness.

(The foregoing article by Caroline Woodward is from Conservation Canada, Vol. 4, No. 2, 1978.)

Exchange leaves lasting imprint

In one year, the horizons of Jean Fudge's life expanded from her small fishing village of Corner Brook, Newfoundland to include central and western Canada and the far shores of Indonesia.

Jean was one of four participants from Canada World Youth (CWY) who related their experiences with the program to reporter Brenda Zanin, for the spring edition of *Action*, published by the Canadian International Development Agency. All four agreed that the program had left a lasting imprint on their lives.

"I couldn't imagine that people could be living in such different ways," said Lindsay Morris, 21, of Ottawa. She helped build roads, construct buildings and pick coconuts in Malaysia. Now, four years later, Lindsay is part of a children's theatre group where she performs plays about political issues, development and the poor.

After one session in the Ivory Coast as a participant and one as a group leader, Jean Poulin, 22, of Edmonton, Alberta has added to his understanding of the Third World an ability to organize a variety of group activities.

"Before I went into the program I worked in a factory and didn't think about these things at all," he said. Now he is research director for an environmental protection group and has joined a group of ex-participants who want to maintain the momentum of their CWY experience.

Adjustment not easy

Each participant agreed that culture shock was the hardest part of his year. The simultaneous impact of new food, a new climate, a new language and the loss of the comforts of home required a tremendous adjustment.

"It was totally beyond my terms of reference," was the way Jean Poulin put it.

"Some of us ended up in hospital because of the heat," said Lindsay, whose trip brought her from Canada's midwinter to tropical temperatures.

"The daily routine in the Philippines was totally different," said Emmie Alcorn, 18, who returned to her home in Antigonish, Nova Scotia in April. "We were regarded as curiosities. People thought we looked really weird because we were the only white people around."

"I got really depressed by the conditions at first," said Jean Fudge. "Then I caught a cold and I really thought I was dying. I stayed in bed for two or three days, and after that I was still weak but I started to enjoy myself."

After adjusting to their surroundings, the participants worked on a variety of projects, including working in rice fields, building a youth centre, carrying bricks and constructing a bridge. But the social activities and cultural events seemed to predominate in their recollections.

"The projects weren't as important as integrating with the people and the community," said Emmie. "The people were very open and hospitable. Even when we were working it was like a social gathering."

Lindsay says of the progress in CWY's planning since her year, 1973-74, "A lot of the program then was very vague. They had a lot of idealistic objectives, but they didn't stress specific things. Now they have organized the programs into categories like agriculture and industry."

Asked whether they would participate again if given the chance, three of the four immediately said yes. Jean Fudge hopes to become a group leader when she is old enough, and Jean Poulin has been working on a follow-up program with ex-participants in the prairies. The same interest in follow-up was expressed by Emmie Alcorn.

Teleglobe builds new earth station

Teleglobe Canada is planning to build a \$14-million satellite earth station in the small Laurentian community of Weir, 104-km north of Montreal. The Laurentides earth station, as it is to be called, is scheduled for service in mid-1979 to accommodate increased international telecommunications traffic across the Atlantic Ocean region.

The introduction of direct dialing to overseas points from most major Canadian cities by 1980 is expected to increase telephone traffic across the Atlantic. In addition to the traditional services of telephone, telex and telegraph, the new earth station will be used for the transmission of digital data and video and for video teleconferencing, including two-way video-audio links and facsimile combined.

At present, Teleglobe operates three satellite earth stations.