

Follie, both re-creations of the entertainment enjoyed in the days of the gold rush.

One of the Yukon's most famous poets was Robert Service, who spent much of his life writing of the Klondike. Service, born in 1874, is acclaimed for his *The Shooting of Dan McGrew*, *The Spell of the Yukon* and *The Cremation of Sam McGee*. Service also wrote a number of novels on the Yukon, a book of non-fiction and a two-volume autobiography. His cabin is still maintained in Dawson and his works are still revered for their portrayal of the excitement and allure of the Yukon.

Jack London is another author whose ideas were shaped by the Yukon. His well-known work, *The Call of the Wild* was based on a true Yukon story. Unlike many other writers who wrote of the gold rush, London actually took part in it.

A third major writer on the Yukon is Pierre Burton, born in Whitehorse in 1920 and raised in Dawson. His best-seller *Klondike* has added to the heritage of the Yukon.

Despite the technological change which is making the Yukon's natural barriers less of an obstacle, the territory is still an untamed and challenging frontier. Its lure is ever present.

As Robert Service wrote in *The Spell of the Yukon*:

"There's a land where the mountains are
nameless,

And the rivers all run God knows where,
There are lives that are erring and aimless,

And deaths that just hang by a hair,

There are hardships that nobody reckons,

There are valleys unpeopled and still,

There's a land — oh, it beckons and beckons,

And I want to go back — and I will."