



travel log

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contributing travel editor

Something to file

Some things I learned while flying out of Windsor Airport, a logical point of departure for flights within Canada:

- There is a limousine service from Detroit to Windsor airport, but you can also take a bus through the tunnel and a cab/limousine from the Richelieu Hotel to the airport. The hotel backs on the tunnel exit. The Air Canada office is in the same building. Both front on Ouellette Avenue, the main street of Windsor.

- Always check and double check, and still leave extra time, for any limousine. For example, Air Canada told me by phone that the limousine leaves 65 minutes before a scheduled flight. At the Air Canada office in Windsor, they told me it was one hour and 15 minutes before flight time. It was actually 55 minutes.

- The limousine turned out to be a regular cab. It costs \$3.50 per passenger, compared with the \$8 it would cost if you hired the cab independently.

- You can't count on the driver to give you any exchange on your American money, even though it is worth considerably more than Canadian money. You also can't count on the driver to give you your change in American money, so either change your money at the bank or carry small bills. Most Windsor business establishments give a decent exchange rate, and change in American money if you want it, although the rate is never as good as you would get at a bank.

- On the deficit side, our driver said "people aren't tipping much right now, and we make money any way we can." My fellow passenger only had American money, so I changed it for him and he gave the cabbie a 25-cent tip. Serves him right.

- ON THE PLUS SIDE, the cabbie did something I don't often see anywhere any more. He carried my bag to the cab, and from the cab to the airline counter. That was worth a tip.

- Occasionally you have open seating on plane, as on the daily flight to Winnipeg, Manitoba. That means your seat is not specified; you choose it as you board. Watch for smoking and non-smoking signs. I sat inadvertently in the smoking section and had to move when the air got too thick.

- Drinks cost twice as much on board an Air Canada plane if you fly within Canada as they do if you fly Air Canada outside of Canada. The stewardess said it was because of local taxes.

- The stewards on Air Canada have always given flight information in French and English. There are so many German travelers in Canada and the U.S. now, because of the favorable exchange rate between the German mark and the American dollar, that I twice heard the instructions given in German as well.

Gold and them tales

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

DAWSON CITY, Yukon — The boys were whooping it up at Diamond Tooth Gertie's last night. There was Bingo Billy from the gold mines and former Mayor Vi Campbell, who wears three-inch-wide gold bracelets on both wrists.

And there was Captain Dick Stevenson, who is famous for his diamond-studded teeth and his Sour Toe cocktail. A Sour Toe cocktail is the only way you can become a sourdough without spending a winter in the Yukon and shooting a grizzly bear.

According to the legend, an old prospector froze his toe one winter, so he chopped the toe off with an ax and pickled it. When the prospector died, Capt. Dick brought the toe back and invented the Sour Toe cocktail.

He puts the toe in a glass, fills the glass with champagne and invites the cheechakos to drink. A cheechako is a greenhorn. After he drinks the Sour Toe cocktail, being careful to let the glass touch his nose, but not to swallow the toe, the greenhorn becomes a real sourdough.

Most people have three or four strong martinis first.

THERE ARE STRANGE things done in the midnight sun, as Klondike poet Robert Service used to say, and the Sour Toe cocktail is only one of them.

At Diamond Tooth Gertie's, the only legalized gambling casino in Canada, can-can dancers kick

high against the red velvet drapes, and real money changes hands at the poker and blackjack tables under the hanging lights.

Gertie's is run by the Klondike Visitor's Association. The profits support special projects in Dawson City.

DAWSON CITY is a historic city full of gold rush stories. It is also the scene of a new gold rush, because gold that wasn't worth mining at \$35 an ounce is well worth mining at \$535 an ounce.

You couldn't find a more appropriate guide to the gold fields than Tim Cole, who mined this country for 40 years and is still mad at the federal government for moving the capital city of the Yukon from Dawson City to Whitehorse in 1953.

Cole likes to start a Gold City tour at the senior citizen's home, where the old prospectors live when they can't stay out on the creeks any more. The most famous resident of the home may have been Black Mike, who refused to take the required entrance bath for a week until old Mrs. Murdoch came in from the creek and bullied him into it.

Cole will show you the marker where the first gold discovery was made in 1896 and tell you how all the claims were staked by experienced Yukon prospectors long before any of those 5,000 greenhorns arrived on the Trail of '98.

He'll take you through a giant dredge, which turned this land over for 50 years looking for gold, and made the whole landscape look like a gravel pit. And he'll point out the hilltop where a cheechako, or greenhorn, unexpectedly hit pay dirt.

If you want to hit a little pay dirt of your own, you can pan gold on a free claim set aside for tourists by the Klondike Visitors Association where you take your chances just like the prospectors did.

For \$5 you can pan at Poverty Bar, where the Murdoch family runs a little gold-panning operation for tourists. They pack you a pan, guarantee you'll find gold and watch you pan it yourself in the sluice box.

Every visitor goes away with a few flakes of gold, even if the Murdochs have to salt the pans to make it happen.

These are the only two sites where you can pan gold without getting shot for trespassing. There are more prospectors in 1980 than there were in 1898, but most of them aren't talking about their finds. Many of them work for large mining operations.

WHAT YOU SEE on the hills of upturned slag are bulldozers, which turn over the rock and crush it, or high water spouts that wash pay dirt off the side of hills. Hand panning is only for finding gold. Once you find it, you must crush it and wash it out with water, an expensive operation for everybody.

They are still finding gold in them thar hills, as you will note when you enter the Canadian Bank of Commerce on Front Street, where a tiny overhead sign reads: Gold Dust Teller. That's downstairs from the restored old assay office and down the



Panning for gold in Dawson City, while not profitable, is popular. (Photo by Iris Sanderson Jones)

street from the restored paddlewheeler Keno, now a museum.

Parks Canada, the national park service, has bought and restored many buildings in town for historic preservation, so you can see the Grand Palace and some of the other buildings that made this the grandest city north of San Francisco when all the world was looking for gold.

A wonderful museum exhibit of old photographs shows the town down through the years: covered with thousands of tents during the gold rush, full of elegant houses and other buildings in the early 20th century.

The walking tour takes you past two dozen 19th century buildings, including a grand old post office, several hotels and stores, the Dawson Daily News building, and the cabins of writers Jack London and Robert Service.

Poet Robert Service, who preserved wonderful old characters like Dangerous Dan McGrew and the Lady that's known as Lou, would have felt very much at home among them all.

Next Week: the gold dust trail. Meantime, for information on the Yukon, call the Canadian Government Office of Tourism in Detroit. For accommodations in Dawson City, I recommend the Gold Rush Hotel, a two-story motel with bar, dining room and standard two-double-bed rooms.

Rest assured

By DORIS SCHARFENBERG

The great American rest stop now has a book to call its own.

Imagine. No matter how dark the night or bleak the rainy afternoon, you can drive to Miami, El Paso or Bismark and never have to wonder where the next McDonald's is. Or Stuckey's or Holiday Inn, for that matter.

"The American Road Guide East" by Ken Milstead lists more than 4,000 national and regional franchises as they stand within three miles of 1,330 Interstate exits in 31 states. Win Schuler's, the Ramadas, the Pizza Huts are all named along with gas stops, camping sites and other area information.

Using a system of maps and logos, Milstead has compiled a handy volume for travelers who want things tried, true and terribly predictable.

The guide won't help you find Mom-and-Pop dining rooms but it will get you through the next 500 miles. The cost is \$5.95 plus \$1.50 postage and handling. Write to Box 141, Roseville 48066.

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