

Joe Boyle was too old to enlist when World War 2 broke out in 1914. Although he knew zilch about military strategy, Boyle quickly realized that modern weapons would dominate the battlefields. He offered a fully equipped Machine Gun Company of 50 Yukon miners to Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia and Defense and the minister accepted. The company first trained in Dawson under the North West Mounted Police and the Dawson Rifle Association but later travelled to Vancouver to learn further warfare tactics. In September 1916, as a result of his donation of the machine gun company, Joe was commissioned an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Canadian Militia and allowed to wear a colonel's uniform that he embellished with gold maple leaf collar dogs and buttons of Yukon gold. In 1917, despite being 40 years of age, Boyle left the Yukon for good and went to Europe to participate in the war against Germany.

He had many adventures and there were even some rumours that Boyle, although never divorced from his second wife, even had a secret love affair Queen Marie of Romania, the granddaughter of Queen Victoria. For his war services, Boyle was awarded the following medals: the Distinguished Service Order (England), the Croix de Guerre (France), the Order of the Star of Romania, the Order of the Crown of Romania, the Order of Regina Maria (Romania), the Order of St. Vladimir (Russia), the Order of St. Anne (Russia) and the Order of St. Stanislas (Polish). He received no recognition from his home country of Canada.

Boyle died in 1923 and was buried at Hampton Hill just outside of London at the age of 56. In 1983, 60 years later, his coffin was



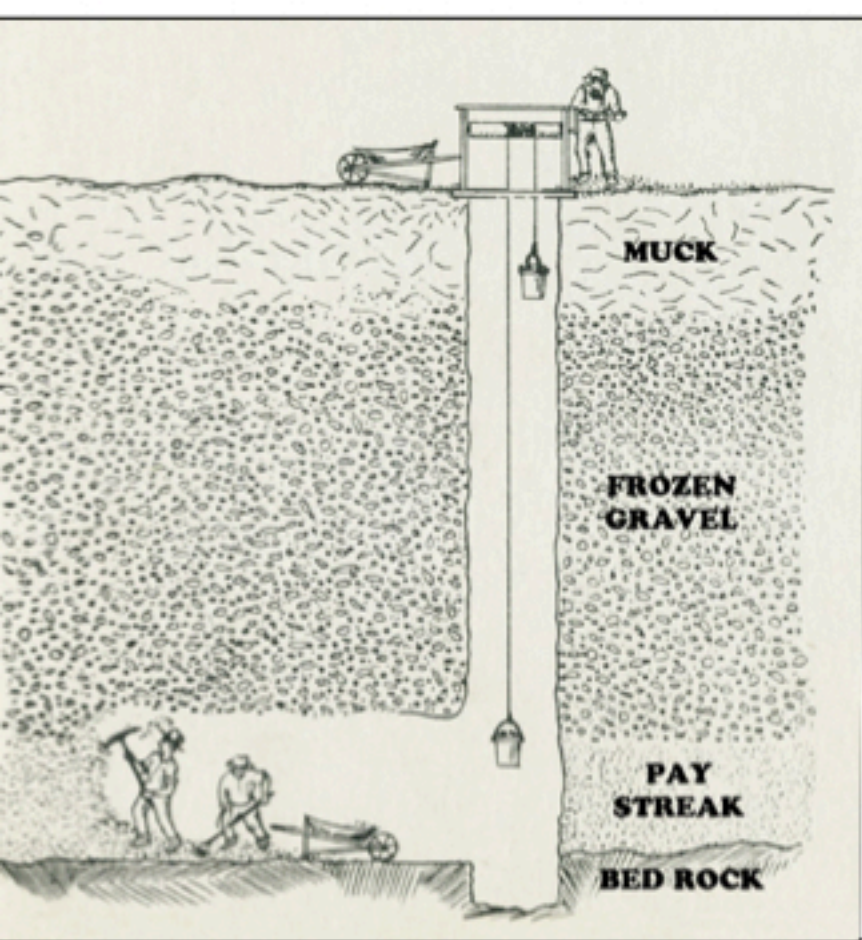
JOSEPH WHITESIDE BOYLE (1867 - 1923)

Quite possibly the most decorated soldier in World War 1, Boyle is seen in a Canadian uniform wearing: The Order of Regina Maria (around his neck) and the Star of Romania (over his left breast). He is wearing ribbons (above his left breast pocket) for: The Distinguished Service Order (England), Croix de Guerre (France), Star of Romania, the Crown of Romania, The Order of Regina Maria (Romania), the order of St. Stanislas (Poland), and the The Orders of St. Vladimir and the order of St. Anne (Russia). The photo is signed in the lower left hand corner and reads: "Yours truly J.M. Boyle Jassy 4/6/18/10". Queen Marie of Romania made Boyle the Duke of Jassy.

WOODSTOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY LEONARD TAYOR COLLECTION

'KONDIKE JOE' BOYLE & 'SWIFT WATER' BILL GATES

Joseph Boyle, who eventually became known as 'Klondike Joe', was born in Toronto on 6 November 1867 but moved to Woodstock with his family in 1872. At age 17, Joe ran away to sea on the Nova Scotia baroque 'Wallace'. He first gained recognition for rescuing a sailor from a shark—by dispatching the huge fish with a knife. Another time Joe led the crew of the ship 'Susan' during a typhoon for several days by manning the pumps so that both the ship and the men survived the ordeal. At a young age Joe gained a reputation as a take-charge individual and by the time he gave up his sea-faring ways at age 20 was called 'Captain Boyle'. Back on dry land, Joe, now married to a divorcee, successfully started up a feed and grain business for livestock but this occupation did not fit his adventuresome spirit. It was during this period that Joe fathered a son and daughter. Joe soon found excitement in the boxing ring and as a promoter chose for his ace fighter Frank Slavin—the 35-year old former champion from Australia. The pair toured Ontario and Quebec staging fights before deciding to make a tour of England and it was while in London that the pair sparred before Edward, the Prince of Wales. Joe and Frank were on a boxing tour on the northwest coast when the electrifying news of the gold discoveries began to trickle in at San Francisco and Victoria. The two boxers staged fights to earn money to pay for passage to the Yukon. They made their way to Dyea, the trailhead for the Chilkoot route, and with a party of a dozen men started out for Bennett Lake. Boyle was the natural leader who, upon realizing that the other men were not as physically fit as Slavin and himself, rallied the men onward. It was on this trip that Chilkoot Charlie, an Indian packer, joined the group and stayed on as Joe's guide and friend for a number of years. Boyle had packed a 24-foot-long collapsible boat over the pass and it was used to transport the men down the Yukon River to Dawson City. Frank had taken to calling Joe 'Captain', a reference to his sea-faring days, and the name stuck. It was while in Dawson City that Joe introduced himself to William Ogilvie who had recently resurveyed the initial 170 claims on Bonanza Creek. The first gold discoverers had staked out their own claims and frequently staked out-of-proportion claims that overlapped one another. Ogilvie ultimately brought order out of the chaos.



A drawing showing the removal of pay dirt in frozen ground by windlass and bucket. A second bucket was used as a counter balance similar to an elevator or dumb waiter. Here all the muck and gravel as been removed from the shaft entrance by a wheel barrow. Here the shaft appears to be between 35 and 40-feet but it was not uncommon for shafts to go down 100-feet or more to bedrock.

YUKON ARCHIVES PHOTO #B2-403-F27-13
MISCELLANEOUS II PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

William 'Swift Water' Charles Frederick Julius Anlauf Gates was born in Red Wing, Minnesota, on 1 July 1869. When Gates was 13 years of age, he moved with his family to Washington Territory. At 21, he was prospecting for gold in Idaho Springs, Colorado. Later, while working for another grubstake at a copper mine in Michigan, he heard of a small gold strike at Forty Mile in the Yukon. He immediately booked passage for Juneau, Alaska, and in 1896 found employment in Circle City as a dishwasher in a roadhouse. Apparently Gates earned his moniker for having walked around the rough waters of White Horse Rapids. It was while tending tables in the roadhouse in Circle City that Swift Water heard some Frenchmen talking about George W. Carmack's recent gold discovery on Rabbit Creek. Instead of alerting anyone in the cabin, Swift Water chose to strike out alone in the wee hours of the morning in a small boat in the direction of the strike. He found most of the nearby ground already staked but because of superstition Claim No. 13 Eldorado, although staked, had not been worked. The original owners had assumed that bad luck accompanied the unlucky number 13. Swift Water partnered with six other prospectors and was able to take a lay or lease on the unworked ground. After digging six shafts to bedrock and each time coming up with blanks (no pay dirt) the rest of the group except for Joe Boyle became dispirited and abandoned the ground. Swift Water and Joe worked on a final shaft doing all their own labour. They thawed the ground by burning brush and once it had melted one climbed down into the shaft, filled the buckets, while the partner hauled the buckets up on the windlass. It was backbreaking work but at bedrock on the seventh hole they hit unbelievably good ground. They kept quiet, played the discovery down, and bought the claim. They then took out a fortune estimated somewhere between \$300,000 and \$400,000 after expenses.

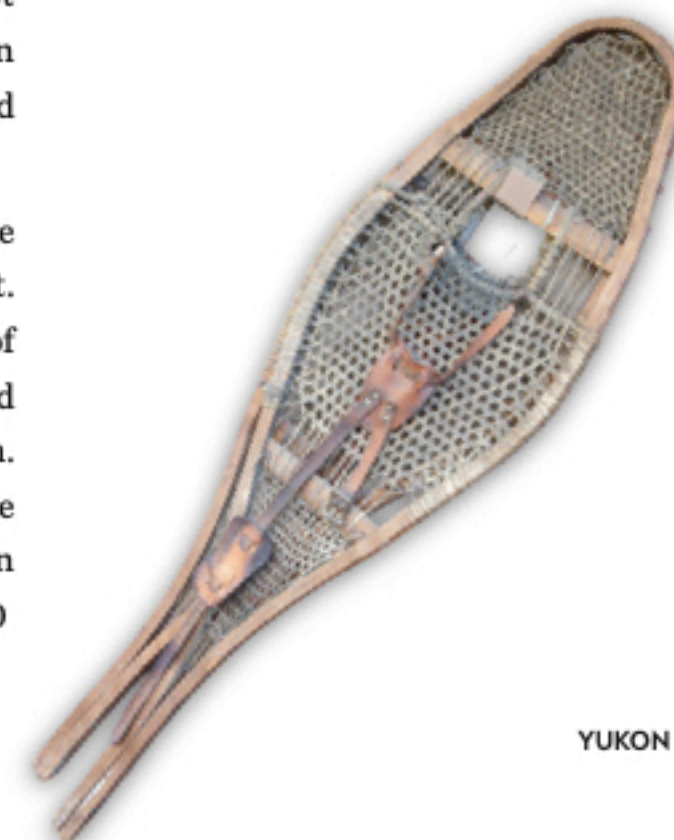
A dispatch from Victoria, B.C. in 1897 announced the arrival there of the richest party that had yet to come out of the Yukon district. "It is captained by Joe Boyle, the youngest son of Charley Boyle of Woodstock, Ontario, the trainer of Seagram's racing stable. Boyle had struck it rich. He is a partner in four of the richest claims on earth. Of the wealth the party of twenty-five brought back, a low estimate is \$30,000 in dust and one million and a half in drafts and green backs." The Yukon group owned between them at least \$12,000,000



JOE BOYLE & 'SWIFT WATER' BILL GATES DURING THEIR TREK OUT OF THE YUKON TO CIVILIZATION IN 1897. JOE WAS 30; BILL 28.

YUKON ARCHIVES #B4/78-34

Snoeshoes were one of the principal means of transportation in the Yukon. This pair was found firmly secured to the front door of poet Robert Service's cabin in Dawson City.



Boyle and his party had a terrible time getting out to the provincial capital of Victoria. The men survived the cold by bedding down on fir branches and sleeping with their dogs for warmth. Joe and his group proceeded from Victoria to Seattle with Joe's Indian guide 'Chilcoot Charlie'. According to the Woodstock Sentinel Review, "In appreciation of his leadership in getting the party safely through, despite almost insurmountable difficulties, the men gave Joe a dinner in one of the leading hotels in Seattle and presented him with a magnificent gold watch. Charlie was present, and an object of much interest. Joe went to some trouble to instruct Charlie in the use of silverware and dishes. Charlie proved an apt pupil and his table manners were soon the equal of his culturally advantaged peers". The paper continued, "When Boyle returned from Dawson in December 1897 (to Woodstock), he brought with him, besides a number of Malamute dogs, a Yukon Indian named Charlie, who was very fond of Boyle and called him Captain. Joe brought Charlie and the team of huskies to Woodstock. But when he went subsequently to Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and New York to make business arrangements for his return to the Yukon, and when his business was delayed for many weeks beyond the time for his return, Charlie became restless and lonesome. "Me must see Captain," he said to Mrs. Boyle, Joe's mother, to whom Charlie became greatly attached and affectionately called "Mammy". Charlie hung about "The Firs", the home of Joe's parents, for a couple of weeks and then struck out for home at Carmack's Post—and to the great relief of Joe—made the trip.

In her book 'Joe Boyle: Superhero of the Klondike Goldfields' Jane Gaffin suggests that Swift Water grubstaked miners for a percentage of the gold found and bought out properties that were believed to be duds that later turned out to be little bonanzas. She also claimed that Bill and Joe met at Claim #13 Eldorado and that Joe worked for Bill on a percentage basis managing his mines and looking after his business affairs. Joe and his First Nations friend Chilkootee travelled far and wide on sleds pulled by a two fine teams of husky Malamutes to visit gold claims.

To say that Swift Water had two flaws in his youth would be a statement of proportional dimensions—his ability to blow through money and his love for women and the younger the better—became legendary. Soon after his newfound wealth, Swift Water became enamoured with a certain Gussie Lamour—previously an entertainer from Circle City. Gussie loved eggs and one time Bill saw her on the arm of another suitor having breakfast of bacon and eggs in a prominent Dawson City restaurant. In a rage, Swift Water bought up every egg in the town and this act also became legendary bestowing upon him the title 'The Knight of the Golden Omelette'. Bill later paid Gussie \$30,000 in gold dust for the promise of her hand in marriage. She took the gold but reneged on the marriage because she was already married with a three-year old child. Out of spite, Bill married Gussie's younger sister Grace and bought her a \$15,000 mansion in Oakland, California, but soon afterwards they were divorced.

One of the first investments that Bill made with his newfound wealth was partnering with John Smith of Circle City to build a "Palace of Sport" called the Monte Carlo in Dawson City. Jack sent Swift Water to Seattle to purchase accessories such as 10-foot mirrors, velvet carpets, and oil paintings and \$10,000 worth of fixtures for their venture. Bill spent much of the money in Seattle on wining and dining ladies before eventually returning to Dawson City with a dozen women to work in their high-end saloon. While the saloon prospered, Swift Water basked in affluence. He always did lust for notoriety and when not gambling was good naturedly buying drinks for the patrons of his own establishment.

Volume 1 of the Dawson News dated April 1st, 1898, stated that Gates was the President of the Alaska Transportation Trading and Mining Company with a capital of \$2,000,000. Greedy capitalists down south saw in Bill a "good thing" with something to give away with the result that the sobriquet millionaires sold many of these gullible investors mines somewhere 350 Above Discovery on Nowhere Creek.

Returning to Seattle, Swift Water had a friend introduce him to Iola Beebe who was planning on opening a

hotel in Dawson City. Bill was more interested in Iola's two daughters, Blanche and Bera, than in the businesswoman's hotel venture. Bill, although 35, ran off with Iola's 14-year old daughter Bera and returned to his claims. His mother-in-law followed. Bera soon became pregnant and gave birth to a son in the dead of winter while they were living in a small cabin on Quartz Creek. A short time later, she gave birth to a second son. Swift Water Bill later married his niece Kitty Brandon, his sister's daughter, while still married to Bera making him a bigamist. In the book 'The True Story of Swift Water Bill Gates' by his Mother-in-Law Mrs. Iola Beebe—Bill was portrayed as a chauvinistic and selfish scoundrel.

While Swift Water remained in the Yukon, Joe went to Ottawa to induce the Dominion Government to grant the pair a concession on a forty acre-parcel of land on Quartz Creek for a nominal consideration. Dawson City

lawyer C.M. Woodworth charged that the authorities in Ottawa were fools or else scoundrels on the take for making such a deal. Apparently Harold Buchanan McGivern, an Ottawa lawyer-politician and friend of the Boyle family, was greatly influential in introducing Joe to Clifford Sifton, the Minister of the Interior and Indian Affairs.

In an event that will always live in hockey trivia, Joe Boyle managed and bankrolled the Yukon Nuggets hockey team. The players set out on 18 December 1904 on an epic month-long voyage by dog sled from Dawson to Whitehorse, then by narrow gauge rail from Whitehorse to Skagway, ship from Skagway to Vancouver, and finally by train from Vancouver to Ottawa just in time to challenge the Ottawa Silver Seven for the 1905 Stanley Cup in the best of three series. They had travelled by snowshoe, dogsled, ocean liner, and train to arrive in



'Swiftwater Bill' Gates poses at his cabin on Quartz Creek with his mother-in-law Iola Beebe (in red blouse) and his young wife Bera. The two people on the extreme left and extreme right of the photograph are unidentified.

COURTESY PAOLA GREER



THE DAWSON CITY NUGGETS (ALSO KNOWN AS THE KLONDIKES) HOCKEY TEAM AT THE DEY'S RINK IN OTTAWA TO PLAY AGAINST THE OTTAWA SENATORS, JANUARY 24TH, 1905.

Back row: Hector Smith, George Kennedy, Lorne Hanna, Jim Johnston and Norm Watt
 Front row: Albert Forrest, Captain (later Colonel) Joe W. Boyle, and Dr. Randy McLellan
 Missing: Manager Welby Young and substitutes David Fairbairn and A. Martin

YUKON ARCHIVES # PHOTO #88-25-1 PAUL FORREST FONDS

Ottawa on 13 January. With Governor General Earl Grey in the packed Deys Rink, Boyle's team lost the first game 9-2, and then lost the second game 23-2 with future Hall of Famer Frank McGee netting a record 14 goals for the winners. Albert Forrest, the Yukon Nuggets goalie, was the youngest goalie in NHL history. It was the most lopsided defeat in the history of the Stanley Cup. The Yukon Nuggets and Boyle had no illusions of winning the cup; they just wanted a chance to play. The team then played a series of exhibition games in other cities before dismantling.

Joe went to London, England, where he obtained enough money from investors to buy and ship to Dawson City the largest and most expensive hydraulic plants in the gold fields. By this time Joe had amassed an immense tract of ground that was at least three miles long and in some places two miles wide that had previously consisted of some very rich claims. Boyle convinced Sifton that huge monitors and electrically powered dredges were required to retrieve the gold on the creeks' bedrock. Joe introduced dredging into the Yukon. Gold profits soared with the arrival of large-scale corporate mining and for decades, from as early as 1906, the grinding and screeching of the dredges echoed throughout the Yukon. Working day and night, these "Monsters of the Creeks" churned through the creek valleys separating gold from gravel and leaving behind 60-to-80-foot wide swaths of worm-like tailing piles. A large hydroelectric plant supplied power to the dredges, while a small army of workers prepared the ground ahead of them—thawing permafrost and stripping away muck. After the muck was removed, hundreds of water-pointed pipes were driven into the ground to thaw the frozen gravel to bedrock.

The more successful miners brought in steam shovels to dig up the creeks and a locally designed cable car to stock pay dirt for sluicing. Placer dredging had been developed in New Zealand and refined in California before being first introduced into the Yukon in 1898. The Canadian Klondike Mining Company, under the control of Boyle, was first on the creeks. They were followed by the Yukon

Gold Mining Company, controlled by the Guggenheim interests, a short time later. The Guggenheim family's dredges worked ground closest to Dawson City. Boyle worked both with and against the rich Guggenheim and Rothchild families to bring dredges into the Klondike and the court cases between Boyle and these two families became the things of legend over the years. Boyle had a knack for tying up the rich and famous in legal mining disputes for years and in the end always came out the winner.

By the start of the First World War, a dozen dredges worked in the Klondike. The town of Guggieville came into existence prior to the war. Boyle owned Yukon Canadian Gold Company dredges #1 through #4.

Before the dredges began any work the ground had to be thawed to bedrock. A hundred or more men would clear an area of trees, buildings or any other obstacles. The dredges needed only four men—the bow decker, the stern decker, the oiler and the winch operator—who were paid \$2, \$2, \$6 and \$8 per day respectively. Boyle's #4 Dredge, the largest in the Yukon, was 3/4 the length of a football field, 8 stories tall and did the work of 1,000 men. The dredge's trommel (gigantic sluice) was 8-feet in diameter and 50-feet long.

The opportunities of gold bonanzas brought the moneyed financiers of both Britain and the United States into the Yukon. The biggest players were the Rothchilds and the Guggenheims (Guggieville near Dawson City is named for this family). Boyle worked for and against these conglomerates but in the end wound up owning the Canadian Klondike Mining operation that included a 10-square mile concession on Quartz Creek. Before the dredges began any work the ground had to be thawed to bedrock. A hundred or more men would clear an area of trees, buildings or any other obstacles and probe into the ground with initially hot and then cold water pipes to accomplish the thawing process. This procedure sometimes took place a year or two before the actual dredging. Once the ground had been unfrozen by the hot or cold water pipes, it was ready for the dredges.

It was during this period that Swift Water and Joe parted

"SWIFT WATER BILL" WILLIAM C. F. J. A. GATES CLAIM NO. 13 ON EDLORADO CREEK, PROBABLY 1898.

A huge snake-like flume, much of it on stilts, criss-crosses back and forth across Eldorado Creek feeding water to the richest gold claims in the world. "Swift Water Bill" Gate's Claim No. 13 Eldorado was approximately a little over a mile from where Eldorado Creek emptied into Bonanza Creek. By the time this photograph had been taken every piece of available land had been staked 500-feet on both sides of Bonanza and Eldorado Creeks. Most of the trees in the valleys and hillsides had been chopped down to be used for the building of cabins and flumes—the much needed structure that carried water to the piles of pay dirt for sluicing. Any leftover smaller logs were

used for firewood to thaw the permafrost down to the pay dirt on the bedrock. Many of the claims above 13 Eldorado proved to be unbelievably rich and made all their owners millionaires. Although many of the miners still lived in tents, the more established mine owners by this time were living in cabins complete with stoves and glass windows. On Eldorado Creek that shafts rarely went down more than 15 to 20-feet before reaching bedrock and gold—whereas on some of the other creeks the shafts went down more than a 100-feet to reach bedrock.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON DIGITAL COLLECTION #HEG026

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC A. HEGG

ELDORADO, LOOKING UP FROM NO 13

HEGG
PH
DAWSON, Y.T.
13

TAKEN FROM CROCUS BLUFF LOOKING NEAR WHERE THE KLONDIKE RIVER'S MOUTH EMPTIES INTO THE YUKON RIVER, THIS SOUTHWEST VIEW SHOWS THE WORKINGS OF DREDGE NO. 3 WITH KLONDIKE CITY ACROSS THE KLONDIKE RIVER. THE OGILVIE BRIDGE, JUST OUT OF THE PHOTO ON THE RIGHT HAND-SIDE, CONNECTED KLONDIKE CITY WITH DAWSON CITY, JUNE 14TH, 1914.

Joe Boyle introduced dredging into the Yukon. Gold profits soared with the arrival of large-scale corporate mining and for decades, from as early as 1906, the grinding and screeching of the dredges echoed throughout the Klondike. Working day and night, these "Monsters of the Creeks" churned through river valley, separating gold from gravel and leaving behind 60-to-80-foot wide swaths of worm-like tailing piles. A large hydro-electric plant supplied power to the dredges, while a small army of workers prepared the ground ahead of them—thawing permafrost and stripping away muck.

After the moss and muck was removed, an army of men with hundreds of steam-pipes with points were driven into the ground to thaw the frozen gravel to bedrock. These monstrous dredges needed only four men—the bow decker, the stern decker, the oiler and the winch operator—

who were the paid \$2, \$2, \$6 and \$8 per day respectively. Boyle's #4 Dredge, the largest in the Yukon, was $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of a football field and 8 stories tall. It did the work of 1000 men. The dredge's trommel was 8-feet in diameter and 50-feet long.

Before the dredges began any work the ground had to be thawed to bedrock. A hundred or more men would clear an area of trees, buildings or any other obstacles and probe into the ground with steam-pointed pipes to accomplish the thawing process. This procedure sometimes took place a year or two before the actual dredging. Once the ground had been unfrozen by the hot-water pipes (and later cold-water pipes), it was ready for the dredges.

MUSEUM OF HISTORY & INNOVATION #SHS7258 PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEREMIAH DOODY





THE PARTIALLY RESTORED DREDGE #4 RESTS NEAR THE DISCOVERY CLAIM ON BONANZA CREEK.

company, Swift Water having sold his Claim #13 Eldorado in 1896.

Joe Boyle introduced dredging into the Yukon. Gold profits soared with the arrival of large-scale corporate mining and for decades, from as early as 1906, the grinding and screeching of the dredges echoed throughout the Klondike. Working day and night, these "Monsters of the Creeks" churned through river valley, separating gold from gravel and leaving behind 60-to-80-foot wide swaths of worm-like tailing piles. A large hydroelectric plant supplied power to the dredges, while a small army of workers prepared the ground ahead of them—thawing permafrost and stripping away muck. After the muck was removed, hundreds of cold water pipes with pointed tips were driven into the ground to thaw the frozen gravel to bedrock.

He had reason for getting out of Dawson—his dredges were not producing as before and the very day his battalion left for Vancouver his monstrous dredge #4 toppled over and sank. He departed leaving the whole mess in the hands of his son Joe Jr.

Joe Boyle was too old to enlist when World War 2 broke out in 1914. Although he knew zilch about military strategy, Boyle quickly realized that modern weapons would dominate the battlefields. He offered a fully equipped Machine Gun Company of 50 Yukon miners to Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia and Defense and the minister accepted. The company first trained in Dawson under the North West Mounted Police and the Dawson Rifle Association but later travelled to Vancouver to learn further warfare tactics. In September 1916, as a result of his donation of the machine gun company, Joe was commissioned an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Canadian Militia and allowed to wear a colonel's uniform that he embellished with gold maple leaf collar dogs and buttons of Yukon gold. In 1917, despite being 40 years of age, Boyle left the Yukon for good and went to Europe to participate in the war against Germany.

He had many adventures and there were even some rumours that Boyle, although never divorced from his second wife, even had a secret love affair Queen Marie of Romania, the granddaughter of Queen Victoria. For his war services, Boyle was awarded the following medals: the Distinguished Service Order (England), the Croix de Guerre (France), the Order of the Star of Romania, the Order of the Crown of Romania, the Order of Regina Maria (Romania), the Order of St. Vladimir (Russia), the Order of St. Anne (Russia) and the Order of St. Stanislas (Polish). He received no recognition from his home country of Canada.

Boyle died in 1923 and was buried at Hampton Hill just outside of London at the age of 56. In 1983, 60 years later, his coffin was



JOSEPH WHITESIDE BOYLE (1867 - 1923)

Quite possibly the most decorated soldier in World War 1, Boyle is seen in a Canadian uniform wearing: The Order of Regina Maria (around his neck) and the Star of Romania (over his left breast). He is wearing ribbons (above his left breast pocket) for: The Distinguished Service Order (England), Croix de Guerre (France), Star of Romania, the Crown of Romania, The Order of Regina Maria (Romania), the order of St. Stanislas (Poland), and the The Orders of St. Vladimir and the order of St. Anne (Russia). The photo is signed in the lower left hand corner and reads: "Yours truly J.M. Boyle Jassy 4/6/18/10". Queen Marie of Romania made Boyle the Duke of Jassy.

WOODSTOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY LEONARD TAYOR COLLECTION

dug up and his remains were repatriated back to Woodstock, Ontario, for a second burial in the Presbyterian Cemetery on the west side of Vansittart Avenue between Devonshire Avenue and Vincent Street. This time a huge 20-foot cairn was erected over his grave. By this time the Canadian government had opted to give Boyle the accolades that he deserved and bestowed upon him the Distinguished Service Order. A plaque in the cemetery reads: "A legendary adventurer known as 'Klondike Joe', Boyle was born in Toronto and came to Woodstock with his family in 1872. He worked at various jobs before attaining great success as a prospector and entrepreneur in the Yukon. At the outbreak of the First World War, Boyle raised, financed and equipped a fifty-man machine gun contingent. Determined to help the war effort further, he headed an allied mission to Russia in 1917 to help reorganize the railway system. His adventures soon took him to Romania where he became a confidant of the Royal Family. He was charged with obtaining famine relief for the Romanian people and with negotiating a peace treaty with Russia. Much honoured for his effort, Boyle died in England."

After squandering a fortune Swift Water left the Yukon and joined the rush for Nome, Alaska, where fortune smiled once more. He struck it rich and lost another fortune before turning his back on the Seward Peninsula and striking out for the Tanana diggings of the interior. Somehow, Gates got a lay on what soon became the richest gold producing creek in the district. Cleary, the camp that grew around his claims boomed becoming the second biggest town in the area after Fairbanks. Originally, it was known as Gates City. Cleary Town burned to the ground in 1907, but by then Swift Water had already gone south two years before where he became involved in several promotional schemes in California. Swift Water left the Yukon for good in 1906.

By 1910 Swift Water had sailed to Peru where 5 years later he married a beautiful Peruvian woman who bore him six children. Unfortunately the 16 years he spent in Peru is virtually unknown. He actually matured after his rambunctious youth although the gambling bug stayed with him and he often squandered his fortunes away, not that they were as great as when he was in the Klondike or Alaska. He found his niche in Peru and between 1916 and his death 21 years later never left the republic. Still searching for gold, he had an entire ship disassembled and packed over the Andes Mountains where it was reassembled for use on the Amazon River to explore the Jungles of Puno-Peru.

When Clarence Woods arrived in Carabaya country in 1928, Swift Water had already been prospecting and mining there for several years. (Incidentally Woods too had worked in Alaska). They became friends and partners in several enterprises and during 3 months in 1931 descended the Inambari River from Oroya down into the Quispicanchi and Marcapa Districts where they explored finding many workable prospects. Woods already had a mine and eventually returned to the Santo Domingo. He spent from 1910 until his death in 1937 in Peru but this part of his life is virtually forgotten. Swift Water told of a trip down the Inambari River in a forty-foot canoe with twenty Indians paddling and they met a "titanic" boa that was longer than the boat. Gates hit the snake with a pike pole and wanted to stop to kill it but the Indians were so terrified that they paddled furiously several kilometers beyond the agreed upon camping place, although a few minutes before meeting this huge snake they had almost mutinied due to exhaustion.

Gates was accidentally shot on a Sunday morning while sitting on the steps to the second story of a hut on a beach on the Tunquimayo River in the Andes Mountains in Peru in 1937 at the age of 66. 'Gringo Gates' was buried in virgin ground and his body was probably washed down river as the result of miners washing for gold in the area in the early 1940s.

Both Swift Water Bill Gates and Klondike King Joe Boyle became Yukon legends.

SPLATTERED WITH RAVEN DROPPINGS, A STEAM THAWING MACHINERESTS ATOP A ROCK PILE ALONG THE KLONDIKE HIGHWAY AT BEAR CREEK ROAD NEAR DAWSON CITY.

Like so much of the heavy equipment brought into the Yukon in the search for gold, the boilers were often shipped by rail, then steamboat—and finally hauled the last leg of their journey by several teams of horses. The wood or coal fed boilers were used to produce steam in the thawing of the permafrost to get down to the bedrock. The practice was to thaw the hard-frozen ground with steamlines coming down from the boiler. The resulting muck, containing the gold, was then hauled in a bucket to with a man on a windlass to the surface. The men in the shaft used mallets to gently pound the six-point rubber hoses from the steam pipes into the cement-like pay dirt. The boilers were hauled by horses from one shaft to another on



JOSEPH WHITESIDE BOYLE'S 50-MAN YUKON MACHINE-GUN DETACHMENT AT HASTINGS PARK (PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION GROUNDS) VANCOUVER PRIOR TO GOING OVERSEAS IN THE SPRING OF 1915.

Back row: Brown, Stewart, Trites, MacDonell, Ryley, Taylor, Aldroft, Babb, Pender and Curry

Third row: Frame, Peppard, Ross, Cook, Gill, Gentry, McCuish, MacAlpine, Lobley, Haney and McKinley

Second row: Kelsey, Waddell, Forrest, Morgan, Small, Jones, Edelstan, Ellis, Kingston, McCaw, Black, Patterson and Fenwick

Front row: Hoskins, Young, Boutin, Falconer, Akers, Corporal Fitzgerald, Sergeant Jennings, Captain Knott, Officer Commanding, Staff/Sergeant MacKinnon, Sergeant Jolly, Sergeant Strong, Corporal Morton, Blaikie, Johnston and Turner

The Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery was organized in August 1914 as Boyle's Yukon Mounted Machine Gun Detachment and was composed of 50 men. The detachment was raised in Dawson and equipped by J.W. Boyle of the Canadian Klondyke Mining Company. Its distinctive uniform included Stetsons, khaki-colored mackinaw coats, breeches, and long boots. The detachment was originally commanded by Captain Knott but later by Captain H.F.V. Meurling.

Jane Gaffin's book 'Joe Boyle: Super Hero of the Klondike Goldfields' notes that Boyle had proposed to the Minister of the Militia, Sam Hughes, that he be permitted to send a fifty-man Yukon machine-gun battery to the front. Hughes accepted and consequently the men worked in the mornings for the Canadian Klondyke Mining Company and in the afternoon trained under the North West Mounted Police and the Dawson Rifle Association. The unit was mobilized at Victoria and was attached to the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles. The detachment embarked at Montreal on 12 June 1915. It was attached to the Eaton Motor Machine Gun Battery on 26 July 1915 and its name was changed unofficially to Boyle's Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery in July 1915. It was redesignated the Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery on 16 June 1916. The battery arrived in France on 16 August 1916 and was attached to the 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade. The Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery was absorbed by 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade on 8 June 1918. When the war ended, only 3 from the 50 men returned to the Yukon. According to Gaffin, Boyle's battalion of Klondikers became the most heavily decorated group of soldiers in the Canadian Army with over 30 of the men receiving medals for bravery.



THE AFTERMATH OF THE YUKON'S MONSTER DREDGES

Completely re-routed to allow the dredges to churn up any gold that might have been deposited on the bedrock underneath the original channel of the Klondike River, the devastation left by the dredges is complete. The Klondike Highway, to the right of the photograph, passes through the middle of the goldfields.

WAITE AIR PHOTOS INC. WWW.GLOBALAIRPHOTOS.COM

