

## **DOROTHY HOWETT**

by Ron Granger

Dorothy Howett (Honour Roll) was made a Life Member of the Yukon Chamber of Mines on March 9, 1988, along with Hon. Erik Nielsen and famous prospector Harry Versluce (Hall of Fame).

*The Whitehorse Star* carried coverage of the event, with a group photo, in their edition of Friday March 11. Dorothy had served for many years as secretary to the Chamber beginning in the old house behind Hougen's department store, then in the basement of the new City Hall and finally in the log house on the corner of Main and Fifth where she had an apartment on the upper floor.

Dorothy Alexandra Oswald was born November 30, 1914 in Burnaby, British Columbia, attended grade schools there, and studied for a BA at the University of British Columbia before completing nursing at Royal Columbian Hospital.

She married William Howett, an English-born civil engineer, in 1938 and they operated a bookstore in Vancouver for four years then moved to Yukon where Dorothy practiced nursing in Mayo Hospital and Bill found work with United Keno Hill Mines and Conwest.

They shared a heritage house in Whitehorse with Alex Berry (Honour Roll) of Yukon mining fame while Dorothy worked in Mac's Fireweed store on Main Street and with CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation).

Bill died in 1968 and she then joined the Yukon Chamber of Mines where she acted as secretary-receptionist and was a very strong member of the teams teaching the annual prospecting courses which resulted in her becoming a competent mineral collector. Dorothy took a lively interest in the activities of prospectors and in the Yukon Prospectors' Association for whom she volunteered a great deal of time for many years.

When Dorothy retired she lived in Whitehorse for a few years then moved to Creston, British Columbia, where she had several old friends including Diane Granger who was especially close to her.

As of this 2007 posting, Dorothy is now ninety-two years old and is in an excellent care home only a few hundred feet from the home of her old friend Ron Granger, who acts on her behalf now that she can no longer do so for herself.

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Dorothy Howett was inducted into the Yukon Prospectors' Association's Honour Roll in 1989 in recognition of her long-time devotion and support to the prospecting industry.

Her name is engraved in the base of the bronze prospector statue that watches over downtown Whitehorse from Main Street and Third Avenue.

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See related articles: *Yukon Chamber of Mines: Formed to Assist Prospectors*; *Keno Chronicles; (Verslucses) Prospectors Found Fortune in Their Own Back Yard*; and *Alec Berry: Conwest Exploration's Super Sleuth*.