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61/80

GOLD RUSH REMEMBERED.

The great Yukon River flows past a quiet town these days. Dawson City is so law abiding, the old timers wouldn't know it. So to celebrate the historic Gold Rush, they brought out the old fire-engine - complete with new fire-belles.

This year they had an extra special celebration of Discovery Day, the anniversary of the finding of gold, way back in 1896. Dawson City sprang up overnight - a rip-roaring shack-town where the only cheap thing was human life. This was the Klondike, where a lucky man could pluck a fortune out of the earth. All that went with those days is now only a memory; but what days they were while they lasted. At Bonanza Creek nobody finds nuggets today, though here and there a few scourdoughs pan the soil for gold-dust, getting a living the hard way. Down the Yukon the stern-wheelers once brought thousands of fortune seekers from all over the world. As re-enacted now, for tourists, the lucky few gambled fortunes away every night.

High spot of the show is the famous shooting of Dan McGrew.

60-odd years ago it was worth a lot of risk to look for gold. If you found it nowadays the Government would have it inside five minutes. But it's good to remember the Yukon and the fabulous days of Dawson City.