

J.J. VAN BIBBER



STORY: John James (“J.J.”) Van Bibber (1920 - 2012) had an impressive and long life. One of 14 surviving children born to Ira and Eliza Van Bibber under a spruce tree on the banks of the MacMillan River. Eliza was the daughter of Tlingit Chief Jackson and Ira was a West Virginia prospector drawn to the Klondike Gold Rush in 1897.

J.J. grew up on the land. In summers the family traveled up and down the Pelly River by raft, in winters by dog sled. He was a successful hunter and trapper, always expanding his expertise and has a special knack for knowing the rivers.

J.J. joined the Northern Pacific Rangers, 38th Company, now called the Canadian Rangers and was proud of this contribution throughout his life.

J.J.’s legacy lives on in a self-published book, “I was born under a sprucetree,” dedicated to his family and the proceeds of which funds the scholarship in his name.