

AL OSTER



STORY: Al Oster (1924 - 2017) was a singer/songwriter known as the Yukon Balladeer. Al was one of the first since Robert Service to write and publish poetry about Klondike Gold Rush folklore; and one of the first Canadians to compose, sing, and record folk music about historical Canadian legends.

Buying his first guitar at age 16 for \$15, he learned to chord from a Wilf Carter song book. He composed and performed songs as he moved between various jobs and towns.

Al and his family moved to Whitehorse in 1957. Composing songs of the history and legends of the Northland led to several recordings.

In 1999 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for his contribution to Canadian heritage.

Al will be well remembered for his extreme love of the North which he expressed over and over again in his music and songs recorded over the years.