

# Wrangell St. Elias News

*"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"*

Volume Fifteen Issue Four

July & August 2006

Two Dollars

## McCarthy celebrates nation's, town's birthdays



**M**cCarthy: —The town's yearly observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July combined

with the celebration of McCarthy's Centennial brought out folks from far and wide. The festivities began

as early as July 1<sup>st</sup> with live music at the Golden Saloon in downtown McCarthy. (continued page 7)

## Hidden Lake outburst takes 70' of riverbank

### River moves away from Kennicott River Service Bridge

Below—July 6—Kennicott River Service Bridge withstands flood waters just fine—but high waters have washed away 66' of riverbank on the east side.



WSEN staff photos

Below—July 11—An amazing 5 days later, Rowcon Services had a new span in place. Several more days to install guard rails and the bridge was reopened on July 18.



## *A note from the publisher*

BY BONNIE KENYON

In the last "note" from the May/June issue, I wrote that we still had 15 inches of snow on the ground. You will be glad to know (as I am glad to report) that springtime arrived, was here only briefly and now summertime is upon us. There for awhile it looked like spring might bypass us altogether. Local gardeners, of which Rick and I are members, eventually managed to till their garden plots and plant seedlings and seeds, albeit two weeks later than usual. The much-asked question these days in town is: how is your garden growing!

Speaking of things being delayed...the mailing of this issue of *WSEN* is about 2 weeks late. We do apologize. Some of you have called inquiring as to the whereabouts of your *WSEN*. Rick and I are always encouraged to know you miss our humble publication if it doesn't arrive on time! For those of you who are new to our readership list, we still publish every issue in our log cabin. The small office we added on several years ago is bursting at the seams with equipment, desks and whatever else we can squeeze into the limited space. This is our 14<sup>th</sup> year for publishing the *Wrangell St. Elias News*. That leads me to announce that postage and printing costs necessitate an increase in subscription price, which will be announced in our next issue.

The main reason for our tardiness is that the "news kept happening." The July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities livened up the town more than usual. The annual Hidden Lake outburst caused much excitement in town which kept Rick on the move with his digital camera. I wish we could use more color photos to better depict the extent of the flood this year and show you more of the floats that were in this year's parade but it is still very costly for us to print color. We know you will enjoy the ones we did include, however.

McCarthy and Kennicott may be small communities as population goes, but they certainly contain a variety of issues that make headlines. Whether it is the famous (or infamous) McCarthy Road, the decision making that goes on in the National Park Service as it relates to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve which surrounds us, access for those who live or work here, local town meetings (which happen more often than you might think in such a small place), or the numerous social events or happenings of our town, we trust all are interesting to many of you, our readers. This issue seems to be packed with a little of all the above. On a lighter note is the weather column done faithfully each issue by local resident, George Cebula. Because food is of critical importance to each of us, Peggy Guntis is quick to submit her cooking column before I even begin my part of *WSEN*. I'm sure she is determined none of

us go hungry. Then there is Susan Smith of Chokosna who, for the most part, writes on the more serious topics that greatly affect our area—subjects such as access to inholdings and the local residents' growing relationships with authorities in the National Park Service. She tackles these issues objectively, leaving plenty of room for open dialogue among all concerned. Rick and I are thankful to have these regular contributors on board *WSEN*. We are often pleasantly surprised to receive a story from one of the younger residents as you will find on page 18. This isn't the first time Kaleb Rowland, 14, has contributed to our publication. Not many young folks have the opportunity to experience the adventures Kaleb lives in daily.

I want to also thank all those who allow themselves to be "items of interest" in my bimonthly column titled the same. Whether you know it or not, *WSEN* readers enjoy the everyday activities that surround your bush lifestyle and what may be mundane to you, is of great interest to those who call our nations' cities home. I suspect we here in McCarthy would find their daily happenings very interesting items!

*WSEN* welcomes aboard the following subscribers: John Rueter, AZ; William Lehmann, AK; Larry and Lindee Satterfield, AK; Marcia and Carl Elwood, AK; Stephen Wahl, AK; Marcheta Long, NE; Richard and Dolores Bass, IL; Tork Johnson and Linda Bass, IL.

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# Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

**The Welty family:** Summer finally arrived in McCarthy and along with the warmer temperatures came Lynn's folks, John and Nancy Burtch of Xenia, Ohio. Nancy says they usually prefer the fall season. I think that's because the mosquitoes are gone, but she and John weren't about to stay home while granddaughter René celebrated her high school graduation. They arrived just in the nick of time on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Lynn and Nancy invited me down for tea this afternoon, complete with a fancy tea pot full of a hot spiced tea, matching cups and saucers and a delicious piece of Nancy's homemade rhubarb pie. What a nice change of pace for me. We McCarthy ladies can always use a good touch of "culture" every now and then!

Don was working his summer job as pilot with Wrangell Mountain Air and Lynn's dad, John, was busy in the Welty garden, pruning the seed pods off Lynn's huge rhubarb plants. So, that left us three ladies to ourselves —and to a fine tea party.

While Lynn was away at work during the daytime, John labored in her garden, creating quite a show piece. Lynn said her garden has never looked that trim and neat. That gave her more time to spend with her folks over their favorite card game or lingering over an afternoon tea break in her new screened gazebo tent (a most welcome birthday present from her folks this year). It is providing the Welty family a haven from the pesky mosquitos that have turned out in full force this summer.

Nancy decided she wasn't about to let all that wonderful rhubarb go to waste. Ten rhubarb pies later, she says Don is still not tired of doing his share in sampling each one.

Don is making sure the Burtches aren't experiencing all work and no play. He flew them to Ptarmigan Lake where they successfully fished for lake trout and grayling. Another outing took them over to Tea Bay Lake where their catch was rainbow trout. I guess Don didn't think his inlaws were getting enough excitement so he flew them and Lynn to Chimney Mountain where they came close to spending the night in a snowstorm. Thankfully, they all made it out in time.

**René Welty, Tracey Gressel and Ruth Rutter** celebrate commencement exercises. The Senior Class of Chugach Extension School —René, Tracey and Ruth —along with nearly 65 folks gathered at the Kennicott Recreation Hall on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> to observe the completion of a major milestone in these young ladies' lives.

René Welty of McCarthy, Tracey Gressel of McCarthy (and Valdez) and Ruth Rutter of Valdez said a fond farewell to the rigors of high school but not without thanking family, friends and teachers for all the encouragement and support they received along the way. Doug Penn, principal, Brenda Coffman, secretary and Cynthia Shidner, teacher from McCarthy each shared special memories of their students.

A slide show put together by the three girls depicted special activities and adventures they experienced throughout their high school days.

After the graduation ceremony, tables laden with delicious food and two beautifully decorated cakes, were provided by the Chugach Extension School, awaited those in attendance.

Well wishes, goodbyes and words of wisdom were passed on to these special graduates with the assurance that René, Tracey and

Ruth are off for more adventures in the days ahead. A heartfelt "Congratulation" to each!

**The Paul Barrett family:** Paul and Glenda maybe made the "mistake" — on their part —of stopping by for propane this afternoon. In my opinion, it was perfect timing to grab an "item of interest!"

The Barretts love visiting their McCarthy home when they are not in Seattle. They come as often as they can which means about 5 times a year. They are here this time to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the McCarthy Centennial. This year they were participants in McCarthy's famous parade.

Son, Zack, 24, is spending the summer in McCarthy where he is working as a guide for Kennicott Wilderness Guides. This is his first year for guiding, says his mom, and he loves it. Last fall he successfully acquired his WFR —Wilderness First Responder —rating.

Glenda said Zack has been coming to McCarthy, with her and Paul, since he was 8 or 9 months old. I suspect Zack doesn't remember those real early days but something must have gotten into his blood because he keeps coming back for more of the good ole' McCarthy lifestyle. It could be because Zack's great grandfather, John Barrett, was the founder of McCarthy — 100 years ago, that is. Yes, I'd say it is in his blood!

Glenda and Paul were also out over the Memorial Day weekend along with Paul's sister, Marilyn, to help Zack put in the summer garden.

A big McCarthy WELCOME to Paul, Glenda and Zack!

**Trig Trigiano:** Another familiar name to McCarthy town is Trig. Like the Barrett family, he visits his McCarthy property as often as he

can. This trip he brought in a new item of interest —a newer and bigger 4 wheeler, a Sportsman's Polaris 800, which he trusts will start much easier in the winter.

His sidekick, "Boxer," a part Siamese cat, loves making the trip with him, always expecting to ride in the passenger seat. According to Trig, Boxer is a terrific bear cat, meaning he prowls, growls and paces whenever a bear is in the vicinity. In other words, Boxer hates bears!

Although Trig and Boxer are on vacation when they visit, Trig always has a project. This time it is to do some finish work on the second floor of his house. I suspect breaking in his new 4 wheeler is on his "to-do" list, as well! Welcome back, Trig!

**Jim Kreblin:** Jim is such a good sport when it comes to items of interest. He dropped by the other day on his way home from work. His summer job takes him to Kennicott 4 days a week. Recently he helped install a propane heating system for the Kennicott Recreation Hall. That should make for comfortable off-season community activities, thanks to Jim's expertise.

When Jim isn't wending his way down the McCarthy Road from Long Lake to work, he and dog Nomad stay busy dabbling in growing a mini-garden (we are waiting for those 2 lb. tomatoes, Jim!) and keeping Robin Lohse in business at the Copper Cup. Robin's ice cream cones are the best to be found at Long Lake. If you're passing by that way, be sure to stop in and sample Robin's fare. You'll probably find Jim there, too. Tell him the Kenyons say "hello."

**Mark Vail:** SURPRISE TO COME! That is what a notice posted at the mail shack promises. Mark is asking us to please save our used stamps for a community project that he is heading up. If you can help, drop off your stamps in Mark's mail Box #15.

**John and Barbara Rice:** The Rices arrived at their summer home the second week of May —just in time to unpack, make a quick trip to Anchorage for supplies and welcome Barbara's long-time friend, Marchete Long, of Battle Creek, Nebraska. The two ladies met while volunteering on the Iditarod and have stayed in touch ever since.

Marchete is not a new face to our town, but always a welcome one. She gave Barbara a hand in helping her set up the Mountain Arts gift shop this year where Barbara works during the summer months. She also created an artistic show place out of the Rices' yard. Rocks are plentiful in Barbara's neighborhood so Marchete went to work arranging them, along with flowers and various items she found in John's shed! Amazing!

Marchete is a school teacher but her summers bring her to Alaska where she works for Alaska Missions for Christ, setting up Vacation Bible Schools throughout the state. She manages to find time in-between to visit the Rices and the folks in our town.

Another visitor was brother-in-law, Chuck Yates of St. Louis. Chuck came prepared to work and kept Barbara and John scrambling for wood so Chuck could finish up inside woodworking projects. I had the opportunity to check out Chuck's handiwork and Marchete's artistry the other night when Barbara invited me for supper while Rick was out of town. Thanks for show-and-tell, great food and fine conversation! Also, thanks for sharing your guests with us. We wish they could stay longer.

**Jim, Audrey and Shelly Edwards:** Jim's daughter Shelly of Anchorage recently spent about 2 weeks at the Edwards' home on Swift Creek. Shelly reminded me that she and brother Steve were the first of the "second wave" McCarthy kids. They arrived, she said, in the early 60's as infants and lived in

what is now the Lancaster Backpacker's Hotel. She has many happy memories of playing in the abandoned Kennecott Mill site and the ghost town of McCarthy.

While here she visited friends, yanked out numerous dandelions from Audrey's garden, worked on Jim's famous "magazine house" (a small cabin under construction being built entirely out of magazines, catalogs and junk mail). I believe Jim would agree there is no shortage of building materials, just time and willing workers! Says Shelly, "I've already made reservations to be the first to sleep in it. I hope it's finished in my lifetime."

Shelly and I spent an afternoon taking in the town of McCarthy, sampling ice cream cones at the McCarthy Mercantile and relaxing on the Merc's deck while Shelly pointed out the various buildings she used to live and play in. I had a grand time, Shelly. Hope we can do it again!

**Gary and Barbara Baugh:** The Baugh family is beginning to set a precedent for spending the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at their McCarthy property. The Baugh's have 3 children and 3 grandkids. By the time everyone showed up for the holiday, Barbara said there were 11 folks and that wasn't counting her and Gary.

When I began writing "Items" it was before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. It is now a day past and the Baugh's really did their float up big. Their white pickup truck was nearly covered with a American flag. It is obvious this is a very patriotic family. I asked Gary why such a "big" flag and he looked at me like I had asked a very foolish question. His answer was, "Because I like the American flag!"

This particular flag has been around for sometime and well taken care of. When Gary's construction company acquired the bid for a major building project at the Mt. Alyeska ski resort some years back, Gary defied the challenges of getting this huge flag to the top of the building for all to see. He said it took a tower crane

to get it in place, but what a sight to behold.

I hope the Baugh family will continue their holiday trips to McCarthy. Barbara says her grandchildren are sold on spending future 4ths in McCarthy! Welcome back to the entire Baugh family and thanks for your great American spirit and sharing your love for our country and its flag!

**Neil O'Donnell, Margaret Stock and daughter Catherine:** Neil, Margaret and Catherine made their annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July trip to their McCarthy area cabin this year, right on schedule. Catherine must really love her school teacher, Karen Lederhos, because she brought her along to help celebrate the holiday in style.

In style meant attending the festivities in McCarthy. Ice cream cones, parade watching, bidding in the live auction, visiting with neighbors and friends and, Catherine's yearly entry in the pie eating contest. She came in 4<sup>th</sup> this year. Her competition was intense and multiplied compared to other years, but she wasn't intimidated.

The holiday always draws the crowds to our small town but it is especially rewarding to see, once again, our part-time neighbors such as Neil, Margaret and Catherine!

**Jim and Peggy Guntis and family:** Jim and Peggy arrived first week of May from their winter home in Tucson. Their major project for this summer is to install new flooring in the McCarthy house. Jim is volunteering his expertise and time working on future historical displays for our local museum and for the park service in Kennicott. Peggy (when she is not catching up on her reading from their ever expanding bookcase or writing her next Cooking with Peggy column for WSEN) has been getting her things unpacked and the house ready for visiting family members.

A few days ago the house came alive with activity. Jim's daughter **Sue Miller** and friend **Chris** from Tucson arrived and Jim quickly organized family outdoor adventures. Jim's other daughter, **Salley Wallin**, and husband, **Scott**, also of Tucson arrived in McCarthy. Most folks will recognize

the Wallin's name because they are now considered part of our town's summer regulars. Our readers already know Salley and Scott's daughter, **Anna Wallin**, who makes "items of interest" frequently. A big welcome to Sue, Chris, Scott and Salley and welcome back to Jim and Peggy.

**The Koenig family:** The Koenigs are visiting their McCarthy Creek property and enjoy spending the holiday visiting friends and attending the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities. Rob, Arlene and their 7 children reside in Fairbanks but are frequent visitors to our area. This trip the Koenigs brought with them the most recent Koenig — baby Sarah, who is about 2 ½ months old. What a doll! Sarah's older brothers and sisters, Emily, Jonathan, Benjamin, Daniel, Evan and Hannah all do their share to keep their new baby sister entertained and give mom a break. Another welcome is in order to the entire Koenig family!

**Local buildings receive loving attention:** The McCarthy Kennicott Community Church not only obtained another coat of oil finish on its exterior siding, but the inside flooring has taken on an entirely new look. Wally Miller and John Kinney, both of Fairbanks, installed new carpeting in the sanctuary and salvaged the old carpeting for use in the basement. Both men are in the flooring installation business and did a great job! The McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum is sporting a fresh coat of red paint which really spruces up the crossroad in town. The **Copper Oar/St. Elias Alpine Guides' office** has not only been given a totally new look from the fresh wood siding but it was actually moved to a new location. Its new setting is at Mile 59 of the McCarthy Road, complete with a freshly-constructed parking lot. A recently erected sign informs the visitors of the kind of amenities available as well as a friendly invite for visitors to stop for local information. Another job well done!

**National Park Service offers a volunteer program:** On May 13<sup>th</sup> three local residents, John Adams and Rick and Bonnie Kenyon, attended a volunteer training session with Diane

Milliard, interpreter ranger for the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Agreeing to work 3 hours one night a week to help man the McCarthy Informational Station after hours, these local business owners enjoy providing information to visitors and welcoming area guests to the largest national park in the nation. It is hoped that others will join the program.

**Fireweed Academy visits McCarthy and Kennicott:** Kiki Abrahamson, teacher with Fireweed Academy of Homer, brought 20 young students along with 4 other adults on a school field trip to the McCarthy Kennicott area on May 9 and 10. One young student, well known to many of us, was Maggie Bursch whose family owns a cabin in the Fireweed Subdivision. The Bursches reside in Homer but do their best to visit their former home.

**Copper Valley Telephone is calling:** Mark your calendars, McCarthy, Chitina and Glennallen. Copper Valley Telephone's 4<sup>th</sup> annual customer appreciation picnic is calling you. Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, chips and dessert will be waiting you. McCarthy at the Tony Zak house on July 27<sup>th</sup>; Chitina on July 28<sup>th</sup> at the Chitina Wayside and on August 11<sup>th</sup> in Glennallen at the CVTC parking lot. The time for each picnic is noon to 1 PM. I've marked my calendar!

**The Chitina Tribal and Community Health Center** held its first annual open house this past Friday. There were over fifty people in attendance from as far away as Gulkana and Gakona. Free Blood Pressure checks were offered for guests, various door prizes were given out through out the day. Sandy Kasteler was the grand prize winner of an Annual Wellness Exam.

The CTCHC announced that it will be holding a Back To School Physical Clinic on August 15 & 16, 2006 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. A special price of \$25 will be offered during this time period only. Vaccinations will be available for an additional charge as well.

The CTCHC is open Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 5:00pm and offers a full range of family medical services. The CTCHC invites everyone to stop in when you are in Chitina for a personal tour of the clinic and a free blood pressure check.

## Climber dies in crevasse fall on Mount Bona

A 56-year-old California man died Monday afternoon, May 17, in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park after a fall into a crevasse near Mount Bona, about 40 miles east of McCarthy.

Will Hirst of Castro Valley, California, was on a guided mountaineering trip with two guides and a second client. The party was traversing the Klutlan Glacier at about the 9,700 foot elevation on snowshoes and was roped together at the time of the accident. Mr. Hirst was leading, followed by Eli Potter of St. Elias Alpine Guides.

According to accounts provided by Potter, Hirst fell through a snow bridge at about 3 p.m. and caught himself at his armpits. While the guide was taking out the slack in the line, Hirst broke through and fell about 20 feet farther down the crevasse. The crevasse had not been seen by the climbers, and ran toward the guide, causing a pendulum effect when Hirst broke through.

The guide anchored Hirst and then began trying to make contact, but received no response. The guides made contact with the Alaska National Guard Rescue Coordination Center by satellite phone shortly after the fall. The National

Park Service was then notified by RCC. Paul Claus, the air taxi pilot who had brought the group in, was then called by NPS. At about 4:15 p.m. Monday afternoon he returned to the glacier, landed and assisted the group with the recovery.

Claus was accompanied by a medical doctor who was staying at Claus's Ultima Thule Lodge. Once Hirst was brought out of the crevasse, CPR was attempted until the doctor pronounced Hirst dead. Claus flew the body and lead guide to Gulkana. Based on the information provided by the guide, the state coroner determined the cause of death as "positional asphyxia."

## Enviro groups sue to stop recreational ATV access in WRST

The National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA), Alaska Center for the Environment, and The Wilderness Society filed a lawsuit on June 29, asking the court to "Enter a judgment enjoining the Defendants [NPS] from issuing further recreational ORV permits for Wrangell-St. Elias..."

Even though the National Park Service (NPS) requires permits for recreational ATV riding, the green groups are calling it "unregulated."

"ATV enjoyment is appropriate in many places in Alaska, however, unregulated recreational riding is not compatible with most people's view of a national park. The damage being done in Wrangells could cause nine trails in the park to be closed to all users, including local subsistence users," said Randy Virgin, executive director of Alaska Center for the Environment.

After the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST)

was declared a park area in 1980, the NPS inventoried approximately 600 to 800 miles of existing ATV trails. They pared that down to just 13 routes, and declared them to be "authorized" or "recreational" ATV trails.

Recreational users need to obtain a permit from the NPS before riding on the designated trails.

The lawsuit contends that the NPS should have gone through a lengthy environmental evaluation process before allowing these trails, all of which predate the park, to be used.

Not so, says the NPS.

"[We] believe we have sufficient grounds to support the decisions WRST has made regarding recognizing established routes that are consistent with park purposes and values, and implementing a permit system that the regulations require," said Will Tipton, acting superintendent at the park.

The lawsuit does not seek to restrict access to the park by the local subsistence users living in resident zone communities around Wrangells, only access by those who do not live near the park.

The NPCA declared WRST to be one of America's "10 most endangered parks" several years ago, based on damage to ATV trails in the park — all of which are on the north side, near Slana and Nabesna. *WSEN* readers will remember that Doug Fredericks was cited and fined by the NPS when he and several other locals attempted to repair one of the trails. Alaskans came to Fredericks' aid and paid the fine.

There was also criticism of the NPS from locals when a grant from the NPS Trails Program was used outside the park, on BLM land, rather than to repair trails identified by NPCA as being damaged.

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*"It is said that power corrupts, but actually it's more true that power attracts the corruptible. The sane are usually attracted by other things than power." — David Brin*

# McCarthy Road gets \$2 million of attention

“**H**ug-a-boulder bend” is getting plenty of attention this summer. The infamous narrow curve at mile 18 has been a source of anxiety for McCarthy Road travelers for years.

With solid rock on one side, and a drop-off of several hundred feet on the other, one had no place to go if meeting an oncoming vehicle. Common practice, at least by locals, was to “hug the boulder,” no mat-

ter which way you were heading.

Last year the state appropriated two million dollars to be used on the McCarthy Road. Blasting away the rock, crushing it and spreading it on the road will use the bulk of available funds.

A contract was also let to brush both sides of the 60 mile road. Sharp curves with brush on the inside severely limits vision. As we go to press, the brushing work is not nearly completed, but seems to be at a standstill.



WSEN staff photo

Cleaning up after blast. Material is being moved to Mile 17 for crushing.

## 4th of July and McCarthy Centennial celebrated —McCarthy style

(continued from Cover)



The Clothesline Photography Show at the “barn” next door to the Ma Johnson Hotel began its display of favorite pictures of the area, some from way back when!

The Kennicott Glacier Lodge held its annual holiday barbecue on the evening of July 2<sup>nd</sup>. A Kids’ Workshop at the Old Hardware Store in McCarthy gave kids an opportunity to do a few crafts but also to decorate bikes and carts for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

The McCarthy-Kennicott Marching Band began this year’s July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities followed by the national anthem sung by Rebecca Bard and accompanied by Malcolm Vance.

A phenomenal parade, the largest participation remembered by locals, filled the tiny streets of McCarthy. Nine historic vehicles, members of the Antique Auto Mushing Club, were interspersed among the various and even humorous floats that entertained the bystanders lining the town’s main street.

The National Park Service employees entered a float for the first time. Their rendition of the CR&NW train, driven by Dave Williams of Kennicott, was accompanied by a comical skit depicting the Prohibition Agent, (Stephens Harper), who was doing his best to round up those pesky lawbreakers. Vicki Snitzler, dressed up as the town’s local schoolmarm, was giving her support to the “Agent” by flushing out two bootleggers (Megan Richotte and Jessica Speed).

A favorite of the patriotic side of the town was the Gary Baugh family’s display of the American flag.

The Copper Oar float and the Kennicott/McCarthy Volunteer Fire Department’s water truck made sure many of the bystanders were aptly doused with water.

After the parade and before the games began, it was a time for speeches and presentations in support and commemoration of the 100-year celebration of McCarthy’s existence and history.

The delivery of a citation to the town of McCarthy from the 24<sup>th</sup> Alaska legislature was read by Paul Barrett, grandson of John Barrett, the town’s founder. The tribute, congratulating the town for surviving 100 years and wishing it another





centennial, was presented to Meg Hunt on behalf of the McCarthy Museum with special recognition to Neil Darish, for being originator of the McCarthy Centennial project. Sponsors of the citation were Representative Woodie Salmon and Senator Al Kookesh.

Diane Milliard gave a speech on the history of the town. The author

of *Historic McCarthy the Town that Copper Built*, M. J. Kirchhoff, addressed the audience with items of historical significance. He presented the town with an original painting by J. P. Hubrick which was eagerly examined by many in attendance.

A live auction followed with items donated by local businesses with proceeds going to community organizations. Raffle tickets were sold to raise money for the McCarthy Outhouse Fund. The prize was a Mill Tour with St. Elias Alpine Guides and dinner at the Kennicott Glacier Lodge.

Games for young and old rounded out the afternoon. Mc-

Carthy Lodge held an outdoor barbecue and the McCarthy Mercantile kept the town well supplied with ice cream cones.

Another 4<sup>th</sup> of July has come and gone with the small town of McCarthy now on its way to yet another 100 years.



## Wedding bliss in McCarthy

**M**cCarthy: —On May 19<sup>th</sup>, in the heart of the Wrangell Mountains, a church bell perched on top of the McCarthy Kennicott Community Church could be heard ringing in celebration of the wedding of Lee Ann Gerhart and Ray Kreig of Anchorage.

The date was no ordinary date for the couple. It was also the anniversary of their first date in 1993 and Ray's birthday. This special day now carries an additional reason to celebrate.

Pastor Rick Kenyon officiated. His wife, Bonnie, had the honor of acting as witness to this grand event. A reception followed in the Kenyon's log home. Lee Ann surprised Ray by bringing all the ingredients for a Kreig family favorite recipe —Burnt Sugar Cake. It served as the wedding cake.

Ray and Lee Ann met through a mutual friend. Ray proposed to Lee Ann on the Coastal Trail east of Earthquake Park in Anchorage. Af-

ter seating Lee Ann on the shore, Ray went into the woods, where he emerged with a bouquet of roses he had hidden. He then asked for her hand in marriage.

Lee Ann is the daughter of Bill and Shirley Whiteside of Corpus



Christi, Texas. She graduated from the University of Texas Austin with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting. She is a self-

employed business analyst. She fell in love with Alaska in 1981 during a one-year assignment with Exxon. She has called Alaska home since 1990, when she accepted a job with Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.

Ray is the son of Albert and Margaret Kreig, both deceased. He graduated from Cornell University in 1970 with bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering. With a primary academic interest in tropical soils, his first job out of college took him to Alaska to work on routing studies for the Alaska Railroad extension to the North Slope. Ray remained in Fairbanks and later Anchorage as a base for many routing and terrain analysis consulting assignments, in Alaska and abroad, as an air photo interpreter and permafrost specialist.

The couple spent a week in McCarthy at the Kenyon's bed and breakfast. Both enjoy natural science and historical research, traveling and friends, many made through public service.

## Access Guide comment period extended

The National Park Service has extended the public comment period on the second draft of the "User's Guide to Accessing Inholdings in a National Park Service Area in Alaska" until September 1, 2006.

The review of the draft was to end on May 27, but several organizations requested a longer comment period and additional information from the National Park Service.

Within Alaska's national park units, there are more than 1.6 million acres of land owned by private individuals and corporations, the state of Alaska and local governments. These owners and other valid occupants are entitled to adequate and feasible access to their property, but the process of documenting legal access across public land has

never been well described in a single document.

In 2005, the NPS released for public review a draft user's guide to help landowners and others understand the process to authorize and document ANILCA Title XI access across park areas. Comments from individuals, corporations and governments, and comments taken during four public meetings led to changes which were incorporated into the second draft. Additional changes are anticipated before a final document is released.

The guide describes how landowners and valid occupants can use existing regulations and policies to exercise their rights under Section 1110(b) of the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). This section addresses motorized access to inholdings, as

well as access that would require improvements such as construction or maintenance of a road, power line, or landing strip, or similar undertakings on publicly owned park land. Access by airplane, boat, snow-machine and various methods of non-motorized travel not requiring improvements generally does not require an authorization under Section 1110(b).

Copies of the draft guide may be requested by calling the NPS at (907) 644-3501, or by writing to NPS Regional Director, 240 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501. Comments must be received at that address by September 1. Also, copies of the guide are available on-line at [www.nps.gov/Alaska](http://www.nps.gov/Alaska) at the link to Access Guide. Comments may also be made on-line through that link.

## Access Guide meeting at McCarthy

BY SUSAN SMITH

CHAIRPERSON RESIDENTS OF THE WRANGELLS

Residents of the McCarthy area met with National Park Service (NPS) personnel on May 3, 2006 at the McCarthy Community Church to voice their comments on the second draft of *A User's Guide to Accessing Inholdings in a NPS Area in Alaska*. Wrangell - St. Elias Park (WRST) Lands Manager Danny Rosenkrans, Park Planner Vicki Snitzler, Chief Ranger Marshall Neeck, and Park Ranger Stephens Harper attended along with 17 community members.

Danny Rosenkrans started the meeting with a statement summarizing the changes incorporated into the guide since draft one. At the policy level, NPS proposes to waive fees for all rights-of-way which require Environmental Assessments (EAs). This waiver would not apply for more complex routes or construction of new routes over previ-

ously undisturbed ground which require Environmental Impact Statements.

Programmatic EAs would be used to satisfy National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements by grouping like routes requiring EAs into a single assessment at NPS expense. They have investigated the use of Categorical Exclusions which would eliminate the need for NEPA compliance, but feel that none apply to our situation.

Residents would be expected to stay within the existing footprint of their routes and maintenance criteria would be outlined on a case by case basis. Rosenkrans stated that permits would still be needed, although terms were extended from 10 to 30 years. Use of the standard SF299 Transportation and Utility System application form would also be required. The NPS stand on these issues has now changed according

to recent comments from Regional Director Marcia Blaszk suggesting the use of access certificates to replace permits and a revised, simplified application form for Alaskans.

Whatever form the access authorization document will take, NPS refuses to attach it to the landowner's parcel. They claim that such an attachment would constitute the granting of a property right, an action beyond their jurisdiction. They hope to complete a documentation process this summer which will identify and describe each right-of-way in WRST, taking GPS coordinates to confirm its location.

Comments and questions from the audience followed Rosenkrans' presentation. Most respondents objected to the use of a permit at all, and found a 30-year term unacceptable in lieu of ANILCA's mandate that permanent rights be granted to landowners and their successors in

interest. Standard NPS permits allow revocation and require set terms; Alaskan inholders need another alternative.

Some audience members voiced concern over the use of policy at the state level versus permanent rule-making to formulate the access procedure. Policy can be easily changed by subsequent administrations. However, NPS wants to establish

and finalize the procedure quickly and adoption of new regulations can take years to accomplish. When asked about new access, Rosenkrans assured us that guaranteed ANILCA access applies not only to rights-of-way in existence today, but also to routes constructed in the future.

Rosenkrans assured residents that draft two would not be finalized, and one or more rewrites

would follow. Additional draft two comment meetings took place on May 4 in Slana and May 11 in Anchorage. As a result of these meetings and comments received from the general public, Regional Director Blaszk appears to have changed her view on the permit issue, and NPS shows a willingness to meet with residents to negotiate and tailor the next user's guide document.

## NPS Director Blaszk visits McCarthy

BY SUSAN SMITH

CHAIRPERSON RESIDENTS OF THE WRANGELLS

National Park Service (NPS) Regional Director Marcia Blaszk invited a small group of local residents and business owners to meet with her on June 3, 2006 in McCarthy at the Tony Zak house. She was accompanied by Wrangell-St. Elias Park (WRST) Acting Superintendent Will Tipton, Park Planner Vicki Snitzler, and Park Ranger Stephens Harper. Based upon comments received on the second draft of *A User's Guide to Accessing Inholdings in a NPS Area in Alaska*, including one strong letter from Governor Frank Murkowski, Director Blaszk arranged the meeting to update locals on their plans for the next step in the access documentation and authorization process.

First of all, the comment period for draft two has been extended for 90 days until September 1, 2006. NPS does not maintain a complete mailing list of all landowners within park boundaries. Some inholders are still being found within WRST and other Alaskan parks who know nothing of the User's Guide process, but will be expected to abide by it. Hopefully, this extension will allow all affected landowners to be notified.

NPS has decided to pursue an alternative to their nationwide permitting process to document Alaskans' ANILCA-mandated access.

Director Blaszk proposed instead the issuance of an access certificate of some form to each landowner. She confirmed that our right to access our property is not revocable. However, NPS continues to maintain that the certificate cannot be attached to our parcels, but must be issued to individual landowners with a 30-year term.

Rather than compile a third draft, her office has decided to create an interim document which will be used on a trial basis for some time before it is finalized. The agency cannot allow inholders to participate in the document writing process without establishing a group based upon strict federal guidelines requiring, among other things, reporting of minutes in the Federal Register and a seat at the table for other national special interest groups.

Director Blaszk instead suggested that a series of meetings with interested inholders will be scheduled to share ideas and work out the details of the interim access procedure. These meetings will give residents their best chance yet to negotiate with NPS personnel and directly affect the process. She does not anticipate a public comment period for this third document; rather, a trial period will test its workability and the unfinalized procedure will still be open to change. This interim process was recommended by Governor Murkowski in

his May 27, 2006 draft two comment letter to Blaszk.

Categorical exclusions will not be used to eliminate the need for NEPA review. Programmatic environmental assessments will be used to evaluate common routes at NPS expense where environmental impact statements are not required. The agency does not believe that their existing categorical exclusions apply to our situation and the process involved in creating a new one would take years to accomplish. NPS is anxious to complete their documentation and authorization process as quickly as possible and would like to avoid the lengthy rule-making process.

For that reason, NPS proposes the use of policy at the state level to implement their access procedure rather than regulation changes to reflect special circumstances for Alaskan inholders. Draft two of the User's Guide already proposes a fee waiver policy. However, many commenters are concerned about the lack of permanence of policies that can be changed at the whim of the administration in power. Director Blaszk stated that a strong policy would establish a precedent not easily overturned.

The agency has received many complaints about the complexity and inappropriateness of their right-of-way application form SF299, designed for large transportation and utility systems. Blaszk agreed and

offered to compile an abbreviated form specifically for use in Alaskan parks.

NPS will also make an attempt to address comments on draft two with their rationale for acceptance or dismissal. Most draft one comments from the largest resident groups in WRST were largely ignored. Hopefully, this new series of meetings will iron out our differences if the agency comes to the table with an open mind and a true desire to give residents a chance to contribute and affect policy.

Some discussion followed Director Blaszak's presentation. Participants commented on the need for NPS to recognize the cultural value

of landowners within Alaskan parks, the need for perpetuity and automatic transfers of the access document, and the lack of permanence in the use of policy. Others asked for clarification of the interim procedure, the approach anticipated for gathering landowner input, and the federal regulations which apply to the process.

Alaskan NPS administrators are offering to take a new look at their authorization process and speak directly to landowners before formulating a revised procedure. Many of these new approaches were suggested last month by Governor Murkowski in his draft two comment letter. This is an important milestone in our long struggle to

persuade NPS to look at Alaskan rights-of-way to inholdings in a different light than the process used nationwide as a result of ANILCA law.

We encourage all residents to schedule meetings with Director Blaszak and Deputy Director Vic Knox during July to contribute their suggestions for an access solution. Also, please share this information with neighbors who might not be aware of the User's Guide process so that no one's comments go unheard. Together, we may be able to work out a viable process that will meet inholder needs, satisfy the agency, and settle the access issue by the end of this year.

## Simple solution best

BY SUSAN SMITH —CHAIRPERSON ROW

**T**he National Park Service (NPS) and residents have made progress toward finding a mutually agreeable solution to the inholder access issue in Alaskan parks. However, NPS still holds firm to their stand that access cannot be granted in perpetuity attached to the landowner's parcel.

Governor Frank Murkowski addressed the issue in his May 27, 2006 User's Guide Draft Two comment letter to NPS Regional Director Marcia Blaszak. He stated, "ANILCA Section 1110(b) is an access guarantee in perpetuity. Termination or modification of an associated authorization document cannot eliminate this fundamental right of access." He goes on to say, "...we encourage exploration of standardized language that could be attached to the title by the existing owner, at their discretion, that identifies the associated Section 1110(b) right of access. Ultimately, both current and future inholders need to be assured that their right of access will not be diminished as a result of property transfer."

I agree.

Ms. Blaszak commented on the NPS position at a June 3, 2006 McCarthy meeting. The agency claims it does not have the authority or jurisdiction to grant permanent property rights to landowners crossing park land to reach their parcels. Since the rights-of-way in question are on federal land, NPS will not grant permanent rights to private parcels. We argue that private lands are indeed encumbered by the lack of permanent access, even with the 30-year term they are offering.

Perhaps we should approach the permanency of access rights in a different way. I propose that NPS locate and number (or name) each right-of-way across federal land in use today or in the past by landowners. Then, based upon ANILCA law, grant a permanent easement or recordable disclaimer for each of these routes to be used in perpetuity, by landowners and their successors in interest.

An access certificate could then be issued for each inholding which includes the number (or name) of the right-of-way that is traversed to reach that parcel. This certificate would include the name of the landowner, but would be attached to the land itself.

A procedure would then need to be established to record changes in parcel ownership on the certificate, but these should not require NPS approval. Also, NPS will want to be kept informed of changes in use of the rights-of-way and be assured that resources are being protected so those issues will have to be negotiated.

The end result would be a network of easements with permanent NPS authorization to all inholdings in Alaska. Certificates would replace permits, and they would be attached permanently to each parcel, noting the right-of-way authorized. NPS would not be granting property rights to landowners, but would be granting permanent easements on their own land.

I offer this proposal to provide a fair and timely solution to an issue which continues to be a stumbling block in the path to an access resolution. ANILCA mandated that our access be permanent, without terms, revocability, or approvals. This proposed policy would satisfy inholder needs and allow NPS an authorization method within their current regulations.

# Champion for Chitina: Dip netting guide Hem finds a home on the Copper River

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BY KELLY BOSTIAN

**I**t was during a lighter moment that Mark Hem revealed just how enthralled he still is with the Copper River, even after 23 years piloting the waterway.

Floating in the middle of the churning river last Saturday, he plopped his travel coffee mug back into the center of the roll of duct tape he uses as a cup holder on the dash of his custom-built 24-foot Wooldridge. He cut the power to its 390-horsepower Vortec engine, and as the growl ceased and ears tuned into the silence, Hem grinned.

"Have I showed you this one?"

The silt-laden river slid under the 7-foot aluminum hull, an icy ribbon of liquid sandpaper headed for Prince William Sound, and soon the river's texture filled the cabin with sound.

"Sounds like bacon frying," Hem declared with a smile and tone of wonder.

Hem, 41, is as comfortable on this churning, silty, windblown waterway as most people are driving one of their neighborhood streets. The difference is Hem not only knows the river, but is known statewide because of it, his ties to it and his enthusiasm for it. He and his wife, Susie, left their Fairbanks home a year ago and moved to Chitina, where they have not only a thriving business, but see great potential for economic growth.

His recorded fishing report, well known among dip-netters statewide, is more than just a report these days. It begins with a pitch for Hem's store, the Chitina One Stop, "lowest gas prices in the Copper River Valley," and a pitch for the

local hotel and cafe. He also partnered last year with longtime river runner Sam McCallister of Copper River Charters. He's working with the Chitina Native Corp. on access issues. And he owns some land where a lodge may stand one day.

It seems the considerable Copper River winds are blowing Hem's way these days.

## Following his heart

With the state Department of Transportation making repairs and planning broad improvements to the McCarthy Road, and the National Park Service lending more promotion to Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve—reached via McCarthy Road, Hem is high on future tourism possibilities for Chitina.

It's also where his heart lies and, he says, the town of 60 people along the river is just a nice place to live.

"I think Chitina is his passion. I think it's his calling," Susie Hem said. "I wouldn't have followed him down here if I didn't believe his heart is in Chitina."

Hem said his wife's statement has deeper meaning than it may sound as a man who is a born-again Christian and strives to live by biblical principles.

But at the same time there were practical reasons. Their kids are grown and out on their own, the time was right for Susie to leave her job with the state, and, as with most things Hem talks about, the river is a factor.

"Chitina has its own weather with the river acting like a funnel to the ocean. The winters are a lot warmer. We're usually 10 degrees warmer than Kenny Lake and 20 warmer than Glennallen."

And it's close to Valdez and Prince William Sound. While he has

clearly fallen for the Copper River, his first love was the ocean. "I can get the boat down to Valdez and get out on the ocean quickly from here," said the native of Long Beach Island, N.J., who grew up around fishermen. "I never dreamed I'd be a riverboat captain. I always thought I'd commercial fish or something."

The abbreviated version of Hem's journey to Chitina is that he quit his job at a Fairbanks furniture store because his boss wouldn't give him the weekend off to come to Chitina and dipnet with his brother in 1981. They went dipnetting, he fell in the river, had a miserable time and didn't catch any fish. But he did see a line of people waiting to get on a lone riverboat charter and the image stuck in his head.

The next winter the brothers and Hem's brother-in-law were sitting around having one of those discussions young men have about how to make money. "I said if we want to make money we ought to go to Chitina," he said. "I was 18, what did I know?"

His brother-in-law traded up to a better boat and the trio was on the river in 1983 as Alaska River Ventures. They would pick up clients up and down the river, sometimes stopping to talk with people and simply offering them a ride for \$25 a head.

"It didn't work out," Hem said.

Two years later, Hem's father agreed to buy a boat if Mark would be the operator and Hem's Interior Charters (now it's just "Hem's") was born. "At first we were really just a taxi," he said. "We'd get people on the boat and say, 'Well, when you see a spot where you want us to drop you off, just let us know.'"

Now the cost is \$90 per person, which includes permit fees paid to Chitina Native Corp. for access for

clients to camp on the beach at O'Brien Creek right next to the boat landing. Two brothers, Daniel, 16, and Samuel Posey, 18, of Kenny Lake work the boats with Hem and McCallister, and clients' fish are loaded into buckets and then onto a four-wheeler trailer and taken to a fish-cleaning station outfitted with racks for cleaning, hoses for washing and a chute that channels heads and entrails into the creek to waiting flocks of hungry gulls and eagles.

McCallister has been on the river since the mid-1990s and used to compete with Hem. "Oh yeah," he said. "We used to fight over spots on the river and fight over people. It's a lot nicer now because we don't have to do that. We can take care of everybody and it's a lot nicer."

The old competitors have become friends. "I really enjoy working with him," McCallister said. "He does have a lot of knowledge of the river and it's a pleasure being down here with him like this."

### Face of Chitina

Hem works more like a fishing guide now, putting people in hot spots, coaching them on netting techniques and often pointing to best spot for them to put their nets. After 23 years, he knows the right spots to hit when the river is high or low—and the water level changes those available spots considerably.

The places have names that fit, like the relatively spacious and green Honeymoon Hole or the relatively small rock, surrounded by water and at the base of a sheer cliff, called Aleatraz.

"Sometimes when the fishing is a little slower the more precarious spots can produce a little better," he said. "But they're also a little more dangerous. I can't just put anybody in a spot like (Aleatraz)."

One of Hem's clients fell in the river in June. The man was tied off to shore by a rope, but had too much slack in the rope and wasn't wearing a life jacket. He also wasn't

tied in properly, so the current kept him from being able to grab the rope and pull himself back to shore. A party on the opposite side of the river fired shots, waved and ultimately alerted Hem to the man's predicament and he helped him ashore after 10 or 15 minutes in the water.

"He was OK," Hem said. "His reaction was, 'it wasn't as cold as I thought it would be.'"

But, make no mistake, the 40-degree water is quite cold and can cause hypothermia in short order. "It reminded us how dangerous the river can be, and to be more insistent about people tying off—and tying off short," Hem said.

The possible danger doesn't ebb the flow of dip-netters to Chitina, however.

Ten people stood in line at O'Brien Creek before 5 a.m. Saturday morning. Most had driven there from Anchorage or Fairbanks the night before and stood in line, some with Power Bars, caffeinated drinks, water and fruit or doughnuts for a standing breakfast.

Among them was former state senator John Davies of Fairbanks. Like most in line, Davies and his son, Ben, were there for the Hem advantage.

Davies said he first came to Chitina as a University of Alaska Fairbanks student in the '60s and '70s.

"We did it the hard way," he said. "But about 10 years later—and after you get a little older and grayer—we decided to go with Hem.

"The productivity definitely went up," he said with a chuckle.

While Davies was in the Legislature, his rides with Hem involved talk of politics—mostly regarding river access issues—and Hem is the kind of person who doesn't mince words. "He was always respectful, but there was never any question where he stood," Davies said.

Like most, Davies recognized Hem's history, knowledge of the

river and concern for the community.

"As far as what's going on down there now, he's certainly got his finger on the pulse," Davies said. "To a lot of people this time of year, he's the face of Chitina."

### Salmon to tourism

The draw to the Copper River is the salmon and, for many, the way to the salmon is through Hem.

When the river level is right and the fish numbers are high, it's not unusual for a pair of dip-netters to land two household limits, 60 fish, in an hour or less at Chitina. A fish a minute is about as fast a pair can net, kill, and put 60 of the flopping sockeyes and kings on stringers.

It's not that such a catch can't be made anywhere on the river, but the convenience of a trip on the riverboat can have someone leaving shore at 5 a.m. and back on the beach, with fish in buckets headed to the fish-cleaning station before 8 or 9 a.m.

"Every year I have people who come out, and they've come to Chitina for years, and they do this and just say, 'I had no idea it could be like this,'" Hem said.

Things were a little slower Saturday. Aleatraz produced 29 sockeyes and a king for a dip-netter working alone for about six hours. Shin Suzuki and KJ Lee of Anchorage worked roughly 10 hours from the canyon perch to land 58 sockeyes and two kings. Likewise, the Davies crew worked about 10 hours on the river before coming in.

Not everyone came in with a limit. Hem and McCallister cruised the river, as they do every day but Sunday, talking with parties, checking their status and spreading the word. "People like to hear how others are doing along the river," he said. "I just try to encourage people, give them tips. Sometimes there's not much you can do if the fishing is just slow, but if you tell somebody they're not alone, then they don't feel as bad about it."

(continued on page 22)

## McCarthy Area Council holds monthly meetings

**M**cCarthy: —On April 28<sup>th</sup> twelve McCarthy Area Council (MAC) members met at the Blackburn Center for the goal of discussing issues such as the NPS User's Guide to Access (Draft #2) and the McCarthy Creek tram crossing project.

Jeremy Keller, president, pointed out what he sees as two primary changes in Draft #2: the waiving of fees and the potential permit duration of 30 years. Included in the discussion was the reading of MAC's first response to Draft #1. Comments written to Alaska Regional Director Marcia Blaszak stated: We, as a community body, and in a single voice, state that a permit process and fee structure for access to private property DOES adversely affect our "valid existing rights of access." The documentation process that we wish to assist with should reaffirm our right of access in perpetuity. Our valid existing right of access should not be subject to review by future park administrations, either per arbitrary schedule or at time of property transfer.

Certain members stated that many of MAC's previous concerns as outlined in the group's letter had not been answered. No one present at the April meeting indicated their desire for MAC's position to change. Further discussion and an adoption of MAC's revised position will be on the agenda at the June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The McCarthy Creek crossing and proposed tram project was addressed among the members present. Stephens Harper pointed out that there is a state road to Kennicott and a state road from the south side of McCarthy Creek to Dan Creek, but there is no established state right-of-way through the townsite of McCarthy. He suggested MAC ask DOT for a determination.

No strong proponents of the tram project were present to answer

questions of concern. However, the group constructed a question to be voted on at the May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting: Do you support D.O.T. accepting ownership of a tram for public access across McCarthy Creek, that would in no way prevent vehicular access or a future bridge in the right-of-way, so that the project can move forward?

On May 26<sup>th</sup> another MAC meeting was held at the Blackburn Center. Twenty-five members attended with a dozen others in attendance. On hand to address the group was Jerry Rafson and Dave Sanchez of the Department of Transportation (DOT), northern region. The McCarthy Creek Crossing was the first subject of discussion.

"In 2004, a congressional earmark was approved for \$200,000 to construct a 280-foot tram across McCarthy Creek. The project was transferred to Western Federal Lands (branch of FHWA) for construction, however, until they have a maintenance commitment, they will not move forward with the project. This earmark expires September 2007," stated DOT. Inadequate funding and lack of a maintenance agreement were reasons given for DOT not being involved in this project to date. A preliminary estimate of \$640,000 by DOT was broken down to reveal \$90,000 for design and environmental issues. Since the project is federally funded, the NEPA process will apply. Right-of-way identification and certification costs could be \$50,000 and \$500,000 was estimated for construction of the tram.

DOT policy requires that the local sponsor of a project such as this provide for the maintenance of the facility once the project is complete. A maintenance agreement is required committing a qualified entity or organization such as a community or homeowners association to maintenance prior to project

start up. According to Rafson, the National Park Service, University of Alaska Lands, Dept. of Natural Resources, FHWA and Western Federal Lands have been approached, but, to date, none are willing to accept maintenance responsibilities for the tram project.

Dave Sanchez, Area Planner of DOT, suggested that it may be possible to change the scope of the earmark, through congressional action, from "constructing a tram across McCarthy Creek" to "McCarthy Creek access improvements." Then the funds may be used for parking and road improvements. The ultimate goal would be to keep the earmark funds in the community instead of being sent back to Washington, D. C. for re-distribution. Rafson reminded the group that the funds must be paid back if there is a no build on the tram project.

Referring to the question constructed at the previous MAC meeting, MAC member, Eric Yould, made a motion to amend the language of the question. Instead of supporting DOT accepting ownership of the tram, Yould suggested the wording should read "any qualified governmental agency." The results of the vote were 32 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstention, 4 proxies in favor and 4 proxies opposed.

Prior to closing out the meeting, MAC president, Jeremy Keller, proposed the option of MAC becoming a grant-funded council with the intention of tackling community services such as basic infrastructure. He announced it was his desire to seriously look into the options of McCarthy becoming a second-class city or borough at some time in the future.

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup> with the agenda including discussion and adoption of revised position on the NPS's User's Guide to Access, Draft #2.

# ANILCA's legacy, an unambiguous taking

## The Orange Hill story

BY WALLACE MCGREGOR

Last year marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The celebration marked, as well, the fleeting freedom of private property rights as exemplified by the history of the taking of the Orange Hill property without compensation.

Former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese III recently commented in a Wall Street Journal article (*The Property Rights Test*, WSJ, August 2, 2005) that, "Few constitutional protections are less ambiguous than the requirement that private property must not be taken for public use 'without just compensation.'" Mr. Meese, however, cast his words in the wrong tense. What was once an unambiguous Constitutional protection in the minds of the drafters of the Constitution is today a tenuous right, at best.

The Orange Hill property was a 3603-acre parcel of patented (363 acres) and unpatented (3,280 acres) mining claims enclosed within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST) which was established by ANILCA. The history of this property illustrates an ambiguity of contemporary law. By every logical standard, the action of the government in denying the owners beneficial use of their property for twenty-five years must be recognized as a "taking."

When ANILCA was passed, the Orange Hill property was the second largest holding in the WRST, exceeded only by the Kennecott Copper Co. holdings in the vicinity of McCarthy. A one-page document entitled "Lode Values-WRST" made available by the Park Service in

1991 noted that the Orange Hill property contained a high potential for future development. The property constitutes 21% of the total of the more than 17,000 acres of holdings considered of economic significance within the Park.

Orange Hill had been under intensive exploration for the two decades prior to the passage of ANILCA. At the close of 1980, the last year of exploration, U.S. Borax and Chemical Co. reported proven reserves of 115.7 million tons of copper, molybdenum and silver ore with additional values in zinc and gold. The gross metal value of the proven reserves at current metal prices is in excess of \$23 billion. The contained copper in the proven reserves, not to mention the probable reserves, placed the deposit well above the median among the 50 largest copper deposits in the world as defined in the *Quantitative Analysis of World Class Deposits published in Economic Geology, Volume 90, 1995*.

The arbitrary denial of the right to mine this world class mineral deposit is an unambiguous taking. The property was under active exploration by a major mining company under option to purchase. All activity on the property was, however, suspended upon the enactment of ANILCA, so the Exploration and Option to Purchase Agreement was amended to extend the option period to 1995.

In 1985, the National Park Service was enjoined from approving any mining plans of operation in the Park. The parties (to the option to purchase agreement) were thus forced to accept the fact that they were never going to be allowed to mine their property. Therefore, the parties mutually agreed to termi-

nate the Agreement, and the owners allowed the unpatented claims to lapse in 1986. The owners, however, believed that they would be fairly compensated for the loss of their right to mine.

When the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve published the Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision on August 21, 1990, the decision was presented in bold print, "Acquire All Claims." The owners took that statement to be a good faith commitment on the part of the Federal Government to acquire their claims.

Buoyed in spirits by the belief that the Record of Decision was a commitment of the government to comply with the Fifth Amendment, the owners sent a letter to the Alaska Regional Director requesting a valuation of the patent. By 1992, the owners had offered the claims to the Park Service subject to an appraisal. The Park Service replied that Congress had not appropriated funds with which to conduct appraisals in the WRST. Year after year, thereafter, the Park Service sidestepped the repeated requests to conduct appraisals by citing the decision of Congress to appropriate funds only for property acquisitions in the Denali National Park.

In May 1994, the owners turned to the Pacific Legal Foundation for help but were informed that, "the wording of the Record of Decision had been so written that holding the NPS to that statement would be next to impossible." In the meantime, the ten-year extension of the statute of limitation to bring inverse condemnation action was ticking away.

In February 1998, the owners received a letter from the WRST inquiring about their interest to sell

the Orange Hill property. It was not until June 1999, however, that the Park Service was willing to commit to a mineral appraisal of the Orange Hill Property on the condition that the appraisal be conducted by the Park Service contract appraiser.

The appraisal property examination was to be conducted in mid-July 1999. Prior to going to the property, the appraisal team was given geological information and preliminary data on the proven reserves. The reaction of the appraisers was that, in all likelihood, the Park Service would decline to proceed with the appraisal.

After receiving the full database pertaining to the property in September, the appraiser informed the owners that he did not have a contract to proceed with the appraisal. A letter from the Alaskan Branch Chief of the Land Resources confirmed that decision shortly thereafter. Faced with the pending loss of the right to appeal under the Statute of Limitations, the owners were left with no re-course but to file suit. They informed the Park Service of their need to protect their right to pursue an inverse condemnation action by year-end unless the Park Service proceeded with its commitment to timely complete the appraisal as agreed. The Alaska Regional Resource Officer responded, claiming not to know about a deadline for filing a takings action, and steadfastly refused to proceed with the mineral appraisal.

On December 22, 1999, the owners filed a complaint charging the National Park Service with "committing a compensable taking of its eighteen patented and ninety-nine unpatented mining claims when mining operations having environmental impact were prohibited in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park." The filing was made with the offer to withdraw the suit upon the agreement of the National Park Service to conduct the appraisal.

Former Secretary of the Interior, Cecil Andrus, on whose watch ANILCA had been passed, took note of the injustice and, in a letter to Director Stanton, urged him to proceed with the appraisal. Director Stanton replied to Andrus indicating his determination to proceed with an appeal of the taking action while refusing to proceed with the appraisal. Previous decisions in similar cases had turned on the premise that, if a plan of operation had not been submitted and denied, a taking had not occurred. Thus, the government moved to dismiss by maintaining that the owners must have submitted a plan of operation that the Park Service could not approve. According to the government, in the absence of this formalistic process, the court has no jurisdiction to address the owners' cause of action. The government prevailed in its argument. The case was dismissed on the grounds that it was not ripe for adjudication. Under the standard set by the court, it is the failure of a property owner to take a formal act that absolves the government of its responsibility to provide just compensation for a property taken for public use.

Having lost on its inverse condemnation suit, the owners continued to press for an appraisal but at the same time turned their efforts to gain Congressional support for appraisal and acquisition funding for the WRST. Cecil Andrus once again urged Director Stanton to follow through on the appraisal of the Orange Hill property and made note that the owners were pursuing support for an appropriation of \$3.8 million for acquisitions of inholdings within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Director Stanton's reply to Andrus in a letter dated October 26, 2000, gave assurance that the appraisal would be completed and that an offer would be made to the owners.

In a meeting arranged for the purpose of coming to mutual agreement on the parameters of an ap-

praisal, an owner representative accompanied by counsel met with NPS Chief Appraiser Gerald Stoebig and Chief Realty Officer Eugene Repoff and staff in Washington, D.C. on March 5, 2001. In opening the meeting, counsel for the owners referred to the language of the FY 2001 appropriations bill that instructed the National Park Service to set a "purchase price that is objectively fair and equitable." He asked for their view of the term "fairness." The gist of the response of the National Park Service participants was that the basis for judging fairness was an unknown. The comment was made, "never heard of basis for fairness." The discussion set the tenor of the meeting.

Typical of the unyielding stance was the position expressed by Appraiser Stoebig to the effect that the mineral rights had not been diminished by enclosure within the Park. It proved to be impossible to achieve mutual agreement on any parameter. As the negotiations came to a close without agreement, Realty Officer Repoff observed that without a mutual agreement on the proposed parameters, the need for an appraisal was moot. The silence that followed was broken by the Alaska Regional Resource Officer's mention that a fair market appraisal had been completed.

The Park Service would argue that the appraisal had been conducted with the approval of the owners, but the fact is, no such approval had been given and the appraisal had been conducted unbeknownst to the owners. When earlier reported to the owners, they refused disclosure and responded with a reaffirmation of their decision to refuse acceptance of a real estate appraisal without the mineral appraisal. The meeting closed on the note of irreconcilable differences.

After the meeting, at the recommendation of counsel, the owners relented on their decision not to

accept the release of the real estate appraisal. It was learned that the Park Service had commissioned the appraisal on November 29, 2000. In the appraisal report dated December 29, 2000, with an opinion date of December 5, 2000, the appraiser reported that, "the fair market value of the fee simple estate less the mineral estate, in the subject property, is one hundred forty-six thousand dollars (\$146,000)." The per acre value of \$401.87 was the lowest per acre value of all WRST appraisals with one known exception, a property described as "rocky talus slopes."

Still determined to gain just compensation, the owners turned their efforts to negotiating a mutually approved appraiser, while also attempting to gain Congressional help to resolve the impasse. The owners turned to the guidance of new Washington, D.C.-based counsel. (It was assumed that dealing with the bureaucracy would change for the better under a Republican administration, but that proved not to be the case.) As negotiations progressed, what were thought to be agreements on the selection of an appraiser proved temporary and subject to the same intransigence on the part of the Park Service management that had plagued the effort to mutually agree on appraisal parameters.

After two more years of stonewalling by the Park Service it became apparent that the burden lay on the shoulders of Congress to address the issue of compensation for the Orange Hill property taking. The effort achieved securing appro-

priations for the WRST in three annual budgets but never to the extent of earmarked appropriations dedicated to compensation for the Orange Hill property.

When the 2005 appropriations bill passed as an omnibus bill in the closing sessions of Congress in December 2004 with no specific instructions to acquire the Orange Hill property appended to the WRST appropriation, and with Senator Ted Stevens no longer being chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, there remained no further venue for relief.

The taking of Orange Hill without just compensation slipped into the annals of history.

The Orange Hill experience stands as a classic illustration of the contributing factors that the writers and signers of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution sought to anticipate and protect against. For all the good that the ANILCA may have accomplished, it will be remembered as well for a most serious blemish: ANILCA has played a significant role in diminishing the constitutional right of freedom from governmental taking of private property without just compensation.



Photo courtesy Wallace McGregor

Alaska Nabesna Corp. crew picture, 1928. The second from the left is Bud Sargent, who sold his claims to the Alaska Nabesna Corp. He was a well known figure in the Slana area for years.

The third man from the right is Jim Dulin, President of Alaska Nabesna.

The location of the picture is at the mouth of California gulch looking north. Over the years of Mr. McGregor's experience with the property, 1953 to the present, the cabin became totally covered by the build up of gravel, and then more recently was exhumed by the natural cutting down of the the gulch.

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*"If all men are created equal, that is final. If they are endowed with inalienable rights, that is final. If governments derive their just power from the consent of the governed, that is final. No advance, no progress can be made beyond these propositions. If anyone wishes to deny their truth and their soundness, the only direction in which he can proceed historically is not forward, but backward toward the time when there was no equality, no rights of the individual, no rule of the people. Those who wish to proceed in that direction cannot lay claim to progress. They are reactionary." --Calvin Coolidge*

## How I got shot on the trapline

BY KALEB ROWLAND

**Y**ou know how those nasty little incidents always seem to happen right in the middle of something fun or exciting? I had one of those incidents that day.

I was out on the trapline. My life was flashing before my eyes, for I had just heard the muffled *crack!* of a .22 semi-automatic pistol with a 36-grain rimfire hollow point bullet going off inside my Carhartts. This might not have been a problem, except for the fact that I was wearing my Carhartts. A split second later I felt the hammer-like sensation hit my leg, and I knew I was hit. I was in a cold sweat. To top that off, it was -20 degree F. outside and my feet were already cold. Adrenaline and fear of dying were beginning to kick in.

After looking around to see who was dead, Dad asked me, "Kaleb, did you shoot yourself?"



Photo courtesy Keith Rowland

Author's younger brother with the wolverine—after the incident.

I answered uncertainly, "I don't know, but it felt like someone hit me on the leg with a hammer!"

"Okay, drop your drawers."

That's when I saw the two holes in my leg and fear of dying really started kicking in.

Dad assured me, "You're not going to die, okay? You just got grazed."

After shooting the wolverine we had trapped (which was the reason I was pulling the gun out in the first place) and taking some pictures, we started down the ten-mile trail through brush, creek bottoms, and across the Nizina River to our home. Mom called the clinic in Chitina, and after two seemingly wasted hours of heating the truck engine and breaking the tire chains out of the ice with an ax, we were on our way.

Because my injury had to do with a teenager (me) and a gun, there was a large uniformed officer waiting for me at the clinic. After I finished telling him my story, the officer asked, "Well...did you get the wolverine?"

"Of course!"

## The world around us

BY DON WELTY

**A**s spring passes on, the long, warm summer days we've all been looking forward to finally show up. June arrives with all its beautiful wildflowers and songbirds. Another big change is the rapid increase in the insect population, many of which we would choose to do without.

However, we do have help. Junco's, sparrows, fly catchers, and swallows all delight us as they consume large quantities of flying and crawling, biting and stinging insects.

There is another predator of these insects that is much more abundant and consumes many times

more insects than all the birdlife combined. It goes about its business quietly and efficiently, eliminating countless numbers of insects, 24/7 all summer. With a job description like that you would think that we would be artificially breeding and releasing them and making homes for them. Although rarely noticed, when they are seen, they are often squished, squashed or flung into oblivion. This small, eight-legged arachnid, the spider, is one of our most unappreciated neighbors.

Spiders are the king of adaptability, found in nearly every corner of the earth. Found in caves, deserts, underwater, homes, on glaciers, alpiners, rainforests, it's hard

to find a spot they haven't found first. Although most live entirely on insects, some species feed on plant material.

While hiking out on the enormous Bagley Ice Field, we once came across a gravel moraine covered with small brown spiders. We had landed on the ice, several miles from the nearest mountainside and even further from the closest bush. How those spiders got there and what they were feeding on is still somewhat of a mystery to me.

Spiders have many marvelous attributes but are best known for their mastery of spinning silk. Spider silk is produced from six small fingerlike organs attached to the

rear of the abdomen, called spinnerettes. In the tip of the spinnerette is the spinning field, covered by as many as one hundred spinning tubes. The fluid silk hardens rapidly as it comes into contact with the air. Up to five different types of spinning fluid can be manufactured by the same spider, skillfully mixed different ways, to use for different purposes. Another gland is also used to produce the sticky capture glue, used on the web to entrap their prey.

Different combinations of fluid strands are spun together to serve different purposes. One type is used to make a protective egg sack for the young. Another type is spun in sheets used to wrap up prey after capture. Spiders also produce a dragline that they use to catch themselves in a fall, or to drop for a speedy retreat. Some strands are spun with multiple strands parallel for strength without stretch, like a cable. Others are spun with a spiraling sheath that gives strength and impressive elasticity, with up to 200% stretch. Dragline silk, used as the main support for the web, is estimated as 100 times stronger than steel and even much stronger than KEVLAR®. It has been estimated that a cable of this silk slightly larger in diameter than a garden hose could support the weight of two full-loaded 747 aircraft. Spiders can also speed up the manufacture of silk 10 times allowing it to drop rapidly for a

quick escape. Another type of silk is used to catch the wind allowing the spider to lift off and travel in the air currents to far off places. I have seen these thousands of feet in the air while flying and wondered what they were.

So, if this silk is such a miracle fiber why don't we make it? We've tried. Some researchers have tried to make silk by forcing silk proteins through minute holes, but the fibers are less than half as strong than those produced by the spider. This is because the spider makes the proteins go through a "liquid crystal phase" to align their rod-shaped molecules, similar to the KEVLAR® manufacturing process. This process allows the silk to flow more easily and allows formation of the spiraling fibers. A technical description of this process can be found in *Nature* magazine 410 (6828):541-548, 29 March 2001.

I could go much further in demonstrating how vastly superior this small "ancient" design is to anything in today's science and technology. A robotics expert would be recognized and praised worldwide if he could make a multiple jointed eight-legged robot. A robot capable of responding to all imaginable situations of terrain, danger avoidance, sensory and response coordination, self-repair or self-fueling from insects. And those would be the easy ones. How about being able to produce hundreds of exact copies capable of doing exactly the same things

on its own! *Nature* magazine spends 6 pages on the complexity of just silk! They also give the usual homage to evolution as the designer without the slightest evidence.

The fossils show evidence of spinnerettes in specimens supposed to be 400 million years old. Do we find increasing complexity occurring? Natural selection leads to a loss of genetic information. Mutations always lose or re-arrange existing genetic information.

I encourage you to investigate in detail any facet of this awesome creation around us. It speaks for itself. I hope that with diligent investigation and a discerning spirit you will join me in praising our awesome Father in Heaven for this amazing world around us.

"Wisdom calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the open places." Proverbs 1:20

#### References:

- 1) Fox, D., The Spinners, "New Scientist," 162 (2183):38-41, 24 April 1999.
- 2) How Spiders Make Their Silk, "Discover," 19 (10): 34 October 1998.
- 3) BBC News <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/science/nature/3129777.stm> 2003/08/07.
- 4) Answers in Genesis <http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v13/i3/hairy.asp> 2006 Dr. Wolfgang Kuhn, Professor of Biology, U. of Saarbruecken

## Free Food Safety Class at Chitina

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is offering a free 4-hour Food Safety training class. This class is designed for people who want to work with food or people who currently work with food. The course covers information such as the need for food safety, personal hygiene, receiving and

storage, preparation, cooking, service and proper cleaning and sanitizing.

The classes will be held Tuesday, August 1, 2006 at the Gilpatrick's Hotel Chitina located in downtown Chitina, Class 1 is from 8:00 am — 12:00 pm, Class 2 is from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. To pre-register please contact the hotel @ 907 835-5545

or the Valdez District Environmental Health Office @ 907 835-4698 or the participants may register on-site immediately before class. The class is free and space is limited, pre-registration is encouraged. For other Food Safety and Sanitation information, visit our website at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/fss>.

"Whatever you may be sure of, be sure of this: That you are dreadfully like other people." — James Russell Lowell

# THE CHITINA LEADER

July 1914 August

**Cordova, July 6** —Count Ferdinando Daneo, royal consul general of Italy, located at San Francisco, and companion, F. M. Andreain, arrived on the Mariposa and are guests at the Windsor. The count states that his country is very much interested in Alaska and that he has been directed to look over the country. They will likely take the train in the morning and go to the end of the line. After visiting the Bonanza mine they will return to Chitina and if an automobile is available will make a trip into Fairbanks, then going down the river to Nome and sailing from there for Seattle.

**Cordova, July 7** —W. J. Holden, of Boston, C. A. Anderson, of Portland, Ore., and Frank S. Sinnicks, of Manchester, Mass., are recent arrivals and will go out on the train tomorrow morning. The two latter are mining engineers who have heard so much of the Ole Berg copper property in the Kuskulina district, that they are anxious to make an examination of it with the idea of becoming interested. Mr. Holden has been financing this property for a couple of years past and will accompany the engineers in the district. They leave the train at Strelina and take horses for a distance of 12 or 15 miles.

## GENERAL ALASKA INTEREST

**Seattle, July 7** —Stephen Birch, managing director for the mining interests of the Alaska Syndicate in Alaska, arrived here yesterday, and announces that the Guggenheims will invest \$10,000,000 in mining properties in the Copper River country, providing they stand up under investigation. He refused, however, to specify the properties of which purchase is contemplated. He states that improvements are now being made to the two properties of the Syndicate

that will largely increase their output. A tram is now being built to the Jumbo mine at Kennecott that will bring the ore to the Bonanza concentrator, and more than double the output. At Latouche a process is being installed that will reduce copper ores by oil flotation, which will permit of a greater saving of values and permit the working of lower grade ores.

Mr. Birch states that a large party of New York capitalists will soon arrive to sail for Alaska. In addition to examining into the mining opportunities of the Copper River country they will go on a hunting expedition from Kennecott to the White River country. It is expected that there will be about 20 in the party which will be headed by Henry Pomeroy Davison, one of the leading bankers of New York and a member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. Percy Rockefeller will also likely be one of the party. It is expected that this visit will result in wonderful activity in the mining section contiguous to the Copper River & Northwestern Railway.

**Cordova, July 3** —The train went out this morning and will run through today to Kennecott. It will leave that point southbound early tomorrow morning and will take a number of people from various points along the line to Chitina, to participate in the big celebration of July Fourth. The baseball team from McCarthy will contest for honors and a purse with the crack team at Chitina. Train will leave Chitina Sunday morning and reach Cordova in the afternoon. A train will go out in the morning and will connect for McCarthy and Kennecott, returning to Cordova on Tuesday.

**Cordova, July 7** —Captain Jack Steen writes us from McCarthy that they now have a strong ball team and

would like to arrange for games with Cordova, Seward, Valdez and Chitina. They could make a tour that would take in all towns and wish the challenge published. They played the Kennecott team at McCarthy on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The weather was fine and over 200 people witnessed the game. But the visitors made a poor showing and were outplayed at every point. The McCarthy team scored 8 runs in the first inning and at the end of the game had 23 runs to their credit while Kennecott had but 3. The strong line-up for McCarthy was as follows: C. Brown, c; C. Olson, p; J. Arnold, 3b; A. F. Brown, ss; F. Hepler, 2b; J. Steen, 1b. (Captain); Roberson, 1f; McGillvray, ef; Lambert, rf.

## July 7

A part of the new bridge that crosses the Nizina river a few miles from McCarthy has been carried away by the high water. The bridge has seven spans, about 700 feet in length, with 140 additional feet of trestle work. It is one of the most substantial bridges built by the Alaska Road Commission, and there was much surprise at Valdez headquarters a couple of days ago when word was received that two spans had been carried away by the raging water. Lieut. Edgerton came to Cordova on the steamer yesterday and will take the first train for the interior to make an examination of the damage done. Unless the heavy timbers are affected an effort will be made to replace the bridge at once but it is possible that it may be necessary to wait for the freeze up before the necessary work can be done. The bridge was built last winter at a cost of but little less than \$25,000. Everybody in the interior expressed satisfaction that the structure was so substantial and well constructed. But it has been of little use to the miners and prospectors, as no

approaches have been built on either side of the structure and it has been impossible for pack horses and even men to scale the almost precipitous incline to reach the bridge.

#### OF GENERAL INFORMATION

The first woman passenger to take a through automobile trip from Chitina at Fairbanks will be Mrs. Horace Leach, who will spend several weeks at the interior metropolis visiting her sister. She will go with Bobby Sheldon who will start the latter part of the week with several passengers.

Early this morning Dr. Chase received a message to go to Chitina to attend Dr. Hamilton, who had been shot through the foot. It appears that last evening the Dr. and a man named Johnson were out hunting a few miles from Chitina when the accidental discharge of Johnson's gun sent a bullet through the Dr.'s foot. He was taken to town and in the absence of Dr. Smith the wound was well attended to by Dr. Hale and A. G. Morey. It was thought best to have a regular physician treat the wound so that no complications would set in and Dr. Chase was wired for. As he has several patients who are in a serious condition, and as Dr. Council is away from town, he wired back that it was impossible to go out on the morning train and suggested that the patient be sent here to the hospital. This may be done on the return train unless Dr. Smith, who is on a hunting trip, returns to Chitina in a day or two.

July 14

**Chitina, July 20**—Robert Sheldon, with his Ford auto and five passengers arrived here Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. He started from Fairbanks on Thursday morning at 10:30 o'clock. The actual running time for the 325 miles was 47 hours. Better time was made in going in from here, when that distance was covered in a little less than 35 hours.

July 21

#### GENERAL ALASKA INTEREST

The Valdez Prospector states that the latest reports from Copper Center are to the effect that Surveyor Deyo has located a preliminary survey from Copper Center to the Matanuska coal fields that shortens the distance at least 10 miles between these points. The route as originally surveyed left the government road at the Tazlina and followed up the north bank to the lake. The route selected by Mr. Deyo, however, leaves the main line at Copper Center and makes a bee line for the east end of Tazlina lake, saving 10 miles in the distance and avoiding the clay banks at the mouth of the Tazlina river. It is expected that the survey to the Chickaloon will be completed not later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, when the Deyo party will survey the line from Willow creek to Valdez.

When stage operations are resumed next October between Fairbanks and Chitina, the Northern Commercial Company will have four new thorough-braces, one of which has already arrived at Fairbanks. The three others will later be shipped to Chitina to be used at this end of the line. The machine is a fine specimen of the mechanics' art and was manufactured at Stockton, Cal. The body of it weighs 13,000 pounds alone. It is painted a gray red, has front and rear leather boots, accommodations for ten people comfortably, and in every way is substantial, of the same type as the two now in use out of Fairbanks.

July 28

#### OF GENERAL INTEREST

For three or four days past there has been quite an excitement in the neighborhood of McCarthy over reported rich placer discoveries at the headwaters of the Chitina river. Men have been prospecting this section since early spring and at different times returned to McCarthy with small pokes of gold dust to the value of two or three hundred dollars. As a result of recent richer finds the reports and placer gold that reached

McCarthy excited the people there to such an extent that practically every man who could get away has started for the new diggings. Men and horses hit the trail and crossed the Nizina river on the two or three days trip to the head waters of the Chitina. So far as known there has been no fabulously rich dirt discovered but the miners have hope that general prospecting may establish a camp of some importance.

August 4

#### OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Earl Munger met with an accident at the Bonanza mine on Saturday afternoon and a message was sent for Dr. Council to go to Kennecott. He left on a speeder Sunday morning but before he arrived the man had died in the hospital at Kennecott, passing away at 4:30 yesterday afternoon. He had his skull fractured.

August 11

#### OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Red Nels came in from the Bremner country yesterday with a party of workers. He brought the latest bear story that he and his party actually witnessed. They did, for they say they did. A brown bear was in the act of crushing to pieces a mountain sheep when a black bear hove in sight and scented blood. He had soon joined in a contest for possession of the smaller animal and the two big bruins turned one on the other and fought to a finish, the brown bear finally falling over in death throes. Black bruin proudly marched off with his trophy of victory, and Nels and his friends struck out for home.

August 18

#### OF GENERAL INFORMATION

**Cordova, August 20**—There has been considerable rain during the past few days in the interior. On Monday the flume leading to the Bonanza mine at Kennecott was broken and it was necessary for the mill to close down. It is expected to start operations again this afternoon.

August 25

**(Hem—continued from pg. 13)**

Of course the history of those fast and furious days can lead to expectations with some customers. "When the weather is bad and fishing is slow? ..." Hem shook his head pursed his lips and ended the comment there.

The fishing action, the daily visits to dip-netters on the rocks and Hem's love of the river has recently hatched another idea in the riverboat captain's mind. Tourism.

Hem plans to promote sightseeing trips on the river and canyon, selling the scenery and his considerable knowledge of the place. "To come and see all this and stop and talk to customers and see people hold up their king salmon, you know? I think people would really enjoy that."

More tourists may indeed come. The state has put \$2.5 million into improvements in the McCarthy Road the past two years, according to state Department of Transportation spokeswoman Shannon McCarthy in Fairbanks. And environmental assessment is under way as part of a plan for widening and improving the full length of the road out to McCarthy, Kennicott and the heart of Wrangell-St. Elias. "But that is a ways off yet," McCarthy said. "The environmental study is due in 2008."

In addition to the road improvements, the National Park Service is nudging Alaska visitors toward places like Wrangell-St. Elias and Kenai Fjords to take some of the pressure off Denali National Park and Pre-

serve, said Vic Knox, deputy regional director for the National Park Service in Alaska.

"I think (Hem) is absolutely right," Knox said. "Chitina definitely is a place that's going to grow and we've been working with the state at every opportunity to improve the McCarthy Road."

The direction is positive for all, Knox said. The park gets to promote its wild assets and the wealth of visitors to Denali gets spread around the state a little. "We see Wrangell-St. Elias as one that has potential for more growth than most because it is on the road system, and has spectacular resources from historical aspects to fishing to backcountry travel."

**Impressive start**

So far so good for Hem. Two weeks ago one of Hem's first tour rides was given to the crew of football Hall of Famer Larry Csonka's "North to Alaska" outdoor sports television show.

Hem gave Csonka and company a good ride. The show, which airs nationwide Saturdays on the Outdoor Life Network, mixes Alaska outdoor adventure with flavor of the state's history and tourism opportunities.

Csonka, an Alaska resident for three years, had wanted to try dip netting for several years and finally took the opportunity. After landing 40 sockeyes, they hooked up with Hem for a river tour.

"He is gung-ho to the seventh level," Csonka said of Hem. "He

loves that area and really wants to promote it. He's one of those local people who speaks about their area in glowing terms and is a great ambassador for them."

Csonka, a lifelong sportsman who has been on many boats—of all kinds and in all kinds of water—was impressed by Hem's piloting. "He seemed to be in control of it all the time," he said. "Although down there by that big whirlpool, let's just say he was a little more sure of himself than I was of him."

Csonka was referring to Haley's Whirlpool, Hem said. "The river comes down and hits a rock wall at almost a 90-degree angle there," he said. "At certain times and different water levels, it makes a gigantic whirlpool. Sometimes it opens as big as a house. Even the rafters stay very far away from it."

Hem said he was safe with the Csonka crew, who toured when the water level was relatively low. "At that water level it was pretty docile, but for someone who's never seen it, it was still pretty impressive."

Regardless, Csonka was impressed with the view, the Copper River and the country.

"It's quite a thing to see, especially for people who have never been up here. People are literally risking their lives to catch these fish," Csonka said. "It's not a place for the faint of heart."

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*"Why...must government be neutral about religion? Because, we are told, the First Amendment demands it by forbidding any 'establishment of religion.' But this is nonsense. The First Amendment says nothing of the sort, and I wish atheists would read it as literally as they think most Christians read the Bible. 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof' means something very different from 'Government must be neutral about religion.' It bars the Congress of the United States from legislation that either establishes a religion or prohibits its free exercise. This left the states free to do both, and for a long time they did. Several states had official religions as late as the 1830s. You may deplore this, but don't say the Constitution bans it, because it plainly doesn't. Now we are told that the Constitution forbids everything from a moment of silence in the classroom to the phrase under God in the Pledge of Allegiance!" —Joseph Sobran*

# Sounds of Denali (and lack thereof) in park plan

BY NED ROZELL

Chad Hults hears everything in Denali National Park—a lonely sparrow singing on Ruth Glacier after a windstorm, the voices of climbers at Denali base camp, the thunder of glacial streams after a long winter, and the whine of millions of tundra mosquitoes.

Hults, a physical scientist at Denali National Park, monitors the "soundscape" with microphones he places in various spots within the six-million acre park. National parks across the nation now include sounds, or lack of them, as resources the Park Service should protect.

"At Denali, the sounds of wolves howling, marmots whistling, white-crowned sparrows singing, water rushing through streambeds, wind in the aspen trees, and absolute stillness and quiet are among the natural sounds that are potentially impacted . . .", park managers wrote in Denali's backcountry management plan of January 2006.

About six years ago, former Denali ecologist Shan Burson started setting out microphones in the park as part of a national effort to monitor sounds in parks. At Denali, backcountry hikers had used visitor comment forms to complain about noises in the park, mostly from flightseeing aircraft.

"The noise is something like camping on a flight path," wrote one backpacker.

Five companies with permits to land on glaciers within the park did so about 9,000 times in 1999. Landings per year increased to about 15,000 by 2005.

"That's a 70 percent increase, and we think it'll just keep on going that way," Hults said. "We don't want to shut down flightseeing. We

make the south side of the park noisy in springtime.

"Enforcement is a totally different ballgame," Hults said. "We need more information about the current conditions before management can act."

In the past, Hults and Burson set out microphones in the Ruth Amphitheater, at Denali base camp on a fork of the Kahiltna Glacier, and at Wonder Lake. As part of his research this year, Hults has set out microphones in six locations scattered through the park.

Hults chose 60 evenly spaced points within the park where he'll take measurements during the next 10 years. Those spots can form a baseline for the Denali soundscape that managers in the future can compare to the present sound levels and sources. Microphones at his sites record for five seconds every

five minutes for a total of 24 minutes each day. It's Hults' job to listen to all those sounds; the task takes him most of the off-season.

Sometimes, in midwinter, Hults will come into the office and cue his favorite soundbite from the park, which features the choppy call of wood frogs and bird songs.

"I play the one from Wonder Lake all the time," he said. "When you hear the life of spring in the dead of winter, it's a different world."



want to protect both kinds of uses."

To protect people who don't want as part of their park experience the sound of aircraft engines—or snowmachines in the winter—members of the park staff have written up what they hope Denali's future conditions will be and included them in the backcountry management plan.

The plan includes managers' desired noise limits but does not set any legal limits on flightseeing companies or snowmachines, which

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*"Most of the work of government does not need to be done. And, if you can remember that, if we could all remember that, this country would be better off."* —Lyn Nofziger

# Flowing and Sliding:

## Making use of the Hidden Creek Lake flood through the Kennicott Glacier

BY TIM BARTHOLOMAUS, BOB ANDERSON, AND SUZANNE ANDERSON

Sharp, jagged peaks, serrated ridges, broad, sweeping valleys—much of Alaska, and all of the McCarthy-Kennicott area, bears the signature of glaciers. These breathtaking “rivers of ice” carve and sculpt the landscape as they flow downhill, quarrying and grinding the bedrock over which they move. Once sediment is separated from the rock beneath the glacier, it is transported easily down-valley by the ice and by the water that rushes through an intricate network of cavities and tunnels within and beneath the ice surface. In order to understand this Wrangell-Saint Elias landscape in which we live, travel, and recreate, it is critical that we understand how glaciers erode bedrock and leave behind the dramatic landforms that make our surroundings so striking.

Glacier ice forms at high elevations where winter snow accumulates faster than it melts during the summer. From these high peaks, such as Mount Blackburn above the Kennicott Glacier, ice moves downhill through two independent, yet simultaneous mechanisms. The first method is through continuous deformation and shearing within the ice under its own weight. This flow, like molasses or honey down a tilted breakfast plate, happens year-round and is dependent only on the thickness of the ice and the steepness of the ice surface. The second method is sliding, like an ice cube over rough sandpaper, and is dependent on ice thickness and slope, as well

as the size and efficiency of the plumbing system within the glacier. Water produced by melting of snow and ice at the glacier's surface is transmitted through the glacier by a system of pipes and tunnels that evolves throughout the year. Whenever this plumbing system is insufficient to pass quickly the water delivered from the surface to the exit river, water pressure at the bed will increase. For example, when a

sole of the glacier can scrape and erode the bedrock beneath the ice.

The Kennicott Glacier and its tributary valleys annually perform an ideal natural experiment through which to study the linkages between water, glacial sliding, and glacial erosion. Every year, Hidden Creek Lake, 10 miles up-valley from McCarthy, drains suddenly through a tunnel in the ice underneath the Kennicott Glacier, passes by and

briefly fills Donoho Falls Lake, and floods the Kennicott River for two to three days. Hidden Creek Lake is very large when it drains, measuring 1.5 miles long by 0.5 miles wide by an average of 50 feet deep. As this large volume of water passes through the subglacial tunnels, it overwhelms the glacial plumbing system, backing it up just as a sewer system is backed up. During



hot spell of days occurs while the glacier's plumbing is immature, meltwater delivered to the bed through cracks and holes on the glacier's surface may increase the water pressure at the bed and buoy up the ice like an ice cube in a glass of water. As this buoyancy relieves the weight of the ice, the glacier is allowed to slide faster—once the plumbing system becomes more efficient, water pressures drop and the sliding comes to a halt. It is the understanding of sliding that is so critical to those who are curious about alpine landscapes because it is only through this type of ice motion that rocks embedded in the

studies conducted during 1999 and 2000, we learned that when the water of Hidden Creek Lake drains beneath the glacier, it increases the water pressure at the glacier's bed and momentarily increases the speed of the glacier from a steady average of one and a half feet per day to 4 feet per day at the location of Hidden Creek Lake. At the same time discharge in the Kennicott River increased threefold, with a peak in discharge that occurred two days after the peak outflow from Hidden Creek Lake.

This summer, we are building on our investigations of 1999 and 2000 by installing a network of five GPS units spaced roughly 2.5 miles

(continued on page 34)

## Wells Fargo open house at Kennecott

**W**ells Fargo and its statewide community advisory board invite the public to a community reception on August 3 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Kennecott Recreation Hall. Come and enjoy refreshments and chat with advisory board members and Wells Fargo's senior leadership. The advisory board consists of 35 community leaders from across the state, including Gary Baugh, Jim Jansen and advisory board chair Ed Rasmuson. They serve as liaisons between Wells Fargo and their respective communities to ensure that the company understands, and is responsive to,

each community's financial services needs. The advisory board meets bi-monthly to keep up-to-date on company developments and report on issues affecting Alaskan communities.

"We are excited to bring our advisory board members to Kennecott and McCarthy to visit with community members and enjoy this beautiful place," said Richard Strutz, Wells Fargo Alaska regional president. "Wells Fargo is proud of its historical connection to the area, and we look forward to helping the community build a secure financial future."

Wells Fargo is Alaska's top financial services employer with more than 1,100 team members serving customers through a network of 70 banking, mortgage, consumer lending, insurance and investment offices, 120 ATMs and online. Wells Fargo & Company is a diversified financial services company with \$492 billion in assets, serving more than 23 million customers from more than 6,200 stores and the Internet ([wellsfargo.com](http://wellsfargo.com)). Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. is the only bank in the United States to receive the highest possible credit rating, "Aaa," from Moody's Investors Service.

## Fire use outdoors

**A**ttention RESIDENTS OF INTERIOR Alaska—the majority of fire starts this year have been human-caused. Bureau of Land Management Alaska fire service and state forestry officials want to remind you to be extremely cautious with fire and adhere to burn permit regulations. Please check with local fire authorities regarding burn barrels and de-

bris burns. Recreationists are advised to check with land managers in local, state and national park and recreation areas, including campgrounds, to determine campfire restrictions.

If fire is allowed in the area you are visiting, please do not leave it unattended. This includes campfires—urban and remote—and

barbeque grills. Should burning take place, make sure tools and water are available, and make sure the fire is completely out. Officials encourage you to avoid the use of fire on windy days, and ask that you please dispose of cigarettes properly anytime you are outdoors.

For more information call 356-5511.

## Erosion and Tectonics project EA completed

**A**s required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Park Service has completed the environmental assessment process for the St. Elias Erosion and Tectonics at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Alternative B, Expand Seismic Moni-

toring Network, has been selected. A finding of no significant impact was issued for the project on June 8, 2006.

The completed environmental assessment, responses to public comments, and finding of no significant impact are on file at Wrangell-

St. Elias National Park and Preserve headquarters, Mile 106.8 Richardson Highway, P.O. Box 439, Copper Center, Alaska 99573. For additional information, please contact Steve Hunt, Environmental Officer, at 907-822-7242.

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*"In free societies, government exists for the sake of the people, not the other way around. Government is not directed by the whims of any dictator or the mandate of any clique but by the good sense of the people through a democratic vote. In free societies, people do not live in fear. They never worry that criticizing the government will lead to a late knock on the door, an arrest by some goon squad. When people are free, their rights to speak and to pray are protected by law. And the goons are not running the jails; they're in the jails." —Ronald Reagan*

# Kennicott McCarthy Volunteer Fire Department reports in

*Editor's note: The following news about KMVFD are gleaned from their latest newsletters, The Firestarter, June and July issues. Brian MacMillan, Editor.)*

On Sunday, May 28, 2006, the Division of Forestry headquarters in Tazlina called McCarthy to activate the KMVFD for patrol along the McCarthy Road and throughout the valley. A burn ban had been in effect for the Memorial Day weekend, and high winds from the Copper River and from the south had created a need for coverage.

Recently recertified red card holders, Malcolm Vance and Brian MacMillan, responded immediately and patrolled down to the Gilahena River where they met Mike Trimmer of DOF. Paperwork was filled out and filed and KMVFD was officially activated as emergency fire fighters.

Fire Chief Pete Machado and Board President Stacie Miller patrolled the following day. Nomex® fire resistant clothing and personal gear were deployed. That's why you've been seeing all these folks running around in bright yellow shirts.

KMVFD held its first fire response training session on Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> with a controlled burn behind the McCarthy Mercantile. Kurt and Peggy Smith had phoned into DOF dispatch to activate their Class A burn permit. The local volunteer fire department held a suppression and pump training session while monitoring the burn. A C-63 unit was positioned on the banks of McCarthy Creek in order to draft water and pump it on up to the burn site. A 10' x 10' burn com-

menced with all the leftover scrap from the old pizza parlor as well as the miscellaneous cottonwood scrap that had been laying in waste for the past few years.

The volunteer squad demonstrated proper hose technique to Leif, Imogene, and Margo from the Wrangell Mountain Center and even Malcolm Vance Jr. took a turn at the dousing.

Training sessions will continue throughout the summer on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 pm at Tony Zak's. Everyone is welcome. The more people who get trained to respond, the more fire-wise we'll all be.

KMVFD petitioned the state on behalf of a Community Economic Development Grant that had been applied for and received by the McCarthy Chamber of Commerce in 2000, but had not been utilized. The department is working with several agencies to secure more fire suppression equipment, state-of-the-art communications' equipment and also looking to acquire land for a permanent fire station site.

Congratulations to Malcom Vance, Ian Gyori, Chris Chester, Stacie Miller, Jason Lobo, Pete Machado and Brian MacMillan for getting their red card recertification.

The City of Valdez has donated a 1,500 gallon tank truck to KMVFD. Stacie Miller and Pete Machado drove to Valdez, received training on the new rig and drove it back to McCarthy just in time for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

The area of KMVFD's coverage ranges from the Kennicott Mill Site

south to the Nizina River and west to Crystal Creek. The department is in the initial stages of vectoring the area off and instigating a code system for fire response akin to what the mine utilized with its bell warnings. Ideally there would be siren blasts to warn the community as to the whereabouts of a fire. Research is underway for klaxons or sirens of this nature. Any input as to how to achieve this goal can be emailed to the department or attend one of their training sessions. The next Fire Response Training is scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Tony Zaks. Extinguisher training for grease fires will be held on July 19<sup>th</sup> —McCarthy, 7 pm and Kennicott, 8 pm.

The new KMVFD T-shirts are here! Be on the lookout for them at local outlets.

KMVFD needs you! Membership dues are only \$25 a year for any member of the community that does not have a current red card. Membership is free for current Alaska state red card holders. They are still looking to stockpile axes, polaskis, shovels, pump packs, water tanks and pumps throughout the community. The plan is to have accessible storage areas in the four main districts of the community (McCarthy proper, south and west sides and on the McCarthy Road). If you have any equipment you would like to donate, please contact KMVFD, PO Box MXY 8-B, Glennallen, AK. 99588. 907-554-4419. FAX: 554-4467. Email: [akverve@gei.net](mailto:akverve@gei.net)

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**"I envision an America so overflowing with handguns in the homes (and cars and holsters) of law-abiding citizens that the UN ceases its futile efforts to subvert our Second Amendment rights." —Mike Adams**

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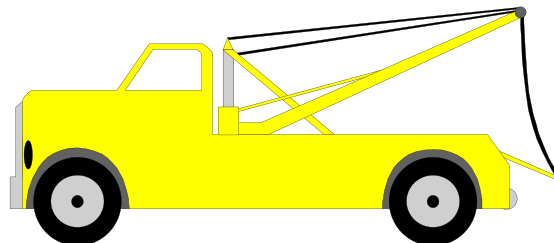
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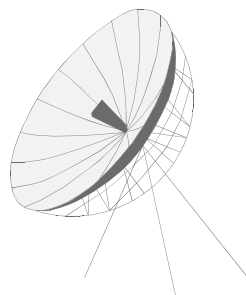
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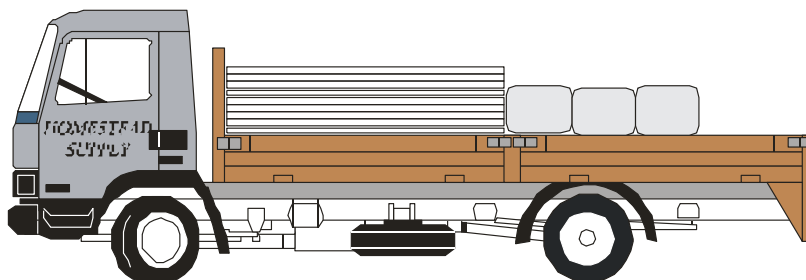
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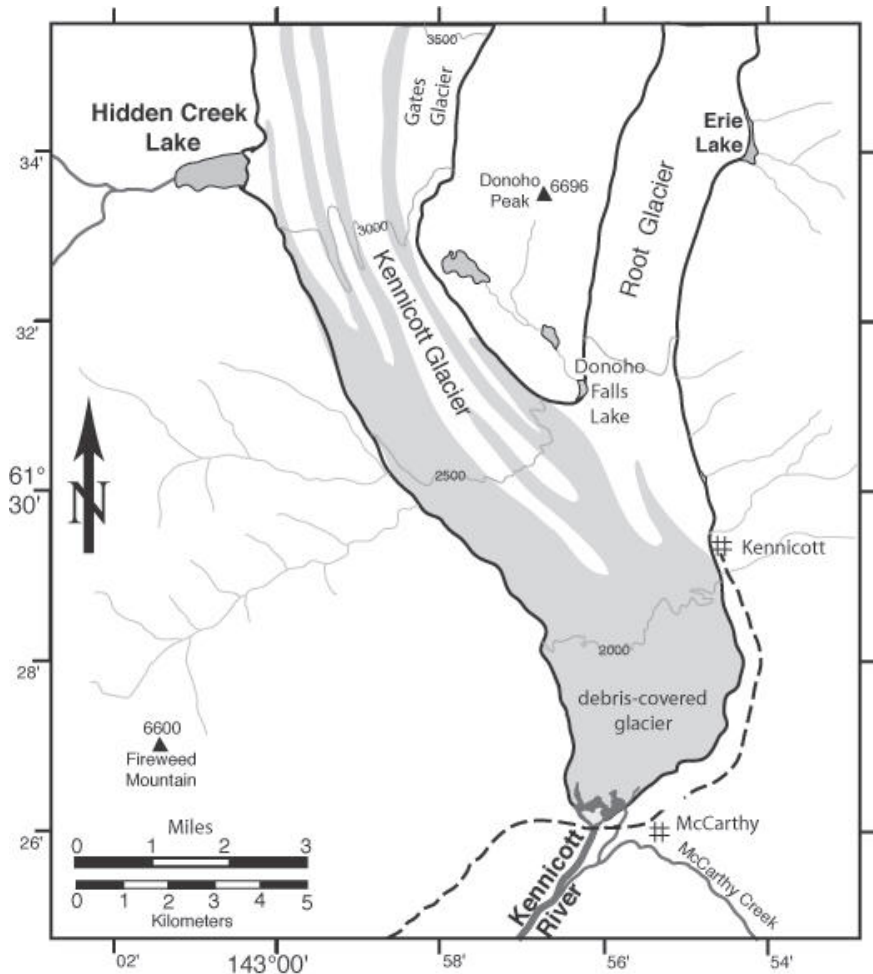
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(continued from page 24)

apart in a line up the glacier from just north of the town of Kennecott to just north of Hidden Creek Lake. We are also measuring the discharge, water temperature and chemistry of the Kennicott River, and water level in four different ice-pounded lakes, including Hidden Creek Lake, Erie Lake, and Donoho Falls Lake. With this network of sensors, we are monitoring the development of the water drainage system inside the Kennicott Glacier, if and how different parts of the glacier are moving faster or slower than other parts of the glacier, and precisely how the Hidden Creek Lake outburst flood affects the entire glacial system.

While the Kennicott Glacier and its surrounding alpine landscape emphasize to any visitor the importance of glaciers in carving the landscape, it is the annual experiment of the Hidden Creek Lake flood that we are employing to understand the processes involved.



WSEN staff photo

The flood waters were tremendous in their power. Heavy objects were swept away as though they were toys. The cleanup has already started, though much of it will have to wait for lower water. Local residents worked throughout the night trying to save the equipment, but the erosion was so rapid that efforts were largely unsuccessful. The National Park Service was on the scene right behind the locals. The Department of Environmental Conservation sent a representative to access the situation and coordinate with other state and federal agencies on the cleanup effort.

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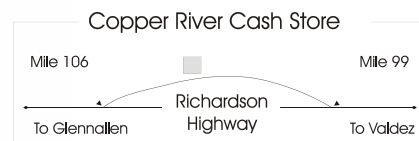
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# Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

**H**i everyone, happy summer! Jim and I have just returned from our trip visiting friends in Virginia. We had a fantastic time. Even though I lived there for 10 years and we try to visit every two or three there is still something new to see and, of course, something new to eat. We visited the new Air and Space Museum and Montpelier, went to Smith Mountain Lake, and to a wedding in Arlington, to a new museum in New Market, P. Buckley Moss' Gallery and still had time to eat, eat, eat.

*I have never cooked a pork or beef tenderloin before but I ate and loved them both during this visit. The flavor was excellent and they were so easy and quick to prepare. Let me give you the recipe for the*

## Teriaki Pork Tenderloin

1/2 cup soy sauce  
1/4 cup olive or vegetable oil  
4 teaspoons brown sugar  
2 teaspoons ground ginger  
1 teaspoon pepper  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
4 pork tenderloins (3/4 - 1 lb each)  
Coarsely ground pepper

In a large, re-sealable plastic bag, combine the first six ingredients; add the pork. Seal bag and turn to coat; refrigerate for about 4 hours, turning occasionally. Drain and discard marinade. Sprinkle with the pepper and grill or bake in the oven at 350 for about 30 min. or until the internal temperature reaches about 159 degrees. It may even take less time so keep an eye on it. This should make about 8 servings.

Another one for

## Pork Tenderloins

2 pork tenderloins  
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard  
1/2 teaspoon ginger  
1/4 cup vinegar

2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce  
1/4 cup soy sauce  
3 tablespoons plum preserves  
salt and pepper

In a large, re-sealable plastic bag, combine the sauce ingredients; add the pork. Marinate 2-8 hours. Reserving the marinade, place the tenderloin in a 425 degree oven on a broiler pan for about 20 min. Put the reserved marinade in a saucepan and reduce. Add 1 cup plum preserves and cook until thick. Salt and pepper to taste. You may pour the sauce over the cooked tenderloin or serve it in a dish to be passed and poured.

*When on the east coast, you MUST eat crabmeat. But if fresh crabmeat isn't available and you want to have the best crabmeat casserole you can imagine, get yourself the best can of lump crabmeat you can find. If you have access to a Costco, look for their Phillips brand. UMM good.*

## Crab Casserole

3/4 cup margarine  
2 1/2 cup Pepperidge Farm Herb Dressing  
5-6 teaspoons fresh parsley  
1 16-oz. can crabmeat  
4 large hard-boiled eggs  
1 1/2 cup half and half (I use fat free)  
3/4 cup mayonnaise  
1 1/2 teaspoon Durkee's Famous Sauce  
2 drops Tabasco  
1 1/2 tablespoon grated onion  
salt and pepper

Melt margarine in a skillet. Add parsley and dressing and sauté. After sautéing the dressing mixture, set aside 3/4 cup of that mixture for the top of the casserole. Take the dressing mix not being saved and mix it with the remaining ingredients. Put this mixture in a 2-quart casserole and place in a preheated 350 degree oven for about 30 min. Put the saved dressing mix as a top-

ping on during the last 15 min. of cooking. This can be made ahead and refrigerated and then cooked later that day.

*One of the breakfasts we were served at a wonderful friend's home was eaten and enjoyed by all of us. I will definitely use this for guests coming to visit in Alaska this summer because I love to serve what I like to eat!*

## Spinach-Cheese Breakfast Squares

4 tablespoons butter  
3 eggs  
1 cup flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 cup milk  
16-oz. sharp cheddar cheese, grated  
2 10-ounce packages frozen spinach, thawed and well-drained

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt butter in a 9-by-13 inch baking dish in the oven. Meanwhile, in a large mixing bowl, beat eggs with flour, salt and baking powder. Stir in milk. Add cheese and spinach. Spread mixture evenly into the baking dish. Bake 25 minutes, or until golden and set in center. Cool and cut into squares. Can be served warm or reheated. Serves 8 to 10. Note: Add a chopped, sautéed onion with the spinach for additional zip.

*Now let me give you one more tenderloin recipe where you can use either beef or chicken and grill or do in the oven. It was DELICIOUS.*

## Montreal Grill Mates - Steak, Chicken

4 tablespoons Knorr's Au Jus powder  
1 teaspoon onion powder  
1 teaspoon pepper  
1 tablespoon Lawry's salt  
1 teaspoon powdered orange peel

For use with a beef tenderloin, the meat should be at room temperature, then rub with the mixture of the above ingredients. Grill or bake

about 22 min @ 500 degrees. DO NOT OPEN DOOR. Makes rare/medium rare. If using chicken, you will need to adjust the heat and length of time.

As somebody in the Disney films always says, "That's all folks!" If it isn't already over, have a wonderful summer. I'll let you know if I collect any more recipes from the wonderful folks in McCarthy. I may even

have access to my e-mail this summer (thanks to Rick and Bonnie) so you can contact me at [jgelec@starband.net](mailto:jgelec@starband.net). See you next time.

*"We have a strange illusion that mere time cancels sin. I have heard others, and I have heard myself, recounting cruelties and falsehoods committed in boyhood as if they were not concern of the present speaker's, and even with laughter. But mere time does nothing either to the fact or to the guilt of a sin. The guilt is washed out not by time but by repentance and the blood of Christ."* —C. S. Lewis

## A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

April 2006, was a normal April in both temperatures and precipitation. The high temperature for the month was 50 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> (70 on Apr. 28, '05 and 60 on Apr. 30, '04). The low was 0 on the 1<sup>st</sup> (1 on Apr. 4, '05 and -14 on Apr. 1, '04). The average temperature for April was 33.1, compared to 37.4 in '05 and 36.1 in '04. The lowest average temperatures for April were 22.4 in 1972 and 24.7 in 1986. *Silver Lake had a high of 49 on the 28<sup>th</sup> (70 on Apr. 30, '05 and 54 on Apr. 30, '04) and a low of 7 on the 1<sup>st</sup> (6 on Apr 5, '05 and -14 on Apr. 1, '04). The April average temperature at Silver Lake was 32.0 (36.2 in '05 and 32.7 in '04).*

The precipitation for April was a bit above average with 1.14 inches (0.08 inches in '05 and 0.77 inches in '04). There was 10.2 inches of snow recorded (no snow in '05 and 8.7 inches in '04). *Silver Lake had 0.59 inches of precipitation in April (0.04 in '05 and 0.43 in '04) and 5.0 inches of snow (no snow in '05 and 4.5 inches in '04).*

The total snowfall at McCarthy for '05-'06 was 84.0 inches (79.4 in '04-'05, 110.6 in '03-'04, 46.0 in '02-'03, 74.2 in '01-'02, 85.2 in '00-'01, 65.8 in '99-'00 and 38.9 in '98-'99). *Silver Lake's snowfall for '05-*

*'06 was 53.5 inches (45.2 in '04-'05, 55.5 in '03-'04, 51.0 in '02-'03 and 57.5 in '01-'02).*

McCarthy started April with 21 inches of snow on the ground and ended it with 10 inches. *Silver Lake had 4 inches on the 5<sup>th</sup> and was free of snow by the 18<sup>th</sup>.*

The temperatures were above average for May. The high temperature for May was 76 on the 26<sup>th</sup> (76 on May 9, '05 and 73 on May 15, '04). The low temperature was 24 on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> (21 on May 2, '05 and 25 on May 4, '04). The May average temperature was 45.0, this compares with 48.8 in '05, 49.3 in '04 and 44.4 in '03. There were 7 days with a high of 70 or above. *Silver Lake had a high of 78 on the 27<sup>th</sup> (73 on May 10, '05 and 72 on May 22, '04), a low of 22 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, (23 on May 2, '05 and 26 on May 3, '04) and an average temperature of 43.7 (47.6 in '05, 49.3 in '04 and 44.0 in '03).*

The May precipitation at McCarthy was below normal with 0.47 inches of liquid. This compares with 1.64 inches in '05 and 1.05 inches in '04. There was 0.5 inches of snow on the 11<sup>th</sup>. McCarthy was free of snow on the 12<sup>th</sup>. *Silver Lake recorded only a trace of liquid (2.37 inches in '05 and 0.95 inches in '04).*

The ice on the West Fork of the Kennicott River began to break apart around May 7<sup>th</sup> and water was moving over the top. The river was clear of moving ice by May 15<sup>th</sup> and all the shore ice was gone by May 22<sup>nd</sup>. *The ice on Silver Lake was too soft for travel in late April and it was completely gone the morning of May 21<sup>st</sup> (May 11, '05, May 14, '04, May 5, '03 and May 21, '02).*

The first half of June was warm and cloudy with highs in the low to mid-70's. The lows were in the mid-30's to low 40's. There was close to an inch of rain. Summer should be in full swing by late June. June and July are the warmest months with the highs usually in the low 80's. The temperature begins to cool in August with highs only getting into the low 70's. The all time high recorded at McCarthy was 87 on June 21, 1991.

Freezing temperatures should be back by the end of August, although they can be observed at any time. Average monthly rainfall is about 2 inches (June-August). Hidden Lake should empty sometime in July, with a rapid rise of the water level in the Kennicott River and some possible flooding. The first snow usually arrives sometime in late September.

ENJOY THE SUMMER WHATEVER THE WEATHER

# FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

## "Three Cheers for Capitalism"

Editors Note: I recently read the excellent book *Thou Shall Prosper: Ten Commandments for Making Money* written by Rabbi Daniel Lapin. The book explores the economic and philosophic vision of business that has been part of Jewish culture for centuries. The good Rabbi points out that our modern culture tends to cast business, in particular capitalism, in a very negative light. *WSEN* printed this excerpt from a speech by Malcolm S. Forbes, Jr. back in 1994. Its message bears repeating.

BY MALCOLM S. FORBES, JR.  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, *FORBES*

Living in the 1990's we are uniquely able to judge what the American economy has achieved in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. For this reason, we ought to give three cheers for capitalism. By the term, I mean "democratic capitalism," which is as fundamentally different from the "managed capitalism" of modern-day central planners as it is from the "state capitalism" of old-style fascists, socialists, and communists.

Capitalism works better than any of us can conceive. It is also the only truly moral system of exchange. It encourages individuals to freely devote their energies and impulses to peaceful pursuits, to the satisfaction of others' wants and needs, and to constructive action for the welfare of all. The basis for capitalism is not greed. You don't see misers creating Walmarts and Microsofts.

Think about it for a moment. Capitalism is truly miraculous. What other system enables us to cooperate with millions of other ordinary people—whom we will never meet but whom we will gladly provide with goods and services—in an incredible, complex web of commercial transactions? And what other system perpetuates itself, working every

day, year in, year out, with no single hand guiding it?

How do we become successful capitalists? The answer sounds simple, but it is often overlooked in places where you would think they would know better. (I am referring, of course, to government, the media, and our most elite business schools and economics departments.) We succeed as capitalists by offering goods and services that others are willing to buy. Many capitalists do not make correct assumptions about what to offer and fail, but that is as it should be. There is no guarantee of success in any area of life, including business—there is always risk. The particular advantage of capitalism is that failed businesses don't necessarily equal a failed economy; they make way for successful businesses.

Capitalism is not a top-down system—it cannot be mandated or centrally planned. It operates from the bottom up, through individuals—individuals who take risks, who often "don't know any better," who venture into areas where, according to conventional wisdom, they have no business going, who see vast potential where others see nothing. Often, these individuals literally stumble across ideas that never would have occurred to

them if they were forced to work in a top-down system. And they take supposedly "worthless" substances and turn them into infinitely valuable ones. Look at penicillin. Whoever thought that stale bread would be worth anything?

There is another important thing about capitalism: Failure is not a stigma or a permanent obstacle. It is a spur to learn and try again. Edison invented the light bulb on, roughly, his tenthousandth attempt. If we had depended on central planners to direct his experiments, we would all be sitting around in the dark today.

Letting individuals make their own decisions is what capitalism is all about, but virtually all central planners (now in their heyday under the Clinton administration) and a good many members of the U.S. Congress (Republicans as well as Democrats) fail to realize it. They do not, for example, realize that it is the decisions of individuals that really decide how much tax revenue the government collects and how well the economy prospers. Between 1982 and 1986, the American private sector created well over 18 million new jobs, including a record number of high-paying positions. But, in 1987, Congress raised the capital gains tax to one of the high-

est levels in the industrial world. What happened? New business and job creation declined sharply. The nation was hit with a recession. And tax revenues, which were supposed to rise, went down.

Even such a simple word as "change" takes on a whole new definition in Washington, meaning change directed from above by well-intended central planners and politicians who think that they "know better" than most people when it comes to making decisions. But, in truth, the

most revolutionary sweeping agent of change is capitalism. Look at what has happened in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, Latin America, and Asia. When people are free to make their own decisions, they have a stake in the economy, and when they have a stake in the economy, they have a stake in serving others, and when they have a stake in serving others, they have a stake in fighting for freedom.

Capitalism is the real enemy of tyranny. It stands not for the

accumulated wealth or greed but for human innovation, imagination, and risk-taking. It cannot be measured in mathematical models or quantified in statistical terms, which is why central planners and politicians always underestimate it. As I noted at the outset, it is up to us, then, to give three cheers for capitalism. Who knows? If we cheer loud enough, perhaps even they will listen.

*Condensed, and reprinted by permission from IMPRIMIS, the monthly journal of Hillsdale College.*

## Frances Theresa Gagnon —1919 to 2006

Frances Theresa Gagnon, 87, passed away Friday, June 30, 2006, in Tucson, Arizona. Fran, as she was known by family and friends, was born November 17, 1919, in Rampart, Alaska. She was raised in an orphanage during the depression and given a tremendous education by the Catholic Society of the Sisters of Saint Anne.

Fran lived for many years in the wilds of Alaska helping build several log cabins on her native allotment of 160 acres. She was employed by the National Park Service as the first park ranger for the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. In her later years she developed tremendous

talent in working with beads and examples of her famous beaded necklaces are being shown at the Smithsonian Institute.

Fran is survived by her namesake, Frances Denham, and husband Rob of Newberg, Oregon, Raymond Mix and wife Anita, of Sun City, Arizona, and Linda Warren and husband, Art Phillips, of Phoenix, Arizona. There are numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren and extended family members that will miss her. The gentleness of her nature and her beautiful smile will be missed by all.

Fran's daughter, Linda Warren, writes: We will be cremating her

body and taking her ashes up to Alaska. Her request was that some of them be let loose over the Wrangell Mountains she loved so much. We will also take some ashes up to Minto, Alaska, this September. They will be interred with her two grandsons.

A memorial potlatch will be given for them the third week of September 2006.

Instead of any cards or flowers, the family requests that your generosity be sent in Frances Gagnon's name to the Doyon Foundation, 1 Doyon Plaza, Suite 300, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. This is a fund to help with educational scholarships.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

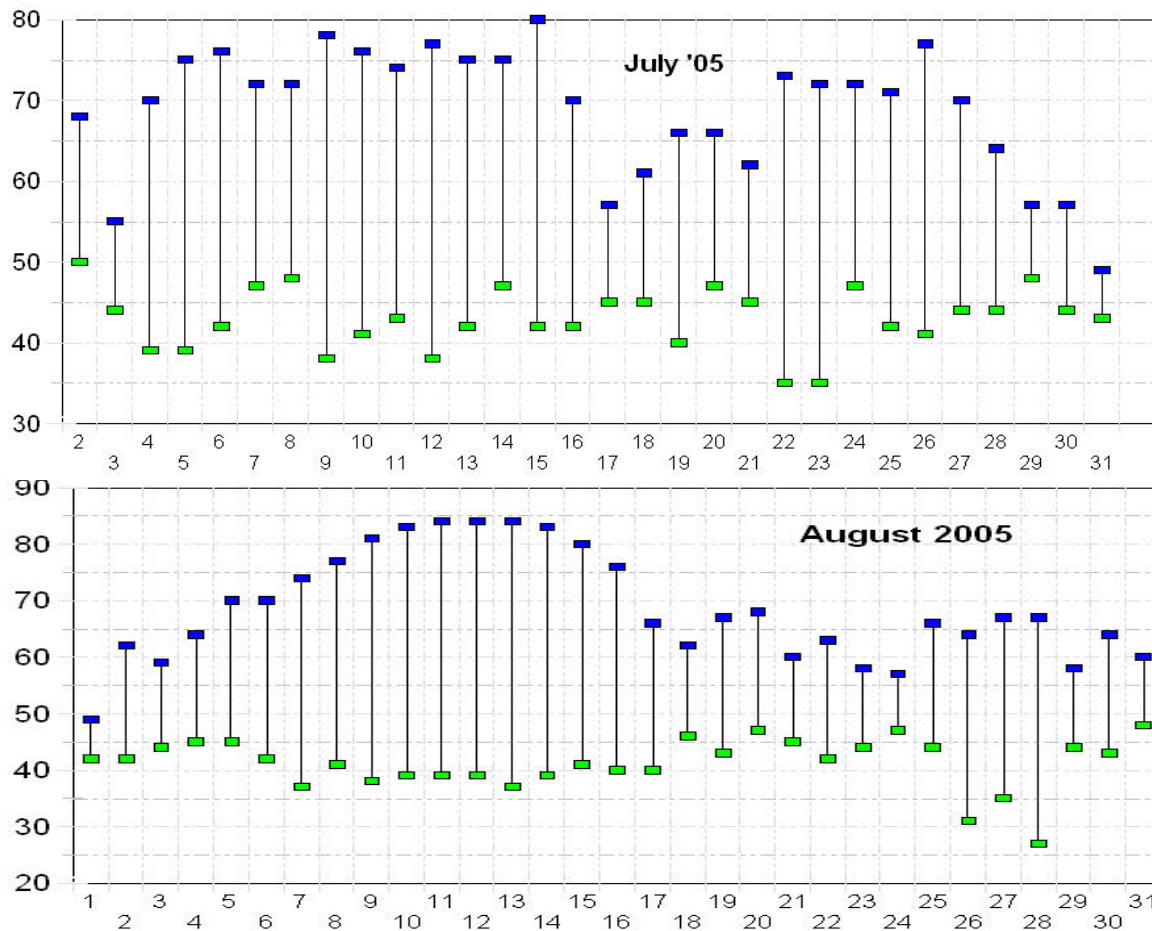
Rick & Bonnie,

Here are a few pics from our recent trip to Talkeetna. We camp there and take the boat up the Talkeetna River to Clear Creek for king fishing. This year, Brooks and Ian landed the kings and I hung with the twins in camp where my family

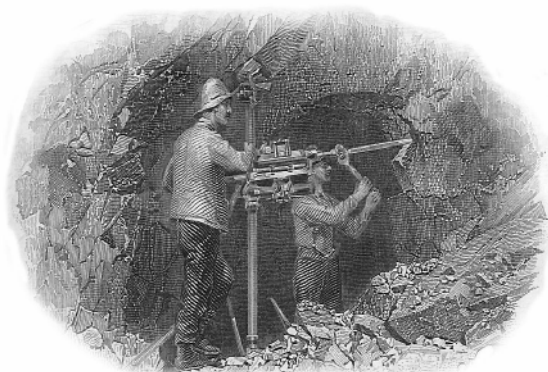
from Palmer/Anchorage were also camping. It was a lot of fun, as always. :-) Brooks and Ian got 5 kings total. This was the first time Ian hooked and set his own big salmon on a "spinning glo". He was pretty excited (so was dad).

Brooks and Dianne Ludwig





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