

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Sixteen Issue Four

July & August 2007

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Local climbers conquer Mt. Blackburn

BY TODD KASTELER

Five of six local climbers successfully reached the 16,390 foot summit of Mount Black-



Photo courtesy of the author

Routefinding at the 8,000 foot level

burn during the last week of May 2007.

Two teams of three climbers each were flown to the

7,145 foot level of the Nabesna Glacier in the middle of May. Team Kennicott consisting of Taylor Brown, Monte Montepore and Chris Smith used skis and Team Chitina/Strelna with Thomas Ginn, Todd Kasteler and Jack Schuchmann, used snowshoes and crampons for the climb. Each team had planned their trip independently, and being on the route together was a complete coincidence.

Both teams were plagued by snowstorms which made for numerous weather delays, then slow travel during good weather breaks.

(Continued on page 7)



Photo courtesy of the author

Mount Blackburn climbers left to right: Taylor Brown, Thomas Ginn, Chris Smith, Monte Montepore, Jack Schuchmann, Todd Kasteler



Photo courtesy of the author

Ginn and Kasteler on the summit

The swallows of Long Lake



Photos courtesy Edward Mays



They are measured, they are weighed, they are marked and banded. Yet they keep coming back, year after year. Alexandra Rose with one of her subjects. (Story page 6.)

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

It is July 5th as Rick puts the final touches on this current WSEN. Our two Ricoh printers—the Priport JP5000 and the Aficio3800—will soon be sitting out in the middle of our office floorspace doing their thing. Yesterday we took most of the day off to attend the annual fourth of July parade in McCarthy. Because this issue was already full, we will not be including pictures of the floats, etc., but we can report that downtown was a buzz with locals, yearly visitors to our town for the occasion and many new faces taking in the events for the first time.

One very unique “float” was Jeremy, Allie and son Bjorn’s contribution to the parade. As many of you know, Jeremy ran the Iditarod this year. His dog team was well represented on main street yesterday, quite oblivious to all the bystanders cheering them on while they quite thoroughly pulled Allie on her 4 wheeler. Trailing her was a cart containing several young folk—Ross Bass, Owen and Avery Rose Mozen and Oliver Berkey. Ross’ mom, Emily, helped make up the “braking” mechanism at

the rear. I was impressed with the pulling capacity of these brave four-footed creatures. Of course, owner Jeremy, was running alongside encouraging them on to the finishing line!

On page 10 you will find an article written by McCarthy resident, Jim Edwards, called “Reflections from Europe.” Many locals will recognize folks that the Edwards visited while traveling through Europe. One such couple is long-time subscribers, Ursel and Walter Mueller of Switzerland. The Muellers and Jim and Audrey are posed in front of Museum Castle Kyburg in Switzerland. Now that is a far cry from the sights and sounds of McCarthy!

On a more somber note, Rick and I pass on our deepest condolences to Carmen Russo and her family at the loss of Carmen’s father, Joe Russo. Mr. Russo died

of heart failure on Saturday, June 30th, in Anchorage at Alaska Regional Hospital.

Also in our prayers is the family—sons Art, Doran and Cal Jr. and their families—of Cal Ward, Sr. We just received an email from Art and his wife Ann that Cal died July 3rd after a battle with cancer. A memorial service was held in Grants Pass, OR on Saturday, July 7th, at Hugo Community Church. Burial will be in Anchorage on Monday, July 9th at 3 pm at the Angelus Memorial Park. He will be buried next to his first wife Pat. There will be a graveside service.

WSEN welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Dean Bean, AK; State Forestry, AK; Kelly Vrem, AK; Deantha Crockett, AK; Marce Von Presentin, WA; David Hale, AK; Geoffrey Downes, AK; Ted Winters, MN; Dmitri Wright, OR.



Photo courtesy Audrey Edwards
Jim and Audrey Edwards with Ursel and Walter Mueller.

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Contributors to this issue: Peggy Guntis, George Cebula, Ned Rozell, Todd Kastetler, Susan Smith, Edward May, Jim Edwards, Marcia Blaszak and Kenny Smith.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

John and Barbara Rice: Once the summer season approaches so do friends and neighbors such as John and Barbara Rice. The Rices arrived at their McCarthy home June 2nd and report a safe and an enjoyable trip north from their home base in St. Louis, MO. They delved right into their projects, knowing full well how swiftly time flies —especially if you're having fun like the Rices always do when they come north to Alaska!

Painting inside trim was number one priority for them, until they ran out of paint. As I write this "item," Barbara and John are on their way to the big city (Anchorage) where they will replenish their supplies then meet an incoming plane carrying Barbara's friend Linda Whitman. Linda lives next door to the Rices in St. Louis. She and Barbara go back a long time. They both sold real estate together and took several canoe trips, one in particular in 2000, where they canoed down the Missouri River from Montana to St. Louis. These two ladies are about to embark on another adventure —traveling the Yukon River from Whitehorse to Eagle in the Rices' 17' Wenonah canoe. They will tent camp at night. The trip could take up to 4 weeks, says Barbara.

In the meantime, John will deposit the ladies and their equipment at the drop-off point, return to McCarthy and he and Barbara's "to-do" list, while he awaits their call for pick up!

We pray for good paddling days and a steady wind at their backs! This item will of course be continued in the next *WSEN*.

Howard and Chris Haley: As I was writing about summer projects, I couldn't help but think about the Haleys. Every time Rick and I visit Howard and Chris (usually when we both need haircuts), we see progress on out-buildings and/or their home. When Chris visited the other day, she informed me that although Howard is busy working his seasonal maintenance job with the park service, they have managed to give the main house its first official paint job.

On the last haircut appointment, the Haleys were putting the final touches on their new guest quarters, humorously dubbed, "Talls Mahall," due to the fact it is on the second story of Howard's generator/ battery room. Friends must have gotten the word that all was ready because Chris is now expecting a steady stream of visitors!

One of Chris' favorite projects is the completion of an outside rock fireplace located on their house deck. She is presently in the process of building a hearth for it with the help of neighbor Jurgen O'gradnik's expertise in rock work. I'm sure it will be a job well done.

Ever willing to experiment on growing something new in the area, Chris is keeping an eye on her recently-planted Manchurian apricot tree and lilac bush. So far, so good, she says! She is now ready to plant a red currant bush as well. I am eager to watch the results myself, Chris, so keep up the good work, and keep us informed.

Rob and Dixie Retherford: The Retherfords came calling the other day to purchase a tank of propane. We finally had the privi-

lege of putting a face with a name. Although we had met Rob on a previous visit, we had not met his wife Dixie and grandson Hunter who is 7 ½ years old. (I think he is closer to 8 now!)

The Retherfords own property in the McCarthy Subdivision, south of McCarthy Creek, which they purchased in the late 90's. According to Dixie their two-story cabin is 18' x 18'. The bottom floor is almost done except for a little trim work.

Although they can only manage short visits at the present, they try to make the most of their time. One thing that helps is their ability to fly their own plane, landing at the old McCarthy airstrip south of McCarthy Creek.

It certainly was a pleasure meeting you, Rob, Dixie and Hunter!

Chris Epton: Once I begin working on this column, I am on the lookout for neighbors who are willing "items." Propane customers, such as Chris, are usually vulnerable because they have to wait while Rick fills their tanks. When Chris showed up here a few minutes ago, I quickly grabbed my pen and paper and headed down to his truck.

McCarthy area locals all know Chris who co-owns and operates the Glacier View Campground. He informed me that road traffic was picking up speed these days and that is always good to hear for the benefit of the local businesses. Besides offering a campground to our area visitors, Chris maintains an outdoor grill for folks who want to relax in the open and view the glacier from the campground deck while partaking of the "house special" —the Classic Glacier Burger.

I asked Chris what this last winter was like. He lives in Anchorage so is able to involve himself in a variety of work and entertainment. During the daytime he works at the Washburn Piano Store and at night delivers pizza for Pizza Hut. His entertainment includes playing piano in the Anchorage Jazz Ensemble.

One evening while tuning into the Anchorage Channel 2 news, he heard a plea for help during the April municipality elections. He decided to offer his services. His assignment was Precinct #42 at Service High School, where he was put in charge of the ballots. The only drawback to the mission was that *he* had to vote absentee ballot. Turns out he was working in a different precinct from his own. Oh, well, he got to taste the best of both worlds when it comes to voting.

Today he's gearing up for the McCarthy July 4th parade. He plays drums in the McCarthy Marching Band.

Larry and Lindee Satterfield: The Satterfields can't seem to get enough of the "peace and quiet of the woods" that surround their McCarthy area property. They left the noise and the busyness of the big city to work on the foundation of their future cabin during the latter part of May. Lindee, who admits to not being the outdoors type or "in the know" of how to assist your husband in the building of a cabin in the woods, is learning a lot, she informed me. I suggested she write down some of those much-needed tips for those ladies who might follow in her footsteps. She is working on the handbook for women. It's called, "The Do's and Don'ts of Building a Cabin with your Husband." Here are some excerpts:

Do know the difference between pliers and a wrench. Do not bring the grease gun when he asks for a caulking gun. Do lift weights before you start the project, so you can help carry the lumber. Do know your lumber: 2x4x6 or 4x12x16 and

treated lumber or not treated lumber. Do know what a bolt, a nut and a washer is. Do know the sizes of the nuts and screws. (You will go nuts learning this!) Do know where all the tools are, especially when "he" has misplaced them. Do not take a break unless he takes one with you! Do know how to turn the generator on and off. Do hang in there. It's a good workout; you are getting something accomplished for yourselves, and you get to work side by side with your husband. Is there anything better?? Hmmmm...

George Cebula: George is staying plenty busy this summer. His van driving position with McCarthy Kennicott Shuttle, also known as Wrangell Mountain Bus, keeps him on the move, literally. Then, of course, dog Sophie keeps him on his feet as she loves taking George on walks to various parts of the neighborhood.

George was over today and informed me that two of his brothers, Ted and Tom, (who are twins!) are scheduled for a visit late in the summer. Tom hasn't been to McCarthy for several years, but Ted is an annual visitor. I'll make sure my coffee pot is in good working order, Ted, for you and Rick's morning visits!

Jim and Peggy Guntis: The Guntis' arrived on schedule at their summer home last week in May. After getting settled in and greeting neighbors, they took a trip to Homer where they visited with daughter Kim (Northrup) and son-in-law Richard. Kim and Richard have two foster children, a boy and girl, ages 3 and 5, so along with Kim's 4 dogs, the house was anything but quiet. But, Peggy says she and Jim had a wonderful time and enjoyed the excitement.

On their way back to McCarthy, they stopped off at Valdez to see Anna Wallin and Anna's folks, Scott and Salley. Anna is the Guntis' niece and locals will remember Anna from her McCarthy days.

We expect to see Scott and Salley any day now for their short visit to our area before returning to Tucson. According to Peggy, they all had a relaxing time with family.

Ross Bass: Ross celebrated his 5th birthday on June 4th with all the trimmings this young man could muster! His parents, Emily and Mark Bass, did a grand job hosting the occasion. Rick and I were honored to be included in this fine milestone in Ross' life. The Bass' cabin overflowed with neighbors and Ross' friends. Emily kept those root beer floats coming with plenty of other goodies on hand.

Congratulations, Ross. I pray you have many more fun-loving birthdays!

As I was working on this page, Emily called informing me they were awaiting many relatives from Mark's side of the family. I'm sure Ross is eager for them all to arrive.

Wayne Marrs and Gaia Thurston-Shaine: Wayne and Gaia, owners and operators of Copper Oar and St. Elias Alpine Guides, are back on the job for 2007. They are excited to be entering their second year running the Visitor Information Center on the west side of the Kennicott River at mile 58 of the McCarthy Road.

Gaia tells me this year's services include a parking lot, detailed visitor information, shuttle service to the footbridge co-ordinating with McCarthy-Kennicott Shuttle (Wrangell Mountain Bus) and they can help visitors with planning activities and finding local lodging.

Well done, Wayne and Gaia. You're doing a fine service for the community!

Kenny Smith: Summer is a sure thing when Kenny shows up at his place on Swift Creek. This year he brought in a new (for him) 4 wheeler —Yamaha Grizzly 650 —with a bit more power than his older machines. He rode it down the other day and let Rick and I take it for a drive. It was fun!

For the past several years Kenny invites Rick and I along for a "westside tour." That simply means we hop on our 4 wheelers, with him leading the way, to a variety of newly-built cabins or ones we haven't seen in awhile. Actually he takes us to places that are out of our normal, everyday route. This year we began our tour with breakfast at the McCarthy Lodge and a visit with owner **Neil Darish**. Then we ventured up to **Dan and Heike Frost's** property and followed their driveway to their future building site. Unfortunately the Frosts weren't home at the time, but Heike and Dan are frequent visitors to the area now so I expect to return at a later date.

Our tour took us down to the "J" Road. No one was home at the various cabins, but it was still great getting updated on all the building activity in that neck of the woods. Thanks for such a fine time, Kenny, and welcome back to the neighborhood.

Neil O'Donnell, Margaret Stock and daughter Catherine: The O'Donnell/Stock family arrived on our door step the other night bearing fruit —nectarines, grapes, pears and peaches and a real live apple tree! What a surprise. Rick has already been online to check out the specs on this fine-looking fruit tree (our first). We've always wanted to try growing an apple tree, but only until recently did we learn certain northern varieties can grow in our wonderful chilly state. We are eager to watch its progress (and protect it from any curious moose).

Margaret, Neil and Catherine are always eager to spend time in the area and at their cabin. They are expecting friends to join them in celebrating the July 4th —McCarthy style. Once the festivities are over, the group will venture out on a camping trip. We wish them all the best of fun and adventure. Another "thanks" for the much appreciated goodies and a big McCarthy WELCOME back.

Carl and Marcia Elwood: It's always a pleasure to meet WSEN subscribers that live outside our immediate area. The Elwoods live in Mountain Village where Carl pastors a church and Marcia is a school teacher. They were introduced to our publication by the Kaisers of Glennallen. (Terry Kaiser is our postmaster.) Recently they purchased property on Crystal Lake near mile 40 of the McCarthy Road.

We had a nice visit with this fine couple and hope they return to the area many more times in the future. Marcia assured me that they could now put some faces with the names that often appear in *Items of Interest*. Thanks for taking time to travel up our way, Carl and Marcia, and we wish you the best in your plans at Crystal Lake!

Vacation Bible School: The Alaska Mission for Christ Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) is sponsoring a 5-day vacation Bible school in McCarthy at the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church. Bible stories, crafts, snacks and recreation is planned and all children are welcome. The dates are July 30-August 3 beginning at 1 pm each day.

CORRECTION: Our apologies to Emily Bass for mistakenly crediting Joe Darnell for a cover picture she sent us which we used in the May/June issue. Thank you for being so understanding, Emily! You are a great neighbor.

Copper Valley Telephone announces 2007 Customer Appreciation Picnic Schedule: It is that time of year again to announce CVTC's picnic dates and locations. Mark your calendars and plan to attend at the following locations: July 19, Tatitlek/Community Center; July 20, Kenny Lake/Fairgrounds; July 26, McCarthy/Community Hall (Tony Zaks); July 27, Chitina/Wayside; August 9, Slana/Midway Services; August 10, Glennallen, CVTC; September 7, Valdez/CVTC.

As usual the CVTC staff will serve up the usual hamburgers, hot-

dogs, chips, drinks and cookies from 12 noon - 1 pm. They hope all will attend!

Calling all Jr. Ranger artists! —kids ages 6-12: Come hear what the "buzz" is all about at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park as Park Rangers present the 2007 Summer Series Jr. Ranger Program. Bi-weekly programs are scheduled from June 14th through August 9th. Kids, ages 6-12, are invited to attend these free 1 ½ hour programs. Space is limited, so please call park headquarters in Copper Center at 822-7440.

This summer's adventures began with the second annual Wrangell-St. Elias Creativity Contest. Wildlife artist, Jona Van Zyle, has created three beautiful drawings for kids to color. The first drawing was called "Animal Tracks" with the deadline for submission June 30th.

"Kennecott Mill Town" is the July drawing. Deadline is set for July 31st. (Several drawings are still available locally at the McCarthy mail shack.) Look for the next drawing in August called "Hiking Adventures." Deadline on the last drawing is August 31st.

Color with crayons, colored pencils, watercolors, or add special touches that are all your own. Mail your drawing, with name and phone number to WRST, PO Box 439, Copper Center, AK. 99573. You can also drop it off at the park visitor center.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st place (ages 6-8 & 9-12) and runner-up each month. Prizes are donated by Jon and Jona Van Zyle and the Alaska Natural History Association.

The Van Zyles live near Eagle River, AK where they raise and train Siberian Huskies. Jona has many years experience working with huskies. Her love of wildlife and sled dogs has greatly influenced all facets of her art and life. Her beautiful drawings reflect her passion for wild places like Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

Long Lake Swallow Study

BY EDWARD MAY

Dan Doak has been coming to Kennicott since 1985. He completed his PHD on plants, and insects that feed on plants, working out of the Wrangell Mountain Center in McCarthy. In 1991 he obtained his PHD, bought land above Kennicott, built a cabin there and has been migrating back every summer.

Doak met Alexandra Rose, Alex, in Santa Cruz, California. The summer of 2003 Rose was doing research work in the Aleutians and ended up going on a backpacking trip with Doak. He explains the trip, "We're backpacking along the back of the glacier and it was really snotty conditions. It was raining every day and was really cold and windy and Alex had a great time. Some people just see nothing but rain and bugs in Alaska, and other people see this gorgeous, beautiful, wonderful place." It was this attitude that connected them and continues to bond them. Doak and Rose were married September 30th, 2006, in Big Sur, California.

The summer of 2004 Rose came up to visit Doak at his cabin in Kennicott. She explains how she got involved with the Long Lake Swallow Study: "It was the summer after Cliff Collins had passed and Dan knew, through a friend of his at the Park Service, that the family was looking for somebody to do the banding, so I offered because I have a banding permit." Rose returned in the summer of 2005. Rene Welty showed her where all the boxes were, and they banded all the birds.

"Cliff was obviously an exceptional person in many ways. The fact that he, as a total lay person, had gone to the effort of not only putting up these boxes and maintaining them for such a long time in a very organized way, but also went to the trouble of getting a banding permit,

doing the banding and keeping such careful records of what he had done is incredible and, as far as I know, is unprecedented."

Rose says the number of occupied nesting boxes over the years, according to records which go back twenty years, have been fifty to sixty boxes at Long Lake. According to Rose, Collins kept detailed journals compiling a massive amount of data which needs to be organized and entered into a data base that can be accessible for analysis. She feels committed to completing that project.

After banding the birds that first year, Rose went to Kennicott to spend the rest of the summer with Doak. One morning around 4 o'clock she observed a Junco returning to her nest with a whole beak full of grubs and caterpillars that she was going to feed to her chicks. Rose said it struck her that in the lower 48 it was pitch black where this same species were nesting. She became interested in how wide spread the pattern was of birds using the early morning light and the late night light and what that meant for birds in general. She wondered what it meant to populations of birds that breed at high latitudes, that they had so much more time in a day to care for their young than their counterparts that lived in the south.

Rose had this great population of swallows that lived at Long Lake and then she found out that there was another population of tree swallows that breed near where she lived in California. She discovered that she could observe and study the breeding season of the birds there and then make it to Long Lake in time to observe the swallows here just beginning their breeding season. This would allow her to observe and record two breeding seasons in one summer. In 2006 she started

her project to compare the two groups of swallows. This became the focus of research she chose to complete her PHD.

Swallows are an easy species to study because they breed in bird boxes. They are mellow and flexible birds. "You can really drive them crazy in their nests. You can take their babies out and measure them and put all kinds of stuff on there boxes to record various pieces of data and they aren't affected by the disturbance. Swallows at every stage of the nesting process are completely committed and they won't abandon their home or chicks," says Rose.

Typically she measures their nests, counts their eggs and the number of feathers in the nest. Then every three days she measures and weighs the chicks. She captures the parents, removes from their beaks what they have caught to feed the chicks, and stores the bugs in vials to later be analyzed identifying species and nutritional content. She also uses counters that record the number of feeding visits the birds make to the nests. In Alaska they make 383 trips a day, coming back every 2.7 minutes.

Doak points out that what makes the Long Lake Swallow study so unique is the long-term nature of Collins' documentation and the fact that most of the long-term studies being conducted around the world have been done in places that have been impacted by urban sprawl. Rose who plans to complete her dissertation this fall and hopes to receive her PHD says she is grateful to the Collins' family for opening their home and sharing a part of their family history with her. She is thankful that they have been so generous and allowed her to come in and take over for Cliff.

Science has always been a field of discovery. Rose defines her role

as a scientist, "You find what strikes you as interesting at the time and follow your passion and when it stops being fun you switch to a new question. It's a pursuit of one's own curiosity. My main interest is in Avian Conservation Biology. Who knows what the future holds for the

Long Lake Swallow Study and what significance it may hold for future generations?"

Rose and Doak will spend most of the summer in Kennicott and then travel to Wyoming where he will be teaching at the University. Rose plans to continue studying the

swallows at Long Lake in the summers and hopes to find a great job in Wyoming saving the world.

Editor's note: Author Ed Mays and his wife Milinda produce audio story CDs in addition to writing stories. See our review on page 26.

Local climbers conquer Mt. Blackburn

(continued from cover)

The many crevasses covered with fresh, drifted snow required continual probing and many detours.

Our planned route up the NW Cirque of the true North Ridge was impassable due to recent crevasse activity. After days of searching for a link to the 11,000 foot level where the ridge route becomes apparent, Taylor Brown led three near-vertical pitches of snow and ice to enable both teams to reach the upper mountain.

On May 25th, Team Chitina/Strelna placed anchors and a fixed line in the steep section and proceeded to their high camp at 12,000 feet. Team Kennicott noticed from their high camp at 9,700 feet that the weather was clearing. After three days of being pinned down by bad weather they were ready for their summit bid. At 11:00 PM they set out and climbed through the night to reach the top in twelve and a half hours. Their skies were clear and calm and the silvery twilight made route-finding relatively easy. Their 6,690 foot descent was done without rappels and the recent snows made for a truly epic powder run back down to their high camp.

Team Chitina/Strelna reached 12,000 feet and dug in to the side of a prominent crevasse just as a 49 hour blizzard struck. On May 28th the skies cleared at 3:30 AM and by 5:00 AM Thomas Ginn and Todd Kasteler set out for the top. The new snow made for exhausting work



Photo courtesy the author

Celebrating a successful expedition and a safe return to base camp.

and it took 16 hours for the two to reach the summit. Their weather window only lasted for part of the day. An ominous lenticular cloud formed around them as they ascended, while a snowstorm moved in below. Bamboo wands were placed every rope length as markers and were crucial to finding the way down. Jack Schuchmann, who was not feeling well at 5:00 AM, felt better after a few more hours of sleep and headed up behind the front pair. Schuchmann climbed to the 15,000 foot level and decided it best to descend as the storm gathered. At 9:00 PM, Ginn and Kasteler reached the top in a howling windstorm. The ambient tempera-

ture was ten below zero Fahrenheit. It was a brief stay on top as they tried to coax their frozen digital camera to click a couple of photos in low visibility. They then descended through the night to reach their high camp at 3:00 AM.

Both teams spent the next few days moving gear back down to the 7,145 foot pick-up area, and Paul Claus flew in on schedule on May 31st for the flight back to Chitina. It was a demanding, challenging and rewarding trip and we all felt fortunate to be able to return safely from the apex of the beautiful Wrangell Mountains which we call home.

Another McCarthy Creek bridge

BY RICK KENYON

The latest version of a bridge across McCarthy Creek was put in place this spring by local residents needing access to the south side of the creek.

The crossing has been the subject of much controversy in recent years.

Historically, McCarthy Creek was crossed by a vehicular bridge. Photos of the area during McCarthy's heyday show such a bridge. During the 50s, tourists were brought to May Creek by DC-3 aircraft, driven across the Nizina Bridge and the McCarthy Creek Bridge into McCarthy and up to Kennicott.

In the late seventies, when Bonnie and I moved to the area, a vehicle bridge was in place although the Nizina Bridge was no longer crossable.

As local residents are well aware, McCarthy Creek is subject to severe periodic flooding. Again, photos of early day McCarthy show that the residents maintained a log seawall along the northern side of the creek bank.

These floods eventually take out whatever type of bridge crosses the turbulent waters. Last fall's widespread flooding was especially severe.

A project is underway with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) to build a tram. A preliminary survey has been done but it



is not yet clear if the project will proceed to actual construction.

Jerry Rafson, of DOT&PF planning in Fairbanks recently suggested a novel solution. Relocate the Kennicott River East Channel Footbridge, (which was rendered unnecessary when the channel shifted), to McCarthy Creek.

Whatever the final outcome, for now folks can cross the river at least by foot. One word of caution: Watch your step!

Zak house gets Fire Wise

BY RICK KENYON

The McCarthy Community Center, locally known as the "Zak House" got some attention by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry in June.



The Division of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service, fight fires within their protection areas on all land ownerships which reduces the duplication of facilities and services. None of the agencies in Alaska have all of the resources required to accomplish the fire protection job on their own. The Division of Forestry has cooperative agreements with the Departments of Agriculture and Interior, and numerous local government and volunteer fire departments to help get the job done. The state and federal agencies routinely utilize each other's personnel and resources to both manage and fight fires. This is efficient and cost effective.

Forestry people cleared defensible space around the buildings and installed the Fire Danger sign near the road. Shortly after installation, dry conditions caused the danger level to be raised to Extreme.

A man and the mountains —honoring a life well lived

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy: —A memorial gathering for long-time resident, Edward L. LaChapelle, was held at 3:30 pm in Kennecott at the Kennecott Recreation Hall on Thursday, May 31st. The Hall overflowed with family, friends and neighbors all present to remember and honor Ed's life.

Meg Hunt began the celebration by welcoming those in attendance. She introduced musician, river guide and former fisherman, David Grimes, of Cordova, to sing an original song entitled, "All be gone."

Ed's son, David LaChapelle, shared several personal poignant reflections of his father, enlarging everyone's knowledge of Ed's life.

"The Kindness of Strangers," was sung by Pat Fitzgerald and Robin Dale Ford of Fairbanks. Pat and Robin are familiar to McCarthy area residents because of their yearly performances at Labor Day. The song —another original —focused

on the inability to know how much time we have here on earth. We make it through "by the blessings we get from the kindness of strangers."

Much time was given to the remembrances individuals had of Ed and warmly shared them with each other. These administered to the desire of all to gain an even closer glimpse of the Ed we all knew in some measure.

More music followed: *Amazing Grace*, sung by all, and another song by Pat and Robin.

Being a scientist was a very deep part of Ed's identity. A toast was given by a number of scientists —Bob Cook, Dan Doak, Bill Morris, Danny Rosenkrans, Ben Shaine, Mike Loso and Don Anderson.

Meg Jensen, superintendent of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve, bestowed upon Ed an Andy Taylor Award, given for outstanding community service that is of benefit to the park and its com-

munities. It was received by David LaChapelle and Meg Hunt.

A potluck dinner followed while several local musicians played. Suddenly, local Kennecott resident, Jim Miller, called everyone to take notice as to what was happening out on the glacier. A meltwater pond had found a way through the ice and created a mighty waterfall just opposite the Recreation Hall. Meg recalls the moment, "It was such a dramatic sight that we all went out to watch, and the musicians moved outside to play as well. Some thought of it as the glacier weeping. I think Ed was pulling strings somewhere."

"It is important to reiterate the importance of attention. Even the most conspicuous snow features offer little information if the mind's eye is not working together with the physical eyes. We see what we know, but overlook the unfamiliar." — *Secrets of the Snows*, Edward L. LaChapelle.

News from McCarthy Area Council

(Editor's note: The following news' items are taken from minutes of the May 19th meeting prepared by Marie Thorn.)

Trail work: Stephens Harper reported that the two-day volunteer effort to improve the Root Glacier Trail at Bonanza and Jumbo Creeks was a success with 31 people showing up to assist. They effectively spanned the new creek gorges. Stephens would like to organize future volunteer trail projects to build a crossing at Amazon Creek and a new trail

around the areas that eroded between Amazon Creek and the Erie Mine tram cables.

Transfer station: Legislation concerning solid waste storage within national park boundaries is working its way through Congress. This will allow community collection and transfer of solid waste within the WRST on non-federal land as early as fall of 2008.

New footbridge cart: Vicki Snitzler has volunteered to organize a multi-party purchase of a new foot-

bridge cart since one of the two existing carts is now unserviceable.

McCarthy Creek tram project: MAC encourages interested individuals to contact Fred Dure, Bob Cook or Patty Yould. Fred and Bob have been successful in acquiring a \$200,000 federal appropriation for a more permanent McCarthy Creek crossing. Additional funding (\$460,000) is needed for the project to continue. The task force also needs to identify maintenance ownership of the tram before the Department of Transportation will support the venture.

"All of us denounce war—all of us consider it man's greatest stupidity. And yet wars happen and they involve the most passionate lovers of peace because there are still barbarians in the world who set the price for peace at death or enslavement and the price is too high." —Ronald Reagan

Reflections from Europe

BY JIM EDWARDS

(Editor's note: Jim and Audrey Edwards are familiar names to WSEN readers because they often hit the Items of Interest column. The Edwards', long-time McCarthy residents, love to travel —especially in the dark, winter months and in early spring break-up. Jim so graciously offered to write of their recent travels to Europe where he and Audrey met up with other past well-known names to this publication. I hope where folks travel and what they do while en route to other out-of-the-way places, will give you an even closer look into the residents who make up our town.)

I first thought about writing something when I found myself reading the May/June issue of the WSEN in Wernetshausen, a small village about 30 km southeast of Zurich, Switzerland. Audrey and I were nearing the end of our eleven week stay in Europe, during which we traveled through, or at least briefly touched down, in seven countries. At the beginning of the trip we were staying with Walter and Ursel Mueller, whom some of you will remember well and whom many of you have remained very close friends. They stayed with us for over a year one time and have revisited us several times.

While visiting them, we went on several lovely drives around their very hilly area and to pretty lakes and very powerful cataract falls of the Rhine River. We also spent a few days at their "Mountain House." This is about a two-hour drive into the Alps from their home, and then about 3 km up the side of a very steep, narrow valley wall on their semi-private road that is just barely one car width, right on the edge of the often more than 60-degree slope. The house itself sits on the edge of a couple sloping acres of grass meadow punctuated with rock outcrops across which small groups

of Chamois occasionally graze. Lovely! So lovely, in fact, that as I got the opportunity to sit in the sun against the house basement and look at the mountainside across the valley and the tip of a glacier above, I reflected that although the many beautiful, old, peaceful cathedrals I have seen show great spiritual strength, the scene across this valley also gave me, personally, a very spiritual lift toward what I see as God. You would have to experience the beauty and peacefulness to feel this.

After a few days the weather reports were threatening, so we drove back to Wernetshausen, and, sure enough, the next morning even at a much lower altitude we woke up to the need to shovel perhaps 0.4 meters of snow to get the cars out of their garage. Had we still been at the mountain house we might not have been able to get the car down that narrow, twisting road safely.

Since Northern Europe can still be quite cool in March, we made our first trip to the south to see some of Italy. Our first stop was Rome where we went to the Sistine Chapel, and the Colosseum. Walter found us a great hotel on the Internet. The people were pleasant and very helpful with everything. The lady tending the breakfast room really made each day with her bright charm and smiles; she made everyone feel special.

The Vatican City is quite large and there was so much to see. We spent several hours taking in everything before we got to the Sistine Chapel. We were really tired, but the beauty kept us there as it was one of the most mesmerizing places I have ever been. The ceiling and all the other paintings were absolutely exquisite. It was hard to take it all in for all the people around you. From there we went to St. Peter's Cathedral, where again the old statues and paintings told so many sto-

ries of the past. A person just has to feel blessed to be so close to those surroundings.

The next day we went to the Colosseum. From two levels of balconies you can see the halls and chambers where the Gladiators and animals were kept. Another amazing place to see. Also the ruins of the Emperors Palace, and the Roman Forum were worth some hours of wandering through. We walked the long way back to the hotel taking in other sites, including street painters. One painter squatted on an old bucket surrounded by about 15 cans of spray paint—painting a picture of the Colosseum with great flourishes of his arms and old tin cans. The paintings were beautiful when done. Every step of the way something was going on. Colorful and fun, but I'm happy not to live there. Our next move was to Siracusa, a city on the southeast shore of the Island of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea, at the tip of the boot of Italy. I read about the war of 414-13 BC when Athens attacked to try and take over Siracusa. I was lucky to find a Servas host there and an archeologist friend of his who took me on a full-day tour through the old city—the harbor where the war was fought and the old rock quarry relating to this war. It really brought that small piece of history alive for me. On the way back north from Sicily we took a side trip to Pisa where I walked up the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa. The steps are old worn marble, and it is so crowded that they only give you 30 minutes to walk in and out, so you have to hurry to take any pictures. But at least I got the chance to do it.

After a few more days in Switzerland, we went to Germany and spent some days in Aachen to visit another friend, Wolfgang Haertel. We saw many old city gates dating back to the 1400's, in perfect shape, their huge heavy doors still intact.

We then went for a short side trip into Belgium and walked through a well-kept American cemetery of nearly 8,000 World War II graves. A very solemn place, but a beautiful remembrance of those who lost their lives. They have the Seal of every State of the Union, including the Seal of the Territory of Alaska, Puerto Rico & Hawaii. Belgium gave the United States that small piece of land for this Memorial, and it gave me a very special feeling having been able to see and visit it. Next we went to Holland where we visited our friends whom some of you will remember, Hans and Monique. They now have two little boys who were such fun to be with. They took us to a place call Ooster Scheldt, or simply called "The Delta Project." This system of Controllable Dikes impressed me as being the equal of our own Prudhoe Bay-Valdez Pipeline in massive technical structures. The controllable gates allow the sea to keep the several delta estuaries alive, and yet be closed when storms threaten this country that has large areas below sea level. Another day we went to a model of the Netherlands done in a 1:25 scale. At least a couple hundred buildings were in place, with canals between them and boat models plying the waterways, trucks running errands, hundreds of 70 mm tall people doing things in the display. Paths through it all make close inspection quite enjoyable. Even a model of their major airport had jumbo jets taxiing for takeoff. However none did. We then visited another couple we had been communicating with for over a year, and we went to some remaining old-style Dutch Windmills still cared for and lived in, pumping water when needed.

From there we went to Salzgitter, Germany, to visit Max Cott, again someone you may know. We stayed with Max for three weeks in a part of his house that he had made into an apartment. We treasured our visits with Max and again went to several places of interest, mainly a place called Goslar, an interesting city that features witches in their history. Of course Audrey had to buy some witch dolls in the ever present surplus of gift shops. We took several side trips while staying with Max, one to Goteborg, Sweden, where Audrey hoped to find some information on her grandparents who emigrated from there in the 1800's.

Another side trip was to Cologne, Germany, to visit Hans and Margaret Ogrodnik, our neighbor Jurgen's parents. We spent three wonderful days with them and his brother Ule. One of our side trips included an historical paper-making factory where you can see the old machinery. One of the displays is set up so that you can actually make a small sheet of paper yourself, which we did.

Back with Max again, he took me to the owner of one of the many modern windmills in Germany and other European countries. These windmills generate up to 250 kw of power, which is then sold back to the electric grid which operates on 220 v, 50 Hz in Europe. The modern ones generate this power at 12 rpm and the generator is not geared up, but gets the 50 Hz by using 72 poles around the armature. Speed is controlled by varying the pitch of the approximate 20 meter long blades. Our time left was getting short now, so back to Switzerland.

Back in Switzerland Walter took me to visit his factory where they make steel drums. Most of these are

just like the oil drums we see in Alaska, except theirs are built to order. His company specializes in customer mandated features, usually for specialty chemical, pharmaceutical, and medical uses. This was really fascinating to me as I love to see how mechanical things are made. His factory makes about 500 drums per day. Another day he took me through the basement of a university laboratory building. He himself had a large role in designing this building, so he knew a lot about the generation, distributing, and efficiencies of the power, cooling, heating, and pure water systems to explain to me. We also went to several laboratories then in USW, and saw grad students measuring, filling, processing chemicals for experiments.

I also got another trip to their mountain house, where once a year they have a work session. All neighbors living along this road are asked to come help clean the ditches to prevent washouts and problems with the road. The State had turned the road over to the property owners with the mandate to maintain it or pay for any damage to the road. Ursel put a shovel in my hand and, needless to say, I went to work with about 15 other people cleaning the road with rakes, mattoxes, and shovels, digging ditches and clearing loose rocks. It was 6 hours of hard work, and I got a good blister on my hand, but Ursel put on a great lunch for all of us and it was worth it.

Our departure day arrived all too soon and Walter and Ursel took us to the Zurich Airport. It is always hard to leave good friends, but we will always treasure the time we had with them and appreciate all the things we did together.

"If men through fear, fraud or mistake, should in terms renounce and give up any essential natural right, the eternal law of reason and the great end of society, would absolutely vacate such renunciation; the right to freedom being the gift of God Almighty, it is not in the power of Man to alienate this gift, and voluntarily become a slave." — John Adams (Rights of the Colonists, 1772)

McCarthy Road maintenance update

BY RICK KENYON

As reported in our last issue, the McCarthy Road Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been cancelled. Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) officials stated that the project would require approx. \$100 million, and that amount of money is not available in the foreseeable future.

Critics, such as the Coalition for Access to McCarthy, the National Park Service and the National Parks and Conservation Association were quick to point out that part of the purpose of an EIS was to come up with alternative designs, from "no-build" to a 55MPH hard-surface road. Therefore, the ability of officials to cite a definitive cost of a project before deciding on an alternative was called into question.

However, there are several bright spots in the road's future, at least for the short-term. In 2005 SAFETEA-LU, the federal highway bill was signed into law. The bill listed a \$5.0 million dollar earmark for McCarthy Road Improvements. The actual appropriated amount plus state match is \$4.68 million. The funds were originally scheduled to be used to complete the EIS and for design and construction. Normally when a project is cancelled, the money has to be returned to the federal government. DOT&PF secured

permission from the federal government to keep the funds and use them to continue the major maintenance work initiated last summer.

According to Dave Sanchez at DOT&PF in Fairbanks, work will include brushing, grading, drainage improvements, minor widening and realignment, and surfacing. Maintenance work on the road should begin toward the end of the summer and finish up in the fall of 2008. Once work begins, the Tazlina Maintenance Office can be contacted at 822-3222 for information regarding construction activities and traffic delays.

In addition to this \$4.68 million, an additional \$4 million is being secured from FEMA as a result of the severe flooding last October. Emergency repairs were completed in 2006, but the following permanent repair projects are slated for attention in the next two years.

Kotsina Bluff: MP 2.0-2.8 Reconstruct or possibly realign the roadway. The design and environmental process is just beginning. Due to historical issues involved and various alternatives under consideration within the road corridor, this process could take a year or more. This process will also include a public involvement effort. Construction timelines will be established once the project moves further into design. Esti-

mated construction cost \$4.3 million.

Miscellaneous Locations

MP 5.0: Excavate and reconstruct the roadway embankment.

MP 14.8: Reconstruct the embankment and replace damaged aluminum pipe arch.

MP 16.5: Kuskulana River Bridge. Excavate and reconstruct the damaged embankment and remove the barriers.

MP 18.2: Hugaboulder Bend. Excavate and reconstruct the damaged embankment and remove the barriers.

MP 27: Chokosna River Bridge. Complete the abutment fill repair and replace missing rip rap.

MP 44.6: Lakina River Bridge. Excavate and reconstruct the temporary repair approach embankment.

MP 57.6: Excavate and rebuild the damaged roadway embankment.

As we go to press the end of June, the entire road has been freshly graded and users are reporting "smooth but dusty."

Current conditions of the road are available at the McCarthy Road Blog at <http://wsen.net>.

For more information on maintenance activities contact John Hoffman, Maintenance Manager at Tazlina Maintenance Station at (907)822-3222 or email him at john_hoffman@dot.state.ak.us

CLASSIFIED

WATER WELL??? Looking to put together a list of folks interested in having a well drilled next summer, in order to entice a driller to make the trip. Must have road access for a sizeable rig. Contact Todd Bureau @ 907-782-3730 or advenak@advenalaska.com

Permits restricted for some Wrangell-St. Elias off-road vehicle use

NPS PRESS RELEASE

In implementing a recent agreement which settled a lawsuit regarding the recreational use of off-road vehicle (ORVs) in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, the park will be restricting permits for three trails.

Permits will not be issued for the Suslota Lake Trail, Copper Lake Trail past the Boomerang Lake turn off, and Tanada Lake Trail. This will remain the case until fall or early winter when park staff certifies that the ground is frozen. This condition was one of the terms of the settlement of a lawsuit filed last summer against the National Park Service by the National Parks Conservation Association; Alaska Center for the Environment; and The Wilderness Society. The lawsuit asserted the NPS had improperly managed ORV

use on nine trails, all of which are in the Nabesna Road area of the park and preserve.

The following trails are still available for recreational ORV use: Caribou Creek trail, Trail Creek trail, Lost Creek trail, Soda Lake trail, Reeve Field trail, Kotsina trail, and Nugget Creek trail. Most recreational ORV use of these trails is in the fall and is associated with sport hunting in the preserve. The NPS issues about 200 permits per year for recreational ORV use. "The NPS is pleased that this agreement allows for continued recreational use of the six trails along the Nabesna Road while we undergo a planning process," says Superintendent Meg Jensen.

The summer restriction only applies to recreational ORV use on three trails. Subsistence use of ORVs on all trails by local rural resi-

dents or individuals with a valid permit (under 43 CFR 13.44) is not affected. Access to inholdings along these nine trails is not restricted as well.

All trails remain open to the public, and can be used by alternative transportation methods, such as foot and horseback.

The planning effort agreed to as part of the implementation of the lawsuit settlement, will include a \$1.2 million environmental impact statement and study of the nine northern trails. The project is expected to be finished in 2010.

To obtain a recreational ORV permit for an authorized trail, contact the Slana Ranger Station at: (907) 822-5238.

If you have any questions, please contact Meg Jensen, Superintendent, at (907) 822-7200.

NPS hopes to build roadside facilities this summer

BY RICK KENYON

Originally scheduled to be part of the now defunct McCarthy Road upgrade project, several roadside toilet facilities may yet be built this summer.

"We are working on the environmental review & associated paperwork to complete the process," said Meg Jensen, Superintendent at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

"Assuming we get all the details worked out, we'll be out there this summer," said Jensen.

The "rest-stops" will be much welcomed by tourists, as the 60-mile drive, normally a minimum of two hours, is more than many want to endure without facilities.

Plans are for a rest area around mile 17, at the east end of the Kuskulana Bridge, and at the Gilahina River near the old historic trestle approximately milepost 28.

The Crystalline Hills trail at milepost 37 is scheduled to get an outhouse somewhere along the trail.

The Alaska State Department of Natural Resources FireWise pullout at about mile 55 will also get toilet facilities. In fact maintenance crews are at work as we go to press installing pit toilets at this site. The site is also being considered for a waste Transfer Station.

According to NPS Maintenance Chief Will Tipton, the facilities will be maintained by NPS staff and may eventually be put out to contract.

"[W]e are confirmed in the opinion, that the present age would be deficient in their duty to God, their posterity and themselves, if they do not establish an American republic. This is the only form of government we wish to see established; for we can never be willingly subject to any other King than He who, being possessed of infinite wisdom, goodness and rectitude, is alone fit to possess unlimited power." —Instructions of Malden, Massachusetts for a Declaration of Independence, 27 May 1776

Access to inholdings update

BY SUSAN SMITH
CHAIRPERSON RESIDENTS OF THE WRANGELLS

The battle to preserve inholder access in National Park Service (NPS) units in Alaska has been long and challenging but a new proposal has been formulated by NPS which will finally give residents a fair and long-lasting solution. At a meeting on May 16, 2007 at NPS Headquarters in Copper Center, NPS Regional Director Marcia Blaszak announced to members of Residents of the Wrangells, the McCarthy Area Council, and Slana Alaskans Unite the creation of a new NPS ANILCA 1110(b) Right-of-Way (AROW) which will be issued to all residents whose access routes go through park land. This will be a personal, not public, right-of-way; it will be outlined in Draft Three of *A User's Guide to Accessing Inholdings in a National Park Service Area in Alaska* and will pertain to inholdings in all NPS units in the state, including pre-ANILCA units, state lands, and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Native corporation lands.

This AROW will not be a standard NPS permit; in fact, it will not be a permit at all. It was created specifically to guarantee the rights set forth under ANILCA law in Alaska. It will apply in perpetuity, will have no expiration date or revocation clause, and will be in force as long as the following four conditions outlined in regulation 43 CFR 36.10(e)1 are not triggered:

1. The route or method of access would cause significant adverse impacts on the natural or other values of

2. Access would jeopardize public health and safety and adequate and feasible access otherwise exists.
3. Access is inconsistent with the management plan for the area or purposes for which the area was established and adequate and feasible access otherwise exists.
4. The method of access is unnecessary to accomplish the applicant's land use objectives.

An existing AROW will be automatically approved for transfer to new owners or heirs with a simple name change procedure as long as the new AROW holder agrees to the terms of the existing AROW. Amendments to each individual AROW will be added with the mutual consent of the landowner and NPS. These amendments will summarize types of vehicles being used, routine maintenance performed, and other criteria unique to that access route.

NPS has agreed that residents will be allowed to use gravel fill to maintain their existing road footprint without approval each time and to cut brush as necessary to keep the route open. Placement of culverts will also be allowed as long as NPS is consulted in advance.

Programmatic Environmental Assessments (PEAs) will be prepared by NPS, at their expense, to meet the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements for established facilities on the ground which are sustainable and manageable. Included are drive-ways, airstrips, and four-wheel-drive trails. Not included are routes which require extensive development, are unsustainable as is, cross food-fish

bearing streams, or pertain to oil and gas development. These PEAs will group AROWs with similar properties together into one assessment.

The first PEA will be issued for public comment in August of 2007. It will include approximately 40 of the most straight-forward routes in Wrangell - St. Elias Park (WRST) which are sustainable and have no water crossings. AROWs will be issued for this group during September of 2007. Then PEAs will be developed for the more complex routes. NPS states that Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) will still be required for very complex existing or new routes and assessment fees must be charged by regulation, but the fees will be negotiable between NPS and landowners.

Senator Ted Stevens was involved in the original ANILCA legislation and claims that NEPA law should not apply at all to inholder access. He has offered to initiate legislation to clarify that point so the EIS issue could change in the future if that legislation is enacted.

NPS will waive fees for compensation of wetlands on established routes, except when an EIS is required. Then costs for compensation would be a negotiated settlement. Current law requires users to replace each acre of wetland disturbed with an acre of their own land. NPS has agreed to accept responsibility for that replacement for existing routes rather than holding landowners responsible.

The standard SF299 application form used for transportation and utility systems must be filled out by residents, but only those sections which apply will be required. The AROW document will be attached to this application. This AROW form will be a legal document, recordable at the Clerk's office, establishing the legal access of each parcel. It will not technically be attached to

the parcel since NPS interprets such an attachment as outside of their jurisdiction. But each AROW will name the parcel it accesses.

All of these criteria will be outlined in Draft Three of the *User's Guide* and represent a major change in NPS's attitude from the restrictive Drafts One and Two. Draft Three will be an Interim Guide, put into place to test its effectiveness and workability. Residents will be able to voice concerns or suggest changes at any time if they are having problems with any part of the procedure and meetings will be held next year to assess the success of the interim period and suggest changes. NPS has decided to waive the comment period for Draft Three since it is designed to be a work in progress. No federal rulemaking will occur to put the guide's terms into effect at this time but NPS is not opposed to rulemaking in the future. Instead, policies will be written at the regional level to eliminate application, monitoring, and land rental fees and put the new guide into effect. The guide will also include responses to over 400 comments submitted by the general public on Draft Two.

NPS has prepared the following important set of Guiding Principles for accessing inholdings to be incorporated into Draft Three:

1. Residents within Alaska's National Parks are part of the essential fabric of the parks. We acknowledge their value in providing services to park visitors and continuing traditional lifestyles.
2. The NPS wants to see residents and communities within and around parks thrive. The NPS seeks to establish mutually respect-

ful long-term relationships with all of our neighbors.

3. ANILCA 1110(b) gives owners of property within Alaska's National Parks a guaranteed and permanent right to adequate and feasible access.
4. ANILCA 1110(b) also gives the NPS the responsibility to reasonably regulate access to inholdings to insure that access does not cause undue harm to park resources.
5. The NPS recognizes that reasonable access is crucial to the use and enjoyment of the non-federal lands in NPS units in Alaska. The NPS will work with the owners and valid occupiers of these non-federal lands to meet their access needs across NPS lands in Alaska.
6. Documenting private access across park lands provides certainty to the landowner and to the NPS. Certainty of access will allow landowners to make long-term plans and insure that access occurs in ways that minimize effects on park resources.
7. The documentation and authorization process should be as quick, simple, inexpensive and enduring as possible. This process should be transparent to the public and fully understood by all NPS managers.
8. Access under ANILCA 1110(b) does not affect the status or validity of other access rights under other state and federal authorities (such as RS2477).
9. The NPS will treat all landowners fairly and consis-

tently across the state and over time.

We must give credit to Regional Director Marcia Blaszak and WRST Superintendent Meg Jensen for their open-minded approach to solving our access issue. Also instrumental to the whole process is Danny Rosenkrans, WRST Lands Manager for doing so much work with landowners on the ground. In an innovative step, a memorandum was prepared by Blaszak's and Jensen's offices in November of 2006 and sent to NPS solicitors, outlining the details of this new approach. Basically, the solicitors were told, "Here is what we want to do, will NPS regulations allow it?" Thankfully, in March of this year, the legal offices reported that the regulations do not specifically prohibit any of the team's suggestions.

As NPS works out the details of the next group of PEAs for more complex routes, decides where EISs should apply, and receives applications for new access routes not yet on the ground we are sure to find new issues which require attention and negotiation. However, the new draft of the access guide, with its more reasonable and equitable approach is a giant step forward toward preserving our ANILCA-mandated right to access. New avenues of dialogue have been established and we have better communication and mutual respect. Resident groups such as Residents of the Wrangells, McCarthy Area Council, and Slana Alaskans Unite have worked long and hard in the last few years but we are now seeing remarkable results. In the coming months, we must continue to voice our concerns over any problems during the interim period before the policy becomes permanent.

"To laugh often and much; To win respect of intelligent people and the affection of children. To leave the world a better place. To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." —Ralph Waldo Emerson

THE CHITINA LEADER

July 1915 August

If the price of copper holds there is a good chance that the Kennecott Copper Corporation will earn \$8 per share for the year to end December 31. The preliminary estimates indicate the net profits of \$6,000,000 for the current year applicable to dividends on 720,000 outstanding shares. From the operations of the Bonanza mine alone there has been paid this year to date \$1,500,000 dividends to the former owners, the Alaska Syndicate. Hereafter, the operations of three mines will supply the earnings for dividend purposes, one of which, the Jumbo, has a large amount of extremely high grade ore, some of the copper glance running better than 50 per cent.

It is understood that small quantities of the Kennecott stock have been coming from persons originally the holders of the Beatson Copper company, who exchanged five shares of that stock for one of the new Kennecott Company.

The Kennecott bonds put out at 100 a few weeks ago have sold up to 118, with a subsequent reaction. The stock has become active around \$27 —Boston News Bureau.

July 6

New York, July 1 —The newly organized Kennecott Copper Corporation owning the famous Bonanza copper property in Alaska, for some time past has been earning at the rate of more than \$500,000 per month, or \$6,000,000 per year. It is now producing at the rate of 60,000,000 pounds of copper a year.

On the earnings, which have been at the rate of nearly \$5.50 per share on 1,120,000 shares, including the 400,000,000 shares in the treasury for conversion of \$40,000,000

of bonds recently sold it is fair to assume that the initial dividend payment on the stock is not far off.

The Kennecott Copper Corporation has been organized with the election of the following officers and directors: President, Stephen Birch; vice-president, W. P. Hamilton; secretary, C. T. Ulrich, and treasurer, E. S. Pegram.

The directors: Stephen Birch, W. P. Hamilton and Elliott Bacon, of J. P. Morgan & Company; John N. Steele, Silas W. Eccles, Samuel Clarke, Simon Guggenheim and Seward Prosser, president of the Bankers' Trust Company.

There is no par value to the Kennecott Copper Corporation stock but large sales have recently been made in the outside market around \$25 a share. —Wall Street Journal.

Fourth of July in McCarthy was celebrated with much enjoyment to all. On the night of the 3rd, a grand ball was held at Johnson's Hall. A number of visitors from Kennecott were present, the music was good, the floor fine, and the supper unexcelled. About 40 couples attended.

On the 4th, a wonderful example of proficiency at the national game, was shown by two picked nines. Captain Olson of the Mother Lode Sons of Rest, led his team to victory over the McCarthy Micks, the final score being somewhere in the neighborhood of 45 to 5 in favor of Captain Olson's McCarthy team won the finals but a protest is being considered against them for the reason that it is alleged that they had an unfair advantage inasmuch as most of the members of the team were

packers whose experience in dragging horses out of the mud on the McCarthy trail to the Nizina, had made them abnormally muscular in the arms. The decision has been referred to the Road Commission.

Races for young as well as grown up kids occupied several hours. The star of the whole field meet was Mart Lattin who, in the fat man's race, covered the hundred in the fast time of 16 ½ seconds and copped the prize from such famous runners as Frank Iverson and Jim Millsap.

The tug of war furnished considerable excitement. Teams from Kennecott, The Piledriver Crew, Glacier Camp and McCarthy contested the doughty warriors. The exact score could not be learned by reason of the fact that the scorekeeper wore his pencil out early in the game.

July 13

Recent arrivals from the interior bring the news that Bob Sheldon made a trip between Chitina and Fairbanks in his auto in seven days. This is the fastest time ever made between the two cities for both ways, and is conclusive proof that the easiest and quickest route to the interior is via Cordova and Chitina. This knowledge is being grasped by more and more people every year, and is going to result in undoubted material prosperity to this section before many years.

The fine weather this summer has been a great factor in improving the flavor of the salmon berries. The luscious fruit can be found in abundance and many of the local house wives are engaged in preserving the delicious flavor in berries.

July 20

FIRE DESTROYS \$18,000 BRIDGE AT MILE 160

The large frame trestle at Mile 160, which spans the Gilhina river, has been destroyed by forest fires, which have been raging extensively in the interior for several weeks past. The openings of six or seven culverts were also burned.

The trestle was 800 feet long and 65 feet high, and contained a half million board feet of lumber. The loss is estimated at \$18,000. Its destruction cuts off through railroad traffic to Kennecott and no shipments of ore can be made until the structure has been rebuilt. This, it is estimated, will take about ten days after communication has again been established so as to permit the shipment of lumber to that point.

VALDEZ GLACIER RAPIDLY RECEDING

During the past few weeks the big glacier behind Valdez has been receding at a fast rate. The men working on mining properties near the glacier report that it has dropped from 50 to 100 feet since spring and that it has melted faster this year than ever before. The horse owned by Jim Wilson which jumped down a crevasse fifteen feet deep is now to be seen on a pinnacle of ice. The volume of water flowing from the pothole is immense and represents a large amount of melted ice. —Valdez Miner.

ORR STAGE LINE TO USE AUTOS

The Orr Stage Company has ordered a number of automobile trucks for service on the Chitina-Fairbanks road. The trucks will be used to carry mail and passengers to and from the coast. The trucks will be used summer and winter.

HANDLE FREIGHT CHEAPER VIA McCARTHY

Robt. W. Wiley, who recently returned to the Chisana camp, after spending several months in Nevada

where he is constructing a railroad to his quartz property, has great confidence in the future of the interior placer camp, which he believes will be a gold producer for many years.

Mr. Wiley has been in the White River country since 1902 and is about as well posted on conditions there as any man in the country. He believes that the best and most feasible route to Chisana is via Cordova and McCarthy, and if the trail from the latter place is kept up all freighting will be done this way, as it is much shorter and packing can be done considerably cheaper.

"Freight can be handled from McCarthy to Chisana, during the winter, for 15 cents a pound and in the summer for 35 cents," said Mr. Wiley. "The distance via the Nizina glacier, is 90 miles, and 110 miles over the Goat trail.

"The winter route from Dawson to Chisana is 200 miles and from Whitehorse 330 miles. In the summer this distance is reduced a little by going from Dawson to the Donjek river, 196 miles in boats, and from Donjek to Chisana, a distance of 90 miles, pack horses are used. The cheapest freight rate, 35 cents a pound, obtains in the summer months, so you can see the great advantage of landing supplies at the new camp via McCarthy."

August 10

MORE EQUIPMENT FOR LOCAL RAILROAD

There will be more activity on the Copper River & Northwestern railway during the coming winter than at any previous time during this season, which will require additional equipment and the employment of more train crews.

This is due to the fact that the Kennecott mines are to continue working a full force throughout the year, in order to market as much copper as possible. In order to handle this output during the winter

months the railroad will have to increase its rolling stock.

Under the present plans another snow fleet will be necessary, and this will necessitate the purchase of another rotary plough, two pushers engines, one local engine and more flat cars. This means the employment of additional train crews.

WEDDING BELLS WERE RUNG LAST NIGHT

(From Thursday's Daily)

The culmination of a romance which started at the University of Oregon was a pretty wedding, which took place at the Presbyterian Manse at 10 o'clock last night.

The contracting parties were Miss Mary Louise Pritle, of Albany, Oregon, and Mr. Carl N. Anderson, mining engineer for the Alaska Copper Corporation at Strelna, both of whom attended the Oregon University and from which institution Miss Pritle recently graduated.

Rev. McBride tied the silken chord which united these young people for life. The ceremony was performed in the presence of only a few relatives and intimate friends, and included Mrs. Pritle, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Anderson, of Portland, parents of the groom, Mrs. Geo. Max Esterly, of Seattle, and F. E. G. Berry.

The bridal couple left on the steamer Mariposa today on a trip to the westward and upon their return here will go to Strelna, where they will make their home for the present.

August 17

LOCAL NEWS ITEMS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday —A pot-hole of the Kennecott glacier broke out, taking with it part of the bridge at McCarthy and no through trains will be run to Kennecott for a couple of days.

Aug. 24

Salmon nose deep into Alaska ecosystems

This column is provided as a public service by the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, in cooperation with the UAF research community. Ned Rozell is a science writer at the institute. He can be reached by e-mail at nrozell@gi.alaska.edu

During a good year in Bristol Bay, a surge of more than 100 million pounds of sockeye salmon fights its way upstream, spawns, and dies. In Bristol Bay and elsewhere in Alaska, this incredible pulse of salmon carcasses enriches streams and rivers and makes young salmon hardier.

That's the finding of scientists who study Alaska streams and rivers that are teeming with salmon. Aquatic ecologist Mark Wipfli of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Institute of Arctic Biology is one of those scientists who pull on rubber boots to find the ways that salmon enhance the waters of their birth and the surrounding forests.

The process starts with the return of millions of salmon to Alaska rivers and streams. Nosing their way upstream, salmon are a swimming package of protein, fats, and nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. Bears are among the first to intercept them, carrying salmon away from the water and sometimes eating only part of the fish, like the brains of male salmon and the eggs of the females. Once munched by a bear, a carcass on land is fair game for flies and other insects, which lay eggs that soon grow into larvae. Heavy rains can wash larvae back into streams, where young salmon and other fish snap them up. Carcasses on land also provide food for other animals and fertil-

ize streamside plants as they decompose.

Salmon that escape bears and other hazards go on to lay eggs—rich in protein, fat and nutrients—that are perhaps the best food in any stream. After salmon die and begin to disintegrate, algae and bacteria take up salmon nutrients, and aquatic insects in turn eat the thriving algae and bacteria. Aquatic insects also feed on specks of decaying salmon, and fish and birds reap the benefits of more insects. Nitrogen and phosphorus from the “salmon tea” that rivers become can penetrate the soil up to 70 meters (about 210 feet) from a stream, and scientists have found traces of ocean-derived nitrogen in shrubs and trees more than 500 meters (1,500 feet) from southeast Alaska streams.

“These salmon literally bring back tons of fertilizer to these systems,” Wipfli said.

Curious about how salmon carcasses help young salmon, Wipfli and his colleagues set up “artificial streams” in southeast Alaska by diverting small portions of existing streams through manmade channels in the forest. The scientists enhanced the water of each artificial stream with different doses of salmon carcass to see how juvenile coho salmon responded. Young salmon exposed to two, three, or four carcasses per square meter of stream bottom grew larger than salmon in habitats without car-

casces. Juvenile fish exposed to salmon were higher in omega-3 fatty acids than fish in water without carcasses and had much higher levels of lipids, fats that serve as energy reserves during lean times. Wipfli and his colleagues have also compared natural streams with and without salmon, and have found salmon streams to be a better place for developing young fish and other animals.

“We're learning now that salmon are not only making food webs more productive, but are improving the health of fish and other creatures that live there,” Wipfli said.

The lack of returning salmon in the Columbia and other Lower 48 rivers that had good populations before the advent of dams might be a reason restoration of salmon has not worked there, Wipfli said. The effect of millions of bodies fighting gravity and returning nutrients upstream is so profound that land and fisheries managers might need to pay more attention to the interconnectedness of different species than they have in the past. Wipfli and other Alaska scientists believe what's good for the salmon is good for the flying squirrel, black-tailed deer, Sitka spruce, and arctic tern.

“A lot of different parts of the ecosystem either directly or indirectly rely on salmon,” Wipfli said.

Stories From the Last Frontier and Fishing Tales

BY RICK KENYON

Bonnie and I were blessed this summer to meet Ed and Milinda Mays and their children. They spent the early part of the summer at Long Lake with the Collins family.

Ed and Milinda are journalists (see cover story *The Swallows of Long Lake*) and have found an interesting niche—audio story-books—or as they call them, “audio snapshots” of people living life in the Last Frontier.

At present the Mays have two spoken word CDs, *Stories From the Last Frontier* and *Fishing Tales*.

Stories From the Last Frontier consists of four Life Portraits, each approximately 18 minutes in length.

The first is Jim Stanford: The life of Mushing, followed by Ray-

mond Dennis, Tlingit family, clans and culture. Then there is the story of how Ray and Vivian Menaker made their way to Alaska. Finally, Steve Kroshchel shares his love of “the last wild place.”

These stories are thought provoking, stir the imagination and encourage the listener to explore Alaska in a new way.

The second audio CD is called *Fishing Tales*. This CD features seven Alaskans who reveal what fishing in Alaska waters is really like. Being an avid fisherman myself, I enjoyed listening to these “fish stories.” One of my favorites, which storyteller Jim Moore swears is true, is about how a cow fell out of the sky and sank a Japanese trawler. He is very informative on the different types of boats and types of fishing.

Sean Brownel tells how he and his crew endured 90 MPH hurricane force winds and 25 ft. waves out at sea. It took them 26 terrifying hours just to go 22 miles to the safety of shore. He shares another story of how a bear swam out to the boat and tried to climb aboard!

Joe Hotch explains fishing has been a way of life for the Tlingit people for centuries and that the past should not be compromised. The Tlingit people have many ways of understanding and communing with nature. Joe shares some of those ways of his culture.

All of the stories are told by the people themselves, after a brief introduction by Ed. You can pick up a copy at the McCarthy Mercantile or go to the May’s website at www.alaskanlifeporraits.com/ to order the CDs.

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The Chitina Leader

FIFTH YEAR CHITINA, ALASKA, TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1915 NUMBER 39

VALDEZ HAS BIG FIRE - OVER \$750,000

Editor's note: Be sure you read the date above before getting anxious for the good folks at Valdez. From time to time we reprint old newspaper articles that are too large for our centerfold historic section. This enormous fire that destroyed much of Valdez in 1915 is certainly noteworthy.

Valdez, Alaska, July 15. — The most important section of this town was totally destroyed by a terrific fire which commenced at 4 o'clock this morning. Practically the entire business section of the city has been destroyed. The loss is estimated at three quarters of a million, but partially covered by insurance.

Among the business houses which have been completely burned up are those of S. Blum & Co., the First Bank of Valdez, Wm. Blackwell, Tony's Saloon, Empress Theater, Treat Building, Valdez Dock Company Building, Panama Hotel, Valdez Daily Prospector, The Alaska Road Commission Building, the Post Office, the telephone exchange, the Crawford Mills, Copper River Lumber Co., the Dieringer barns, home of J. C. Martine, the office of the Dock Co., the government warehouses and other buildings in the section from McKinley Street down to the waterfront. Both sides of Reservation Ave., the main street leading from the dock, were wiped out. The loss of the Road Commission building will be a severe one as all the records of the commission including the maps and notes covering 10 years' work have been totally destroyed.

Dynamite was employed in vain to stop the flames, which gained great headway, and which were fed by the wooden buildings dried out thoroughly by the recent prolonged dry spell. The officers in charge of Fort Lisicum dispatched the garrison in Valdez to aid in fighting the flames and the whole population of the town worked heroically to save what was possible. Fortunately no lives were lost. The fire department announced at 9 this morning that the fire was under control although great clouds of smoke were still pouring from the ruins, and the fire was burning briskly in several places. The fire was spectacular in the extreme, and at one time threatened to destroy the city. The width of McKinley Street and the fact that what wind there was, blew from the direction of the glacier and towards the waterfront, was all that saved the remainder of the town from burning.

When the news reached Cordova this morning, Mayor Slater immediately dispatched a telegram addressed to the Mayor of Valdez offering to send over any assistance that was necessary on the Evans, which is due today.

Valdez, July 15. —The big fire which swept through the town early this morning started

in the Frye Bruhn building which has been undergoing repairs. A dry strong wind was blowing at the time and the flames spread rapidly despite the desperate efforts of the fire fighters to get control. Only two streams of water were available and they proved to be entirely inadequate to cope with the situation.

There has been no rain in Valdez for two weeks, and the sun has been shining fully twenty hours a day drying up everything in the town. When it was seen that the two streams of water would not check the flames, dynamite was used in an effort to prevent them spreading, but by that time the fire had reached such proportions that nothing could stop it, and it just went clear through to the waterfront.

The printing establishment of the Prospector Publishing Co., was entirely destroyed, although enough type was saved to enable the editors to issue their paper today, printed on wrapping paper, and run off on a job press. Mrs. Blackwell, her sister and niece, who lived over the Southern, just managed to avoid losing their lives by escaping from the building in their night dresses, but were immediately taken care of by friends. Nothing was saved in the Blackwell home, the build-

ing and everything in it being totally destroyed.

Captain and Mrs. Glen Edgerton of the Road Commission suffered the same as the Blackwells, and both are garmented today in the kindly offerings of their friends. All of the personal belongings of the Edgertons were lost. The same thing happened to all the guests in the Panama Hotel. The owner, Logan Archibald, was a heavy loser as a result of the fire. Joe Plant, the jeweler, who had just returned from the outside on the Alameda with a large stock of jewelry lost \$2,000 and did not succeed in saving any of his stock. Alice Coles broke her leg in assisting to remove mail from the post office. All the mail was successfully removed to a place of safety before the building burned. The troops from Fort Liscum are still here, and will remain until order has been fully restored, patrol-

ling the burned district, and protecting whatever property may be saved from the fire.

The ruins of the fire present a blackened blotch upon Valdez extending from the Cliff House to the Valdez Mercantile Company building, and from McKinley Street clear down to the beach. Everything in between has been destroyed, and no one is at present allowed within the burned district by the soldier without a permit. A score of launches which were on the beach were victims of the flames, as the tide was low at the time, and it was impossible to remove them to a place of safety. Judge Bunnell of the Second Division was a heavy sufferer from the fire, as several buildings owned by him were in the path of the flames. His loss is estimated at \$30,000.

VALDEZ BEGINS PLANNING TO REBUILD

Valdez, July 16. —The work of clearing away the ruins of the great fire that swept through this city yesterday has commenced. All the available labor in town has been put on the job of taking the charred remnants of the buildings, loading them upon wagons and dumping them into the bay. Lumber has been telegraphed for, and as soon as it arrives the work of rebuilding will commence. Sam Blum arrived from Cordova on the Evans yesterday and announced that his store building and the building of the First Bank of Valdez would be rebuilt at once of cement, being the first cement buildings to be erected in Valdez. The Daily Prospector is issuing by means of a job press and wrapping paper but a new plant has been telegraphed for and will leave Seattle on the next boat.

“If you assail the right of the people to honor God, then you assail the first principle of their self-government, which is that we are endowed by our Creator with unalienable rights leading to the consequence that the only form of government that is legitimate is a form of government that respects those God-given rights. No God, no republic. No God, no representation. No God, no due process. No God, no sanctity of individual rights, liberty, and life. The denial of God is an assault not only upon the people’s conscience, but upon their claim to have from God the right to govern themselves through representative institutions. The triumph of this false doctrine of separation, therefore, portends not only the persecution of our faith, but the destruction of our liberty.” —Alan Keyes

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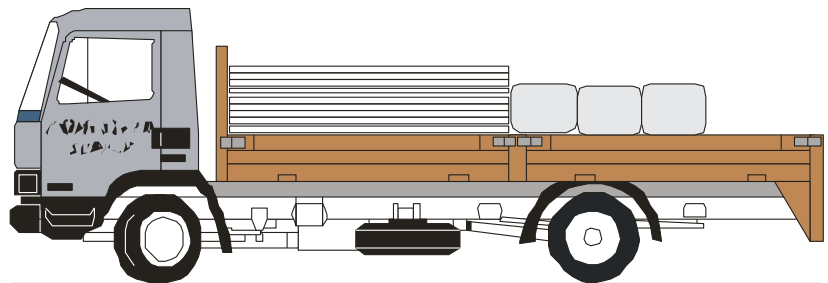
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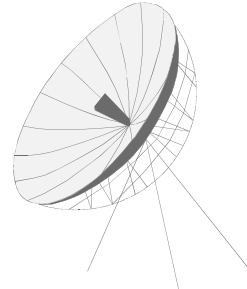
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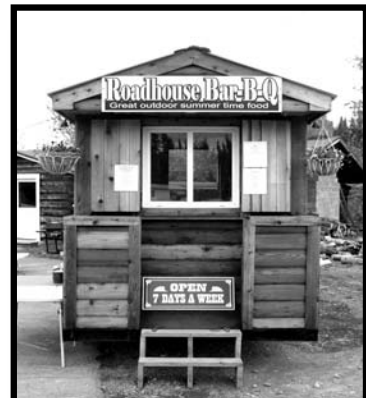
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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Happy summer to all of you. I'm writing this as I'm packing up to head north. When you read this, I'll already be in McCarthy for the summer. Hopefully, I will be able to gather a few recipes from some of the wonderful residents and share them with you in the Sept. issue.

For now, I'd like to share a few more that I've gathered over the years. First do you ever, just out of the blue, get hungry for something that you haven't had for a long time? It happened to me the other night and I had a giant craving for what we always called "Stuffed Cabbage." I've seen them called Glumpkies and cabbage rolls and many other things depending on the nationality of the person who is sharing it with you. This recipe was given to me by a friend from Arkansas and it's just called:

CABBAGE ROLLS

- 8 large cabbage leaves
- 1 cup water
- 1 pound ground beef
- 2½ teaspoons season-all pepper
- 3½ cups tomatoes (No. 2½ can)
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ½ cup long grain rice
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon instant minced onion
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon flour

Steam cabbage leaves 8 minutes or until slightly tender. Cut off that top layer of thickness in the center of the stem. Combine rice, water and salt and cook 20 min. or until tender. Mix together rice, beef, onion, 1 ½ teaspoon of the season-all pepper. Place ⅓ cup of the meat mixture in each cabbage leaf. Fold leaf over meat tucking in ends and fasten with toothpick. Place rolls, overlapped side down in frying pan. Pour tomatoes over rolls and sim-

mer 1½ hours. (I prefer to put mine in the oven at 325 or 350 for about an hour.) Remove the rolls from the frying pan or if baked, pour off the juice into a frying pan. Combine flour, sour cream and the remaining season-all; stir into liquid in the pan. Simmer very gently until slightly thickened but DO NOT allow to boil. Serve cabbage rolls, steaming hot with sauce.

And now for another one using those wonderful summer vegetables — zucchini. This is one of those recipes that you may have to adjust a little because of the difference in the size of zucchinis. As I know I told you before how huge Bonnie and Rick's are and how very tiny mine are!

ZUCCHINI AND TOMATOES

- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1 medium clove garlic, finely chopped
- 3 medium zucchini, thinly sliced
- 1 can (14 ½ oz.) whole peeled tomatoes, drained and chopped; reserve liquid
- 1 envelope Lipton Golden Onion Soup Mix
- ½ teaspoon basil leaves

In large skillet, heat oil and cook garlic with zucchini over medium-high heat for 3 minutes. Stir in tomatoes and the Golden Onion Soup. Mix thoroughly blended with reserved liquid and basil. Bring to a boil then simmer, stirring occasionally, ten minutes or until zucchini is tender and sauce is slightly thickened.

Now for a chicken recipe that's easy to prepare, and great for company.

CRANBERRY CHICKEN

- 1 whole chicken, cut up (or just use the equivalent amount of your favorite parts)
- 1 can whole cranberry sauce

- 1 bottle (8 oz.) Catalina French dressing

- 1 package dry onion soup mix

Mix cranberry sauce, French dressing, and onion soup mix together. Arrange chicken pieces in 9 x 13 baking pan or dish. Pour cranberry mixture over chicken and refrigerate several hours to marinate. Bake at 350 degree oven for 1 to 1½ hours or until sauce is bubbly and chicken is cooked thoroughly.

Can't get much easier than that!

Now how about some cheese bread to go with the chicken or with the salads that follow.

CHEESE BREAD

- 1 unsliced loaf (about ½ pound) French bread
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, softened
- ½ teaspoon Italian seasoning
- ½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Slice bread lengthwise; place cut side up on a baking sheet. Spread butter on cut surfaces; sprinkle with half of the Italian seasoning. Top with cheeses and remaining Italian seasoning. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until the cheese is melted.

Cut crosswise into 1 inch pieces. 4 servings

Here's another easy one—this one for a great salad for the summer or fall.

PEA AND PEANUT SALAD

- 10 oz. package of frozen peas—thawed
- 5 oz. salted peanuts (1 cup)
- 2 oz. mayo (about ¼ cup)
- 2 oz. sour cream (about ¼ cup)

Combine and chill and enjoy.

And now a salad that I've been making since the early '90's when my girlfriend gave it to me. As so often happens, when I go to someone

else's house to eat it all tastes so wonderful that I leave clutching all the recipes in my hand.

STRAWBERRY PRETZEL SALAD

Step 1.

3/4 cup thin pretzels broken into fine short pieces

3 tablespoons sugar

1 1/2 sticks margarine.

Cream these ingredients together; spread in the bottom of a 9 x 13 glass dish. Bake at 325 degrees for 10 minutes. Cool

Step 2.

8 oz. cream cheese

1 cup sugar

8 oz. Cool Whip

Cream the cream cheese and sugar together and then add the Cool Whip. Spread the mixture over the cooled crust.

Step 3.

6 oz. Strawberry Jell-O

2 cups boiling water

1 quart frozen or fresh strawberries

Mix these ingredients together and chill. When it begins to congeal, spread it on top of the cheese mixture.

(If using frozen berries, 1 large and 1 small package of whole berries sliced is needed.)

To tell you the truth, this sometimes seems like a dessert to me so if you want to make it one, just add dabs of Cool Whip to the finished product and you've got a dessert!

Once, again, my best to you all. As you read this, I'm enjoying a relaxing summer in McCarthy of reading and sewing and visiting friends and family. Come on up and visit!

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

April 2007 saw average temperatures and below average precipitation. The high temperature for the month was 56 on the 22nd (50 on Apr. 22, '06 and 70 on Apr. 20, '05). The low was -4 on the 2nd (0 on Apr. 1, '06 and 1 on Apr. 4, '05). The average temperature for April was 34.4, compared to 33.1 in '06 and 37.4 in '05. The lowest average temperatures for April were 22.4 in 1972 and 24.7 in 1986.

The precipitation for April was well below average with 0.01 inches (1.14 in '06, 0.08 inches in '05 and 0.77 inches in '04). There was only a trace of snow recorded (10.2 inches in '06, no snow in '05 and 8.7 inches in '04).

The total snowfall at McCarthy for '06-'07 was 44.7 inches (84.0 in '05-'06, 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).

McCarthy started April with 17 inches of snow on the ground and

the ground was clear of all snow on April 28.

The temperatures were above average for May. The high temperature for May was 74 on the 25th (76 on May 26, '06 and 76 on May 9, '05). The low temperature was 24 on the 1st, 3rd and 8th (24 on May 17, '06 and 21 on May 2, '05). The May average temperature was 45.5, this compares with 45.0 in '06, 48.8 in '05, 49.3 in '04 and 44.4 in '03. There were 3 days with a high of 70 or above and 6 days with the low of 25 or lower.

The May precipitation at McCarthy was above average with 2.50 inches of liquid. This compares with 0.47 inches in '06, 1.64 inches in '05 and 1.05 inches in '04.

The ice on the West Fork of the Kennicott River began to break apart around May 9th and water was moving over the top. The river was clear of moving ice by May 15th and all the shore ice was gone by May 22nd.

The ice on Silver Lake was too soft for travel in late April and it was completely gone the morning of

May 15th (May 21, '06, 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 mid 60's to mid 70's. The lows were in the upper 20's to low 40's. There was only 0.11 inches 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 80s. The temperature begins to cool in August with highs only getting into the low 70s. 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. This year might be an exception, as the lake emptied in late January. The first snow usually arrives sometime in late September.

ENJOY THE SUMMER WHATEVER THE WEATHER!

"You can easily judge the character of others by how they treat those who can do nothing for them or to them." —Malcolm Forbes

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Park Service publishes new Access Guide

Guest Opinion by NPS Alaska Regional Director Marcia Blaszak

Reprinted from the *Resource Review*, June edition. Used by permission.

Three years ago, a series of events related to access to private property within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park started a remarkable process that has reached an important milestone this summer.

We are publishing an interim regional policy, "A User's Guide to Accessing Inholdings in a National Park Service Area in Alaska." That title may not cause bells and whistles to immediately sound off, but the document represents a significant accomplishment on the part of scores of landowners, businesses, and state and federal employees. All who had a hand in its crafting can be proud of the product.

What is that product? First, a little context. Alaska is home to more than 54 million acres of national parkland. Within those boundaries are about 1.6 million acres of non-federal land, a mix of generally large parcels of Native corporation and state or university land, and smaller parcels of privately owned property such as mining claims.

Some have obvious access along state roads. Others are on rivers where boat access makes the most sense. Many have overland access routes which cross national parkland. In most cases, that access has never been officially documented.

Title 11 of the Alaska Lands Act guarantees the right of access to non-federal lands within parks, subject to reasonable regulation to protect the underlying park resources. In the 27 years since ANILCA passed, the NPS has never had a consistent policy or process in documenting those access routes or in

handling requests for new routes. Our new Access Guide is designed to provide a consistent approach by managers and to allow property owners to understand both their rights and responsibilities.

Our first attempts at writing the guide were flawed. Landowners, interest groups and others were not shy in pointing that out. Members and staff of the Resource Development Council were among those who helped us find a different and better path. At their urging, we held stakeholder meetings that included executives from Chugach Alaska, Ahtna, Doyon, the University of Alaska, the Alaska Miners Association, the Alaska Land Rights Coalition, Residents of the Wrangells, the State of Alaska and representatives of environmental groups. We held public meetings in Fairbanks and Slana, in McCarthy and Anchorage, and heard first hand from property owners how we were progressing.

The result of a process that put two draft guides out for public review, and used multiple stakeholder meetings, is a guide that—we believe—meets the needs of landowners and meets our responsibilities as stewards of national parks.

We took to heart several suggestions from the public. We heard that while we were clearly mapping out procedures, our larger intent remained unclear. The access guide now includes guiding principles which acknowledge, among other things, the guarantees of ANILCA 1110(b), that our processes should be simple, and that residents within national park areas are part of the essential fabric of those parks.

We heard concerns about costs, especially from landowners who were happy with their existing access. The decision was made that the evaluation of an access route through an environmental assessment will be free to the landowner. Federal regulations require requesters to share the cost of more complex environmental impact statements.

Many commenters felt that ANILCA provided a permanent right of access, and that rights of way should not be for a set number of years. After some lengthy consideration, we agreed. The guide provides an indefinite term for the right of way, so long as needs and conditions remain stable.

Many people also bristled at the notion of applying for a "permit." We will instead authorize ANILCA 1110(b) right-of-ways.

This summer, the National Park Service will start an environmental assessment on about 40 existing access routes within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve as our first "test drive" of the access guide. Our staff, landowners and others will recommend changes as we move through the documentation and authorization process.

We believe this summer's guide is a far better product thanks to the input of the Resource Development Council and many others. Our mutual success will depend on keeping these lines of communication open and active. We look forward to your continued involvement.

The interim access guide will soon be available on the web at www.nps.gov/akso/AccessGuide.

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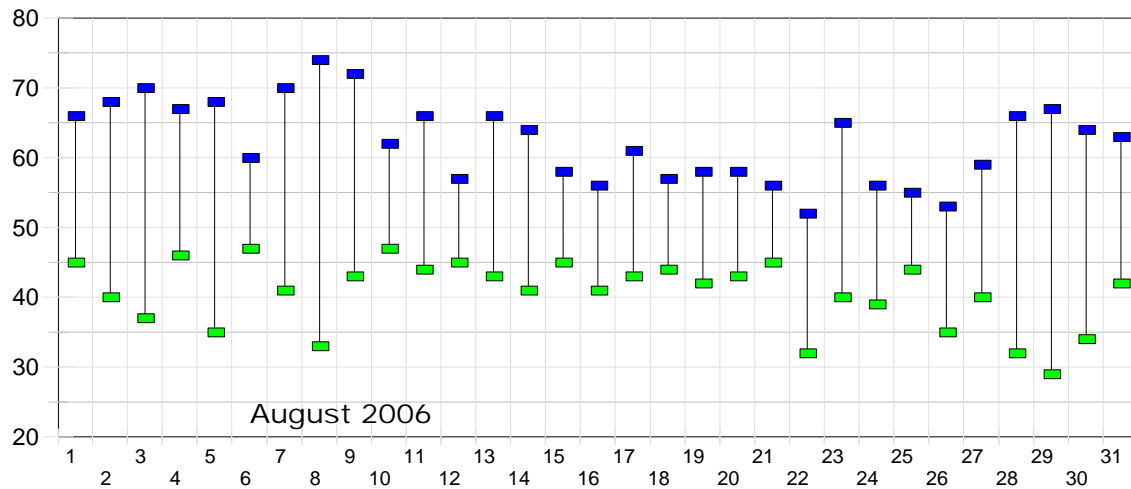
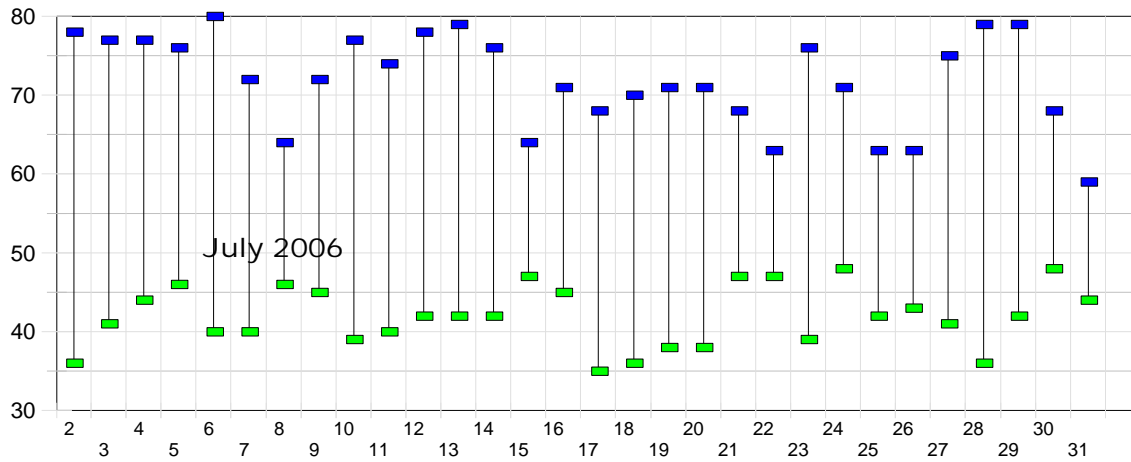
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"Laws that forbid the carrying of arms... disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man." —Thomas Jefferson quotes Cesare Beccaria from his seminal work, On Crimes and Punishment

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