

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Eighteen Issue Four

July & August 2009

\$2.50

John Denver tribute at Kennicott

**2nd
Annual**



Story page 12

1950 Copper River Survey photo journal



Photo courtesy Charles R. Leitzell

Right:
Ginny Creek
Section
house.



Photo courtesy Charles R. Leitzell

Above: Chitina dipnetters in 1950. Note the wood-handled dipnets. Fishing must have been slow, judging by the bored look on the ladies faces.



Photo courtesy Charles R. Leitzell

Left: Pondering eternity between Fox Creek and O'Brien Creek Chitina in 1950.

More pictures starting page 8.

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

The month of June began with sudden summer temperatures. Was it ever nice!! Last summer didn't really happen for us so when the blue sky appeared with rising temperatures up to 83, local residents, including myself, basked in the heat and forgot about the cold and rain of last year.

Gardens and greenhouses are thriving. Folks started planting a bit earlier than usual and then we received a good rainfall to give our seeds a great start at germinating. What a thrill to walk our garden paths and inspect the tiny seedlings and the robust transplants that are now well rooted in their permanent beds. Cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, beets, parsnips, lettuce, spinach, swiss chard, potatoes and zucchini are the majority of items we grow outside. The tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans and squash are greenhouse musts in my immediate neck-of-the-woods.

In between working on the WSEN and our yearly visitor's guide to the Kennicott and McCarthy area, Rick and I thoroughly enjoy tending our garden. Today is June 23rd, (our youngest grandson's birthday. He's turning 9 today. Happy Birthday, Caleb!) and we are already sampling lettuce, cucumbers, spinach and chard. Seedtime and harvest is certainly a God thing, giving us the joy of taking a tiny seed and with great hope and faith, plant it and then eagerly waiting for the end results.

The *Wrangell St. Elias News* is now 17 years old with this July/August issue. Over the years we have had such wonderful contributors. Rick chose to go into our Archives and reprint a story written by Neil O'Donnell entitled, "Mountaineering history made on Mt. Blackburn." It highlights Dora Keen who made the first historic

ascent of Mt. Blackburn, the highest peak in the Wrangells. We first printed it in 1994. The subscribers who got on board *WSEN* after that date will enjoy reading it for the first time, but many of you old-timers will find it just as interesting the second time around.

As you know, the centerfold of *WSEN* has, for many years, taken the news items from the early 1900's and shared them with you history buffs. Some time ago, subscriber Charlie Ricci, asked me to dig up *The Katalla Herald* and reprint the old news from that publication. July of 1909 was the last of this newspaper's existence. I've enjoyed "visiting" Katalla through the eyes of this newspaper. Beginning next issue I hope to feature another newspaper of history tucked away in the archives of our state library and bring you news items from its viewpoint.

Rick and I thank all our contributors and to the faithful advertisers

who help to support this humble publication! You are greatly appreciated.

Just prior to press time, I received a phone call from a neighbor informing me of the death of Sarah Thorn. Sarah, 25, was well-known in the McCarthy/Kennicott area. Her parents, Steve and Diane, are summer and fall residents and work for the park service. Sarah's sister, Marie, is also a familiar face to us all. We are sorry we do not have an obituary to share with you yet but hope to have one next issue. Our deepest condolences and prayers go out to this well-loved family!

Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Stephens and Tamara Harper, AK; Eric Johnson, AK; Mark Vail, AK; Alex Wesson, CO; Carla Hilgendorf, AK; Dian Rhodes, AK; Bruce James, AK; Mike and Jennifer Schneider, LA.

Table of Contents	
A note from the publisher.....	2
Items of Interest.....	3
High Lake Fishing Adventure.....	6
1950 Copper River survey photo journal.....	8
Kennecott's Denver Tribute Huge Success.....	12
Mountaineering history made on Mt. Blackburn.....	13
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Photo Contest.....	16
Wake up! It's time to celebrate.....	17
THE KATALLA HERALD.....	18
Scientist kills polar bear during first field experience.....	20
Quotes.....	21
Hunting regs for bear, moose change.....	24
McCarthy Road Volunteer Fire Departments	24
Rare original Declaration of Independence copy to tour Princess Alaska ships July 4th week.....	25
Fishing, Chitina style.....	28
Cooking with Peggy.....	32
A LOOK AT THE WEATHER.....	33
FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.....	34
Time to Seize this Opportunity.....	34
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....	35

Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Jim and Peggy Guntis: The Guntis' are more-than-familiar faces to the McCarthy area. They have been coming to this special place since 1993. Daughter Kim (Northrup) used to work at the McCarthy Lodge in those early days so Jim and Peggy decided they would go in with Kim and purchase a piece of property and build a permanent summer home.

The construction began in '96 and after 4 summer seasons, they moved in. We are within a 5 minute walk from each other. For those of you who have just joined the ranks of a WSEN subscriber, Peggy is the author of *Cooking with Peggy*. She is also my "mail-day buddy" who accompanies me to the mail shack on Wednesdays and Fridays, and shares my favorite ice cream flavor at the McCarthy Mercantile —low fat peach yogurt! (How can something low fat still taste so good?)

The Guntis' arrived on May 21st this year. Jim got their water line up and running in record time. By the time daughter Kim, her husband, Richard, and 5-month old son, Robert "Robbie" Franklin Frost arrived on the 31st, the house was in fine shape. Peggy and Kim took time to visit friends

(I'm glad I was on the list!) and even fit in a trip up to Kennicott for lunch at the lodge and a round of shopping at Terry and Dee Frady's Fireweed Mountain Arts and Crafts' gift shop. They also attended the McCarthy Lodge's Dinner Night especially geared to the locals. Fun was had by all, says Peggy!

Jim and Peggy just left to travel to Homer to pay Kim and family a visit. When they return to McCarthy on the 25th of June, Jim's daughter, Sue Miller, and her friend, Chris Pinhey, of Tucson are arriving and will take in the July 4th festivities. A sightseeing trip to Cordova is also in the plan.

Welcome back, Jim and Peg!

Kurt and Peggy Smith and the good ole' McCarthy Mercantile: It has been a busy 2 months for the Smith family and for the "Merc." Not only did they get the store up and running for the summer of 2009 but the new store's site began taking on a totally different look. The present site is just a hop and a few skips from the Ma Johnson Hotel in downtown McCarthy. The new site is just before one enters what I refer to as "downtown."

Across the road from the Museum is the new location. You

can't miss it! Kurt says he will have room to expand his hardware and lumber products. A new deck is in the offing as well, says Peggy. On May 30th Paul Barr with Sourdough Drilling found them an excellent, abundant supply of water at 40 feet. Congratulations!

There is now a cleared, and level pad for the new building (thanks to Roweon Services, says Peggy) with plans for a concrete foundation to be finished by the end of this summer. Building should begin next spring. The Smiths expect the new Merc to be open for the 2011 summer season. Lots of work yet to be done, but much has already taken place. Before we know it, we'll be lounging on the new deck complete with a cup of my favorite low fat peach yogurt!

Peggy says the Merc has an "international flair" this year. Among those helping customers are Albina Izmaylova from Russia and Majbritt Logan from Denmark. Both young ladies make sure you are well taken care of.

In May daughters Kelsey and Katy and granddaughter Ava came calling. Katy and Ava were only here a few days. Unfortunately, I missed seeing them this time around. Kelsey is helping out at the Mercantile until the end of

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Contributors to this issue: Peggy Guntis, George Cebula, Ned Rozell, Neil O'Donnell, Carrie Hale, Terry Blosser, Charles Leitzell, John Rice, Carole Morrison and Meg Jensen.

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July. "Grandpa and Grandma" Smith plan on whisking her away to the Galapagos Islands for a fine vacation. What an adventure you are in for, Kelsey. Seems like this will make an excellent item of interest next issue!

Sonny Asbury: Sonny arrived back in the area on May 2nd. Interestingly enough, he met up with John and Barbara Rice while traversing the Alcan Highway. They kept in contact along the way and drove in the McCarthy Road the same day.

All was well at his cabin, he said, and his new companion, Mac, a 6 month old part German Shepherd and Chow is quite taken with his new quarters. Mac has learned to jump up on Sonny's 4 wheeler but it took him awhile to figure out how to get down by himself.

Sonny is giving Rick and me a "good" hand on our new guest cabin project so his arrival was good timing.

Welcome back, Sonny, and welcome to McCarthy, Mac!

John and Barbara Rice: The Rices had a safe trip north from their winter home in St. Louis. Things were in fine shape at their Kennicott-style cabin on the Kennicott River, so it didn't take them long to get settled in, unpacked for the summer and back into helping with community projects.

Barbara heads up Sunday lunch preparations at the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church and does a fine job at it, too. She and John had the opportunity to volunteer a couple of days at the Wrangell Mountain Center which is our local non-profit educational/environmental organization. John says: "It was clean up and planting time so we did a little of both. We are going

to be eating from the garden a little later in the summer."

Recently, John and their dog, Clark, had quite an interesting experience. I'll let John tell it in his own words: "Clark and I were out for our morning walk when Clark spotted a moose up the road and took off after it. The moose quickly escaped into the woods and after a lot of barking Clark came back and we continued our walk. Later in the morning Clark started barking again and ran into the woods and continued the barking. When I went to investigate, I saw that Clark had found the moose again. Just as I arrived the moose decided that enough is enough and turned around and started after us. I quickly ran behind a tree, but the moose continued after Clark for about 100 feet before stopping and wandering back in the woods. Once Clark figured he was at a safe distance he turned around and started barking again. Now every day he goes back to the same spot and barks in case the moose has returned."

Welcome back, John, Barbara and Clark!

Larry, Lindee and Kobuk Satterfield: The Satterfields deserve a "welcome, home, too!" Lindee is such a good sport at writing her own items of interest so I asked her to fill us in since their arrival in McCarthy mid-May. She writes:

"This summer is going to be different. The last three summers we have been coming out to our cabin on the weekends and holidays at best. Mostly to work on 'projects' like finishing the cabin and hike a little, too, if time permitted. This summer we have come to stay. Mostly to work on 'projects' like the cabin, but this will be at our leisure. Yes, instead of working 20 hours in a day...maybe we will work 4 hours

in a day. Maybe hike, maybe ride the 4 wheelers, maybe sit in the shade, maybe just sit in the sun and enjoy the scenery and serenity of it all. (All the while keeping Kobuk, our 5-month old black lab, entertained.) Who knows! No, there is no schedule this summer. No long drives after work in the middle of the night to get here, because we are already here. No asking for days off to be here, because we are here for the summer. We have passed the 'vacation' feeling. We are living here and it's nice to enjoy the peace and spontaneity of each day we wake up to, no matter what the weather holds. Kobuk is in total agreement. Whether he watches us work our 4 hours from his favorite shaded spot, or gets to take a ride on the 4 wheeler, he is enjoying the most of each day too. Yep, this summer is going to be different, and maybe fall, too."

Dave Adams: Rick and I were so pleased to have Dave stop by and say hello. It has been a very long time since we have seen him. Dave is a long-time visitor to the area. He owns a cabin and property across McCarthy Creek and also has land just down the road from us.

David had a couple young ladies with him. One was his 6 year old daughter, Denali, and her special friend from Anchorage. Both ladies were well equipped with fancy, flowered mosquito netting hats which I suspect would go over well with the ladies of our town. Maybe they could market them in our local gift shops!

Although Dave lost his right leg because of a blood clot, he is sporting a fancy artificial leg. His 4 wheeler was a great mode of transportation. Dave's great sense of humor (he said he purchased "a leg off Ebay" and had Rick and I laughing with him) is contagious.

Thanks, Dave, for coming by and for being you!

Jim and Audrey Edwards: Jim and Audrey are presently in Anchorage. Audrey just returned from another adventure with her sister and niece. I'll let her tell it in her own words: "Well, I'm back from Vegas and managed to stay within the limits I set for myself. I would win some and lose some, but really had a great time doing it. The three old ladies kept each other busy, and also managed to take in one of the best shows I've ever seen in Vegas. We went to the Terry Fader show. He was on America's Got Talent Show, and was the winner. He is a ventriloquist and very amazing. He could sing by imitating another singer and do it while in ventriloquist mode. Like I said amazing."

Dan Elofsen: Just as I was putting the finishing touches on *Items*, a neighbor informed me that Dan's shed burned down a couple days ago. He lost his 4 wheeler, two snowmachines and a generator and much of his personal belongings. We are glad, Dan, that you were not hurt in the fire, but very sorry for your losses!

McCarthy-Kennicott Museum: If you're a local to the McCarthy area, be sure to take a fresh, new look at the museum. It is sporting three new signs, thanks to the craftsmanship of local artist, Terry Frady. I call him an artist, because his signs are unique and always in character with our town!

On June 10th, Jim Guntis, Bob Cook and Meg Hunt volunteered their time to hang the signs in their designated places.

Thanks, Terry, for giving the museum your special touch and thanks, Jim, Bob and Meg for putting the finishing touches on the project.

Cross Road Medical Center: Medical personnel from the Glennallen-based Cross Road Medical Center held its first mobile clinic in McCarthy on May 26th at the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church. Routine health care to McCarthy area residents is their focus and will be for further day clinics. Folks are encouraged to telephone the center at 822-3203 for appointments. Please contact Davanea Bush, RN, Mobile Health Program Coordinator. Walk-ins are welcome, and will be seen on space available basis.

The next scheduled clinic will be June 29th and also held at the church from 10:30 - 12 noon and 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm.

Routine physical exams include: Adult physicals, ICC physicals, well child checks (with Immunizations), blood work and tetanus shots.

The July clinic is presently scheduled for July 24th.

Thank you, Davanea and Kip, for your interest in our community and its welfare!

Welling Bells ring for the Wald family: More than one McCarthy wedding took place in early June for the Wald family! I am pleased to report and send best wishes to **Joseph and Erica Wald** and Joseph's sister, **Cara, and her husband, Larry Pollock.**

Joseph and Erica began the family celebration with their wedding on June 6th. The marriage rites were held at the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church. The clergy performing the wedding was Deacon Curt Leuenberger. A reception was held afterwards at the Kennecott Recreation Hall in Kennicott. The Walds live in Anchorage, AK.

The second wedding was held the next afternoon, June 7, at the toe of the glacier and was officiat-

ed by Pastor Riek Kenyon of McCarthy. Larry and Cara Pollock reside in Fargo, ND.

Family members were on hand to offer their overwhelming support. Sharon Wald, Joseph and Cara's mother, and Geri Urive are sisters to long-time McCarthy resident, Tim Mischel. Joseph and his mother are also landowners on the west side of the Kennicott River and visit as often as they can.

Tim, who is best known to Joseph and Cara as "Uncle Tim," served as best man at Joseph's wedding and was a witness to the marriage vows of Cara and Larry. Kathy Drury also stood in as a witness to the Pollocks' wedding.

Joseph wrote on Erica's and his wedding bulletin, "And they lived happily ever after..." And, so, that is our prayers and wishes for these two very special couples!

Best wishes to Jamie and Brandi: Another round of wedding bells and best wishes go out to **Jamie Esler and Brandi Mayes**—well-known to locals of the McCarthy area! On June 21st folks gathered to witness their marriage which took place out front of the Kennicott River Lodge and Hostel. Owner of the Hostel, **Brad Grossweiler**, performed the wedding with many community members in attendance. Jamie and Brandi make their home in North Idaho, but plan on spending this summer in McCarthy. Much love and prayers to you both!

Birth Announcement: Congratulations to Matt and Julie Miller on the birth of their son James Dean Miller, born at 8:02 a.m. on May 4th in Palmer, Alaska. James Dean weighed 7 lb. 10 oz. and was 21 inches long. Grandparents Jim and Jeannie Miller of Kennicott, report parents and baby are doing very well.

McCarthy Lodge serves up fine dining for local folks: Sometimes local residents miss out on all the fine dishes the McCarthy Lodge chefs create for area visitors. Not to leave us out, Chefs Ian and Josh, with the blessing of owner Neil Darish, brought out the best of their summer fare.

June 3rd was the date; McCarthy Lodge dining room was the place to sample their dishes.

Neighbors and their family members gathered around nicely set tables while a variety of courses were served to the eager group. Because there was not enough room to contain all the folks who wanted to participate, there is word that the chefs just might repeat their performance!

Thanks to John Rice, who takes excellent notes on commu-

nity happenings, I am able to provide you with the following details: "One of the highlights of the summer is Local's Night at McCarthy Lodge. The idea is for the chefs to practice all their new dishes on the locals who get a wonderful dinner for way below market value. Of course the dinner is always a sell-out and the locals look forward to it. Here was this year's menu:

1st Course, Frito Misto - fried meats

2nd Course, Tomato & Fennel Soup

3rd Course, Wild Copper River Red Salmon - confrit of salmon, confrit of new potato, carrot ginger foam

4th Course, Pavre - compressed pork, smoked pasta, apple gastrique

5th Course, Dark Chocolate Mousse, White Chocolate Lemon Ganache, Sand Cookies

There were also a couple of off menu courses like corned duck breast and pickled radishes and cantaloupe pieces. Needless to say, we were all stuffed by the end of the evening. Unfortunately we forgot to take the camera so no pictures of all the treats."

Copper Valley Telephone's Customer Appreciation Picnics:

July 9, Copper Center at Kluti-Kaah; July 10, Kenny Lake, fairgrounds; July 16, Chitina, at the Wayside; July 17, McCarthy, Community Center; July 24, Glennallen, CVTC parking lot; Sept. 8, Valdez, CVTC parking lot.

High Lake Fishing Adventure

BY BONNIE KENYON

About this time last year, my husband Rick, John and Barbara Rice and I made plans for a fly-in fishing adventure to a lake nestled high in the Chugach Mountains; thus, its name, High Lake.

However, due to a leg injury I experienced in May of 2008, we canceled our trip.

This year the Rices — McCarthy summer residents — came north from their winter home in St. Louis prepared to revisit our earlier plans.

Copper Valley Air Service, based out of Gulkana, is a frequent visitor to the McCarthy area. At least twice a week, owner/pilot Dave Parmenter, or one of his pilots, fly the mail route from Gulkana to McCarthy

and back again, bringing our incoming mail and taking our outgoing mail to the post office at Glennallen. For the most part, this regular occurrence is what we McCarthyites know best about Copper Valley Air. However, our mail planes and their pilots do more than just carry our mail and offer passengers service between Glennallen and McCarthy and Anchorage. They carry with them knowledge and access to those pristine places that provide truly unique fishing experiences. Just ask John and Barbara. They just returned from a 3 day, 2 night stay at High Lake. (Although I recovered well enough to make the trip this year, Rick's and my schedule just didn't allow enough time to squeeze in this mid-June adventure.)

In John's family newsletter, he describes his and Barbara's trip. He writes: "Our latest adventure was a fly out fishing trip to a small lake in the Chugach Mountains named High Lake. We were at about 3,000 feet so I guess the lake was named for the altitude. We went for three days and were the only people on the lake. We were flown out on a small plane (a Helio Courier on floats), made even smaller by our gear and Clark (the Rice's dog). The fishing was great! Every time we went out we caught fish (Lake Trout) and wound up eating fish for three meals. We didn't keep track, but I'm sure we got our limit every day.

"The other opportunity we had at High lake was to observe world record porcupines in action. The first night they got

under the cabin floor and drove Clark nuts. Later they started chewing on the floor which scared him enough to try to climb in bed with us. The second night we managed to keep them out from under the cabin, but they got behind the cabin where they could eat the scrap lumber. At about 4:00 am I decided to get up and take their picture. Our pilot said they weigh between 40 and 50 pounds and can be hunted with a pistol. I wish I had taken the pistol I was offered by a friend before we left!"

According to Barbara, bears were not an issue, which is certainly an added plus when fish are abundant. They had the lake to themselves. Solitude certainly came with the package. A boat was waiting for them on the lake's shore. Plenty of gas and an outboard motor that brought a high note of praise from John: "It started on the first pull every time!" (Now that's another plus!)

Copper Valley Air Service's web site



Photo courtesy John Rice

Barbara displays nice catch of trout.

(www.coppervalleyair.com) says many species of fish inhabit High Lake but John and Barbara's Mepps spinners attracted the highly-favored Lake Trout.

In previous years a 10' x 12'



Photo courtesy John Rice

John and Clark enjoy the solitude at High Lake.

tent with a hard floor platform served as the guests' quarters. This year a newly-constructed cabin with tin covered walls provided a more secure place to sleep and cook in. (Security being from the porcupine gang that, I suspect, will not be on the loose for too

much longer!)

Cooking gear was provided but John and Barbara took their own fishing gear, sleeping bags and pads and food. You need to provide your own water or boil

the lake water.

When the Rices weren't fishing or eating their catch for the day, they found the peace and quiet was perfect for a few rousing games of Tri-Dominos.

In case you are considering this mini-vacation excursion, you will find the prices more than reasonable. They start at \$250 a person for a 3 day, 2 night stay with additional days only \$75 each.

Be sure to check out Copper Valley Air's other outdoor adventure trips. Their phone number is 907-822-4200. And, thanks, John and Barbara, for sharing "your" adventure with us!

1950 Copper River survey photo journal

BY RICK KENYON

Last fall Bonnie and I were privileged to meet Charles R. (Bob) Leitzell and his lovely wife Paula. During our conversation I learned that Bob had been part of an Alaska Road Commission (ARC) crew surveying the Copper River in 1950, and that he had photos of the area. Bob quickly agreed to share those photos with us, and with you.

The ARC undertook the survey, and a company called AERO Service Corporation that specialized in photogrammetric surveys worked under contract with the ARC to provide the aerial survey work. With the exception of two men from AERO Service Corporation, the field crew was provided by the ARC.

The ARC contracted for the crew's transportation with Herb Haley of Cordova Air Service doing much of the actual flying. Herb was our own Howard Haley's father and the plane he used had a somewhat unique tandem-wheel landing gear arrangement. According to Bob Herb was a great pilot and used a

number of tricks to get the plane and crew off some of the short "runways." The Alaska Road Commission (ARC) provided cooks at the Tielkel Section house and also the "Ginny Creek" station.

Ginny Creek was actually an unnamed creek in 1950. According to Bob, the crew named it for Bob's (then) girlfriend in San Diego. They put the name on the survey map, the USGS picked it up, and that was that!

Bob and the crew finished their work in November of 1950. They were marooned by a blizzard at Ginny Creek for several days before Herb rescued them with a ski plane. Bob had a radio receiver and could hear Cordova Air Service talk about them being stranded but they could not answer.

Bob says by the time they got to Chitina the temperature was -25F.

The pictures were scanned from 35 mm slides. Bob has another collection taken from Chitina to Kennicott between 1950 and 1954 that we hope to share with you at a later date.



Bob Leitzell standing on the O'Brien Creek trestle. It is thought that O.A. Nelson had a hand in the ingenious suspension bridge type repair.

Photo courtesy Charles R. Leitzell.



Baird Moraine. Maintaining a railroad on a glacial moraine is not an easy task. The rails were pretty much all in place beyond O'Brien Creek at least to the Million Dollar Bridge in 1950. "All in place" may be a bit of an exaggeration.

Photo courtesy Charles R. Leitzell.



ARC crewmember Fred Morey looks over the remains of the Fox creek trestle. The rails from Chitina to Fox Creek had been removed by this time.

Photo courtesy Charles R. Leitzell.



Photo courtesy Charles R. Leitzell.

Taznuna River trestle. This was the boat the crew used to access locations not accessible by plane or foot. The person with his back to the camera was Jack Ninneman of AERO Service Corp. The other person is the riverboat operator "Voss," who was hired locally.



Photo courtesy Charles R. Leitzell.

Cordova Air Service pilot Herb Haley. Note tandem wheels on airplane.

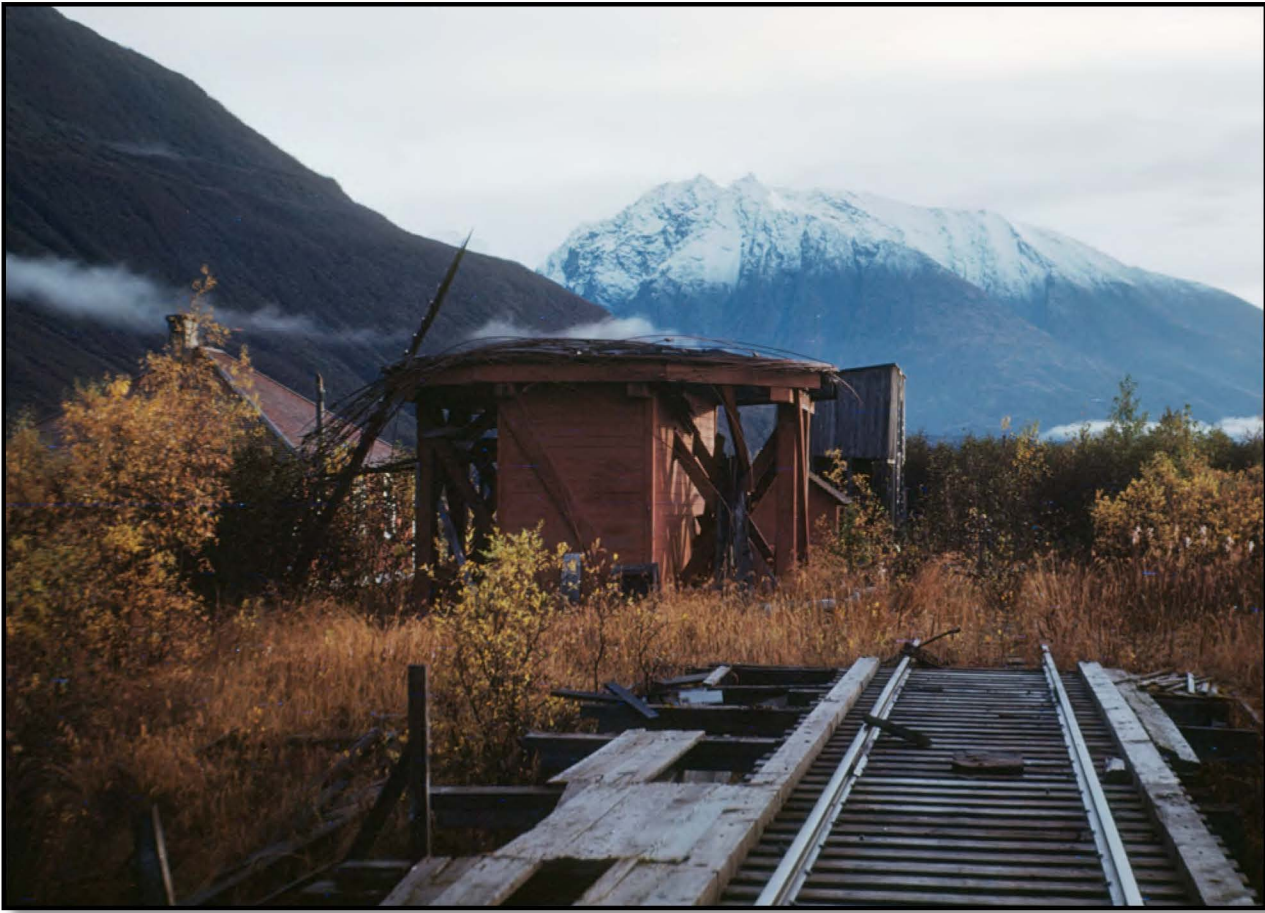


Photo courtesy Charles R. Leitzell.

Water tower at Ginny Creek.



Photo courtesy Charles R. Leitzell.

Tiegel section house. The man in the doorway was a cook provided by the Alaska Road Commission. Another cook was at the Ginny Creek station.

Kennecott's Denver Tribute Huge Success

BY TERRY BLOSSER

Over 200 people enjoyed a potluck social, movie, storytelling and live music at the second annual John Denver Tribute in Kennecott on June 19. Highlighting the event were two Guests of Honor who were personal friends of Denver and made a 1975 movie with him in the Wrangells.

Adding to the excitement of the evening was the live broadcast and webcast of the two-hour musical program by National Public Radio affiliate in Valdez, KCHU.

The tribute raised about \$1,000 during a Silent Auction fundraiser for the Wrangell Mountains Center, a non-profit educational and research center in McCarthy. Auction items were generously donated by area businesses.

John Denver was the world's leading musical entertainer of the 1970's, acted in numerous popular movie roles, and used his fame to advance the causes of world peace, eliminating world hunger, and environmental issues. He died in the 1997 crash of his experimental plane.

For Guest of Honor Tony Oney of Anchorage, the tribute evening

was a celebration reunion. Oney was one of the owners of the Kennecott Mines properties for 30 years until 1998. He was Denver's pilot for the movie documentary, *Alaska: America's Child*, and starred in the film.

Raine Hall, the other Guest of Honor, was a close personal friend of Denver responsible for bringing the famed singer together with Oney for the movie project. She's a location manager for major motion pictures.

Following the movie showing to an enthusiastic standing-room-only crowd, Oney and Raine shared entertaining stories about the movie-making, and expressed fond memories of Denver.

Then about a dozen local musicians took the stage for solos and group performances of Denver's musical compositions. Crowd-pleasers included Paul Hanis' rendition of *Calypso*, and Mike Loso's banjo picking on *Grandma's Feather Bed*.

Youngsters Avery and Owen Mozen won a standing ovation for their performance of *Paradise*. They are the children of Elizabeth Schafer and Howard Mozen of Kennecott.



Photo courtesy Dave Hollis

John Denver Tribute musicians lead an audience sing-along finale. From left to right: Joe Donahue, Hannah Plehatty, Nina Linton, Terry Blosser, Jake Schlapfer, Paul Hanis and Diane Malik.

For the musical finale, the musicians led the audience in sing-alongs of Denver's ever-popular *Take Me Home Country Roads*, and the local favorite, *Wrangell Mountain Song* depicting the singer's 1975 visit to the area.

Tribute organizers Dave Hollis of McCarthy and Terry C. Blosser from Montana spent the last year preparing the second annual tribute. Both envisioned the event two years ago while backpacking in the Park.

Hollis assisted KCHU's Joshua Smith with radio commentary and Blosser MC'd the tribute and performed several Denver selections.

The Wrangell Mountains Center's Arts and Lecture Series hosts the annual tribute which is co-sponsored by the National Park Service. Center Director Jeremy Pataky praised the outpouring of community spirit and support for the event.



Photo courtesy Dave Hollis.

A new generation of John Denver fans, youngsters Avery and Owen Mozen, perform *Paradise*, assisted by Karen and Mike Loso.

Mountaineering history made on Mt. Blackburn

BY NEIL O'DONNELL

The well-known attractions of the McCarthy area include the rich history of the Kennicott Mines, the Copper River and Northwestern Railway, and the town of McCarthy. Few people are familiar, however, with the historic first ascent of the 16,380-foot Mt. Blackburn, the highest peak in the Wrangells. Virtually every aspect of this 1912 ascent was unusual, if not revolutionary. While other great peaks in Alaska were being challenged by elaborate expeditions mounted by groups such as the New York Explorer's Club, Mt. Blackburn was conquered by a group of local McCarthy miners led by a five-foot-tall, 40-year-old woman named Dora Keen.

To succeed on Mt. Blackburn, Miss Keen and her group decided to abandon the conventional climbing practice of making slow but steady progress while relaying great quantities of gear high up the mountain. Anticipating climbing practices that developed a half-century later, they twice made fast, lightweight summit attempts from camps located relatively low on the mountain. Their first attempt nearly ended in disaster and convinced most of the party to quit. Three decided to stick it out and, on May 19, 1912, two succeeded in reaching the summit of Mt. Blackburn: Dora Keen and George Handy.

Dora Keen was born in Philadelphia on June 24, 1871. Her father, William W. Keen, was a pioneering brain surgeon who had served with distinction in the Civil War. Miss Keen graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1896, and was active over the next decade in public school improvement issues

in Philadelphia. Miss Keen developed an early affinity for travel, accompanying her father on a world tour in 1901 and 1902. In 1906 she traveled through the American and Canadian Rockies. She later spent a year and a half in Europe and North Africa. In 1908 and 1909, she accompanied General Gorgas to the first Pan-American Scientific Congress in Chile, returning to Philadelphia by way of France.

When she was in her late thirties, Dora Keen developed an interest and affinity for climbing. She made numerous climbs in the Alps, several climbs in the Canadian Rockies and the Selkirks, and several ascents in the Andes. She also climbed several of the great volcanoes of Mexico. Prior to her trip to Alaska, however, it appears that her major ascents — such as the 15,781 foot Mont Blanc and the 20,561 foot Chimborazo — had been undertaken in the company of experienced mountain guides.

Like many visitors, Miss Keen came to Alaska in the summer of 1911 simply to see the spectacular scenery. She was, however, no ordinary tourist. While hunting for “a big brown bear” in the wilderness of the Kenai Peninsula, she read about Mt. Blackburn in a U.S. Geological Survey report she found in a prospector's cabin. Off she headed that July for the newly settled mining town of McCarthy.

Apparently a persuasive woman, Miss Keen scoured McCarthy to organize an expedition composed of four local men, a dog team, and 750 pounds of supplies. The expedition left the Blackburn Roadhouse on August 15, 1911. Two weeks later they reached an altitude of 8,700 feet before bad

weather and lack of supplies forced a retreat. While an additional 7,500 vertical feet remained to be climbed, Miss Keen was confident they had found a route through the great icefall at the head of the Kennicott Glacier. She pledged to return the following spring.

Miss Keen's 1911 expedition was a pioneering effort on several accounts. At that time, only one great Alaskan peak had been climbed: the 18,008-foot Mount St. Elias, which had been climbed by the Italian Duke of Abruzzi and a large, elaborately equipped party in 1897. The summits of the other great Alaskan peaks, including Mt. McKinley, remained unconquered. Arctic mountaineering was a new endeavor, and climbing in the north without the support of a vast expedition was unheard of.

Miss Keen drew several lessons from her 1911 expedition. First, she discovered that latitude is as important as altitude in determining the difficulty of an ascent. While vegetation allowed for camp fires as high as 14,000 feet on Chimborazo in Ecuador, climbing Mt. Blackburn required climbing more than 14,000 vertical feet on snow and ice with the attendant danger of avalanches and crevasses. This extended period on snow and ice, combined with sub-zero temperatures at altitude, led Miss Keen to conclude that climbing great Alaskan peaks had as much in common with arctic exploration as traditional mountaineering.

Dora Keen also came to rely on her own resourcefulness, and the ingenuity of the Alaskan pioneers, in finding solutions to seemingly insurmountable problems. For example, few mountaineers who had not planned on

climbing in Alaska and had not brought their climbing gear would have considered attempting Mt. Blackburn. Miss Keen, however, convinced blacksmiths at the Kenicott Mine to forge ice-axes for her party. Describing the “can-do” attitude of her sourdough climbing companions, she wrote:

“There was no time to secure anything from such a distance [as Seattle], nor does the prospector consider anything necessary, merely ‘handy.’ Necessity and emergency have taught him to ‘get along.’ He knows to an ounce what he needs for a ‘trip’ as he calls an expedition. ‘Anyone that can’t pack ninety pounds would better not come to Alaska,’ they say, ‘for this is the least with which he can get along out in the hills.’ His motto is ‘never stuck.’ His is the land of hope. He is always ‘going to make a strike next year, sure,’ therefore always ready to endure and to smile, whatever happens.”

The most important lesson Dora Keen took back from the 1911 expedition, however, was that the newness of the frontier provided a freedom of opportunity unavailable to women in more established society. It would be hard to imagine Miss Keen convincing the New York Explorer’s Club to put her in charge of an expedition to Mt. Blackburn in 1911—nine years before women were allowed to vote. Miss Keen, however, arrived in a frontier town in which she knew no one and, in a few short weeks, convinced four men (including McCarthy’s leading citizen, John Barrett) to head off to the top of Mt. Blackburn. Writing of the first days of the 1911 expedition, she stated:

“A new feeling of confidence, new zest came over me each day as I realized what a woman might do in America. Sure of respect and

of every assistance, in Alaska at least, her limitations need be only those within herself, her measure that of which she is capable, her development in her own hands to make or to mar. I had come to Alaska on a voyage of discovery. Being alone had seemed to put every limitation in my way, and now, on the contrary, my love of adventure and sport could be satisfied as never before.”

Miss Keen made good on her promise to return to McCarthy the next spring — and she succeeded in climbing Mt. Blackburn. This epic ascent was to take 33 days on snow and ice. The crux of the climb was a long, steep, avalanche-swept gully above their 8,700-foot camp. The party faced the choice of making numerous trips up the threatening gully ferrying gear to the upper slopes or minimizing the time they were exposed to falling ice blocks and avalanches by making a quick, light ascent with minimal gear. They chose the latter course. This strategy almost worked.

They succeeded in reaching the top of the steep 60- to 75-degree gully but then spent three days pinned down in snow caves at 12,500 feet, waiting out a blizzard. They whiled away the time contemplating the food, cook stove, and bedding they had left 3,500 feet below. Without food and water, and facing hypothermia, they made a courageous descent in whiteout conditions.

It was now two weeks into the expedition and the glory of it all had started to wear thin on several of the sourdoughs. They were back at their 8,700-foot camp (still over 7,000 vertical feet from the summit), the weather was poor, and they were lucky to be in one piece. Four decided to leave. Exaggerating tales of these returning miners, the Associated Press reported

that Miss Keen and her remaining companions were “MAROONED NEAR TOP OF MT. BLACKBURN, FACING STARVATION.”

Only Dora Keen, George Handy, and Bill Lang remained from the original party of eight to dig out the camp and wait for better weather. It was a long wait. Deep snow, high winds, and avalanches kept the three remaining climbers holed up in a snow cave for the next nine days. Twenty feet of new snow had fallen by the time they were again able to head up the long, exposed gully. Because the new snow made trail breaking with heavy packs extremely difficult, they again planned a fast, lightweight ascent. Although they carried only minimal rations and modest survival gear, the deep snow delayed their progress and prevented them from topping out of the gully before afternoon avalanches began. After digging an impromptu snow cave behind a sheltering ice block, Miss Keen observed:

“We were safe from anything that might come, and yet I could not sleep for the thunder of the many slides on every side. None came near us until midday, when twice the deep rolling of falling ice made me sit up with a start just as a great mass went sweeping by. They were the most awe-inspiring sight that I have ever seen, so wonderful, so thrilling to watch, that I wished I did not need sleep. They passed so close that it was as if the American Falls at Niagara were suddenly overwhelming us.”

Only an unusually adventurous spirit could so enthusiastically describe such a perilous perch.

After three additional days of challenging and arduous climbing, Dora Keen and George Handy could find no higher ground. They reached the summit of Mt. Blackburn at 8:30 on the morning of

May 19, 1912. From the highest point in the Wrangell Mountains, they gazed 200 miles or more in every direction.

Dora Keen's second, successful expedition was the culmination of an innovative, pioneering, and revolutionary climbing effort. Mt. Blackburn was now the second highest peak that had been climbed in Alaska. It had been conquered through a feat of endurance requiring 33 days on snow and ice, 22 of which had required encampment in snow caves or open bivouacs. Miss Keen and her companions had spent ten days without fuel or a stove. Careful reading of snow conditions by Miss Keen had kept the party off dangerous slopes during periods of high avalanche danger. Success had come through a fast, light-weight summit bid in contravention of then-accepted climbing wisdom. And, most remarkably for the time, the expedition had been led by a slight, middle-aged woman.

Miss Keen's achievements did not go unnoticed. Accounts of her Mt. Blackburn climbs were published in mountaineering journals, geographical society reports, and popular magazines. Miss Keen, a member of the American Alpine Club, presented an illustrated account of her Mt. Blackburn ascent at the Club's winter meeting in New York City in 1912. The other speakers on this memorable evening included arctic explorers Sir Ernest Shackleton, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Admiral Peary, and mountaineer and explorer Belmore Browne.

Mt. Blackburn was not the last of Miss Keen's Alaskan adventures.

She and George Handy traversed Skolai Pass into the Yukon in the summer of 1912. She explored and mapped the Harvard Glacier in Prince William Sound in 1914, again with George Handy. Their companionship blossomed into romance and, in 1916, marriage. Their honeymoon, as might be predicted, was a two-month trip into the wilderness between the Copper and White Rivers. Miss Keen's last reported trip in Alaska was an expedition in 1925 to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes where she led an ascent of Mt. Katmai.

Dora Keen and George Handy resided on a farm in Vermont until 1930, and were divorced in 1933. In 1934, at the age of 64, Dora Keen began a career as an insurance agent for Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company. She went on to receive several awards as a successful saleswoman.

Writing in her alumni magazine about lectures she had given at several colleges in 1915, Miss Keen stated:

"I believe more and more in the economic independence of women and in productive activities for them as for men... I am eager to help the faint-hearted and this is my chief aim in writing and lecturings — to pass on the courage I have gained from my wonderful experiences."

When she was in her eighties, Dora Keen began to find the Vermont winters difficult and instead traveled the world; her destinations included the Congo, South Africa, Australia, New Guinea, Kenya, and Java. She tried Florida one winter, but left because it was "just filled with old people."

Dora Keen's last visit to Alaska came during a round-the-world tour in 1962. She was 91 years old and again traveling by herself. It was her first visit to Alaska since 1925. In an interview with the *Anchorage Daily News*, she stated, "I thirst for adventure, which I never get. People take too good care of me." Dora Keen was not fated to complete her last adventure. She died in Hong Kong on January 31, 1963.

According to long-time McCarthy mountain guide Bob Jacobs, Miss Keen's ascent route on Mt. Blackburn has never been repeated. Writing in 1912, Dora Keen noted that while the northern approaches to Mt. Blackburn were more gradual and less prone to avalanches, they were extremely remote and therefore very difficult to reach. That difficulty disappeared with the advent of airplanes capable of glacier landings. The normal approach for modern climbers is to fly to the base of Mt. Blackburn on the upper Nabesna Glacier.

In 1965, a sub-range of the Chugach Mountains between the Harvard and Yale Glaciers was officially named the "Dora Keen Range" by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names. This was an appropriate tribute to a woman who had written half a century earlier that, "Alaska had already taught me that if we can but have the courage to start upon any undertaking, the way usually opens and the obstacles melt away."

Editor's note: This story originally was published in our July & August 1994 issue.

"Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand." —Augustine of Hippo

FOR SALE

5 acres in Fireweed Subdivision, Mile 51 McCarthy Road

1/4 mile off the road with easy, road accessibility.

16' x 24' cabin with two porches, good and sound, just needs some limited TLC

Large, two-story barn, well, good outhouse

White spruce and aspen trees

50' mobile home with 3 beds, cooking and heating stove

\$70,000 asking price but willing to negotiate

Sellers: Harold and Carol Michal.

Contact information: Box MXY, Glennallen, AK. 99588. 907 554-4428.

Or 101 Frank Smith Way #207, Wasilla, AK. 99654. 907 373-4193.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Photo Contest

ANCHORAGE, AK—

The Alaska Conservation Alliance (ACA) is pleased to announce they will be holding a photo contest for pictures of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The final judging will be done at the Renewable Energy Fair in Anchorage on August 1st by a panel of celebrity judges TBA. Prizes will go out to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Prizes include a lodge get-a-way for two, a full-boat fishing trip, REI gear, and more!

Recently, comprehensive legislation was passed that created an Alaskan Renewable Energy Fund. So far, this fund has enabled investments of \$125 million to go to 107 renewable

energy projects across Alaska. Additionally, \$360 million was allocated for weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades in homes across the state. With work on these two projects already underway ACA would like to encourage Alaskans to document these innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Great examples of renewable projects include power-producing hydrokinetic turbines in Ruby, geothermal power that will heat the Juneau International Airport Terminal, and wind turbines in Toksook Bay that produce about 643,633 kilowatt-hours per year (Alaska Native Energy).

Executive Director of ACA, Caitlin Higgins said, "This is a great opportunity for Alaskans to show off their imagination and originality through energy efficiency, renewable energy, and photography." Higgins added, "The time for renewables and energy efficiency is now, and these photos are the proof."

Photos can be submitted online at www.akvoice.org, emailed to acaphotocontest@gmail.com or mailed to Laura Silverman, Alaska Conservation Alliance, 810 N Street Suite 203, Anchorage, AK 99501. The deadline is July 27th, 2009.

Wake up! It's time to celebrate

BY BONNIE KENYON

July 4th is always a time to celebrate the rich history and birth of our nation. Ever since my family and I moved to McCarthy in 1978, our small town has found some way to express its patriotism. Parades, a variety of games, barbecues, live music from visiting bands or local musicians and fireworks — just to mention the means to which locals and guests observe this special time of year.

Beginning last year, the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church joined in the festivities by serving up a free barbecue with all the fixings on the church grounds and provided the music ministry of Rev. Mark Willhite.

This year you are once again invited to join us for another July 4th celebration. Beginning at 5 pm on July 3rd, a "Free-to-All" barbecue will be served at the church. Hamburgers, hot dogs and Copper River Reds are on the menu so come as you are, relax and let us serve you.

At 7 pm on the 4th of July a patriotic service will be held at the church with Mark Willhite leading us in the songs of country and faith.

Mark's background includes voice training with Metropolitan Opera Star, Robert Weede, Broadway Theatre and classical training on the piano for 13

years. In 1978 Mark's life took on a whole new direction. He discovered God's true plan for his life which has taken him to over 30 nations.

Guest speaker will be Pastor Joe Pescini of Fort Bragg, California. Joe spent two tours in Iraq, serving as a Platoon Sergeant from the end of 2002 into April of 2004. He retired after 23 years of service which began at Fort Richardson, Alaska, in 1981. A power point presentation of pictures and comments of Iraq, from Iraq, showing a side of the people there who really appreciate the U. S. involvement in their country. God's protection over his entire platoon and 349th Quartermaster company while stationed in Balad, 45 minutes north of Bagdad, is a story in itself. Refreshments follow the service.

Sunday morning service on July 5th is at 10 a.m. with a lunch afterwards.

Additional "camp-meeting-style" believers' meetings will take place during July 2nd - 5th with guest speakers Pastor Bill Ferguson of North Pole Christian Center, North Pole, Alaska and Pastors Steve and Tonia Alexander of Word of Faith Assembly, Wasilla, Alaska, Pastors Daniel and Karen Bracken and Rev. Tom Rappe and the youth group from King's Chapel in Wasilla.

The
Church
on
the
Island

What's missing here?

Only U!

Telling of the Goodness of God

THE
ALASKA
AWAKENING
REVIVAL
CAMPMEET-
INGS THE
WEEK OF JULY
4TH.

McCarthy Kennicott Community Church

For more information on exact times, please contact Rick or Bonnie Kenyon at 554-4454.

More than ever, it is a time to awaken and celebrate the goodness of God towards us, our town, our state and our nation! Please join us. All are welcome.

CLASSIFIED

16x20, 3-sided log cabin kits. Add sweat, doors, windows and some materials, for a cozy home! \$11.5K each. E-mail for materials list. Located in McCarthy. (907) 782-3730 or advenak@advenalaska.com

THE KATALLA HERALD

Vol. 1. No. 39. Katalla, Alaska, Saturday, July 10, 1909. Price Ten Cents Published weekly by J. F. A. Strong

Brenneman Succeeds Warddell

Deputy Marshal James F. Warddell this week made public the fact that he had tendered his resignation as deputy marshal at Katalla, and he would leave for the outside as soon as his successor was appointed. This has been done, United States Marshal Sullivan having on Wednesday appointed F. R. Brenneman, whom Mr. Warddell had recommended as his successor. Marshal Sullivan stated that he knew Mr. Warddell's excellent record and he would have been glad to have reappointed him. But as he was anxious to be relieved it gave him pleasure to appoint any one recommended by Mr. Warddell. The office was turned over to Deputy Marshal Brenneman at midnight, July 1. Mr. Warddell has been stationed at Katalla for the past six years, and his record is without spot or wrinkle. Mr. Brenneman served under Mr. Warddell for nearly two years and has also an excellent record.

To Expert Copper Mines

Among the passengers on the Portland which arrived on Wednesday from Seattle, was Gen. E. Wilkinson, an English mining engineer of world-wide fame, who will expert the Hubbard-Elliott mines for the Hirsch syndicate, which has an option on the properties for \$7,000,000. Gen. Wilkinson has experted mines in South Africa and in nearly every mining community of note, and upon the result of his decision will depend the sale of the mines. He is accompanied by Harry Elliott, of the Hubbard-Elliott company.

Warmest Weather of Record

The weather for the past week has been exceedingly warm, not to say hot, for this latitude. Last Sunday the mercury touched 75 in the shade, and continued lively until Thursday when the heat waves abated somewhat. Old timers hereabout say that the weather

has been the warmest they have at any time experienced in this section. Out at Martin River on Sunday the thermometer registered 85 in the shade.

Telegraphic Notes

The senate has increased the house duty on coal 100 per cent, whatever that may mean.

The automobile race from New York to Seattle for the Guggenheim trophy, was won by the Ford car No. 2; time 23 days.

Dr. Tarr and a party of scientists, landed at Yakutat from the Portland, to study the glaciers and the geological formations of the Mt. St. Elias district.

Frank A. Russell, who is wanted on charges of seduction and embezzlement, committed at Copper Center, where he was a school teacher, returned on the Portland from Seattle, to answer the charges, which he denies.

ECCLES A BOOSTER

Big Railroad Man Talks About Alaska

President S. W. Eccles of the Copper River & Northwestern railway left Seattle on July 1 on a trip of inspection of the railroad, and the progress being made in construction work. He is accompanied by his family, and his visit will last a month.

In an interview before leaving Seattle he said that the railroad would be opened to freight and passenger traffic as far as the Bonanza mine, and for freight consigned to points beyond, in 1910. He declared that there is already a large prospective business in sight, and that the railroad would form a main trunk line for a large volume of traffic for the interior. From beyond the end of the road steamers would take the freight as far as the river is navigable, and with the improvements now being made to the overland trail by the government, it would be possi-

ble to shove freight from Copper Center to a navigable port on the Tanana river. Mr. Eccles stated that the road would be pushed to the interior as rapidly as conditions justified.

Mr. Eccles said his company would encourage the establishment of trading posts at various points, and one of these would be in the vicinity of Copper Center, which is already a supply point and distributing center for a large and growing district. He is confident that a great part of the overland traffic will come by way of the railroad in another year.

Speaking of Alaska coal, Mr. Eccles said the government by reserving Hawkins island would be able to get coal at one-third the price it is now paying. He asserted that the biggest battleships afloat could coal from a point on the island, and that the railroad would have the coal ready for delivery soon after congress removed the present restrictions. Mr. Eccles expressed himself as being extremely optimistic over the outlook for trade in Alaska, stating that the large sums of money being expended for railroad construction was the best sign of the worth of the country and its possibilities when more fully developed. He thought it might require some time, but railroads would eventually cross the whole of the country.

JULY 3

NOTICE

All persons knowing themselves to be indebted to The Katalla Herald are requested to settle the same on or before July 26, inst.

To Plat Nelson Townsite

D. A. McKenzie, one of the owners of the townsite of Nelson at the head of Cordova bay, is now in that section arranging for the platting of the townsite. The new town is 11 miles from Cordova.

Local and Personal

Katalla's celebration of the Fourth, was not upon as elaborate scale as in former years, but flags were displayed, the festive firecracker was in evidence, and Alton Williams gave a first rate pyrotechnic exhibition in the evening.

The condition and situation of the steam shovel which jumped the track while being brought down for shipment to Cordova, were reported to Chief Engineer Hawkins by means of an excellent photograph taken by J. L. Hill, an artist of no mean ability. The photograph was taken at the instance of Capt. Durkee.

R. S. Tyan remembered a number of his Katalla friends by sending from Cordova strawberries, cucumbers, cherries, apricots, etc., all of which filled several long felt wants, and Mr. Ryan's thoughtful kindness was duly appreciated. The fruit was brought over by the Triton, and was kindly delivered at The Herald office by First Mate Andrew Lund.

JULY 10

PUSHING WORK ON THE RAILROAD

Construction work on the Copper River & Northwestern railway is now progressing rapidly as conditions will permit, according to a statement made by Postmaster A. C. Williams, who returned this week from a visit of several days at Cordova, during which he went out over the line as far as Miles glacier. The scenery he says is grand and the old glacier was busy doing some remarkable stunts in the way of spitting huge icebergs into the river.

The roadbed is in fine condition, and passengers have a modern coach to ride in.

Work on the foundations for the big bridges across the Copper is being pushed, and it is being done in a most substantial manner. A big force of men is employed beyond the canyon and as far as mile 102, and beyond.

Mr. Williams says that business in Cordova is much overdone, as is generally the case in new towns, though there are a number of fine business blocks and other substantial buildings.

Cordova's Projected Rival

According to the statements made by D. A. McKenzie, one of the promoters of the townsite, Cordova is to have a potential rival in the town of Nelson which is to be built at the upper end of Cordova bay, seven miles from Cordova. A railroad is to be built to connect the town with the Copper River & Northwestern; docks and coal bunkers for handling Katalla coal for shipment, are to be provided; smelter sites, sites for public buildings, including a state capitol, public parks, etc., will be reserved for the use of present and future generations. The townsite is owned by McKenzie, Gov. McGraw, Ed Lewin and others, of Seattle, and is to be surveyed and platted at once. The government survey steamer, Taku has recently completed a survey of the harbor.

Perkins at Cordova

George W. Perkins, right hand man of J. Pierpont Morgan is due to arrive at Cordova, for the purpose of looking over the Morgan-Guggenheim enterprises in this section. He is accompanied by his wife and family, and his wife's relations, and is making the trip in the Yucatan, which has been fitted up as a private yacht, whose splendor has evoked the plaudits of the country press of Seattle.

News Notes of Alaska

It is said that a big force of men will be kept at work next winter on the Copper River & Northwestern railway, and the road will be operated as far as Teikell river, according to present plans.

Local and Personal

Local garden sass, such as lettuce and radishes, is becoming quite plentiful. A variety of turnips, called the Finland, new to this region, promises to do well.

Fred Barrett has returned from Tacoma, where he has been attending Whitworth college, for the past two years, and he will spend his vacation with his parents.

Misses Grace and Nellie Barrett, daughters of Col. George T. Barrett, arrived on the Portland for a visit with their father. They have been attending school in Minneapolis for a number of years.

Local fishermen and women have had some great sport this week, in the early morning hours, catching salmon trout in Clear creek and Katalla river. Mr. and Mrs. Brenneman brought in a string of beauties on Thursday morning.

JULY 17

"THE HERALD'S" LAST WORD

This is intended as The Herald's obituary, and as obituaries and sermons should be short and to the point, this one shall not be prolix. The Herald has lived, and prospered, more or less, for two years lacking one week, and during that time it has tried to do good, and not evil, and it is content to rest upon its record. Its demise is due neither to inanition, or a subsidence of its proprietor's faith in the future of this great coal and oil region, whose development adventitious and other conditions, have merely delayed for a time. But when these have been removed, as they will be, this will grow into the greatest and busiest industrial center of all Alaska.

Appreciation is here acknowledged of the loyal support that has been extended. The Herald, and the consideration it has always received from the people and its contemporaries, to whom its best wishes for their health, happiness and prosperity, are herein extended.

Local and Personal

The Herald's proprietor, accompanied by his wife, expects to leave on the Portland for Seattle. It is not his intention to quit Alaska, and he will probably reengage in the newspaper business in some other section of the territory next year.

Bob Rutherford, the well known trapper and hunter, recently trapped a monster brown bear near Kushtaka lake. A companion was keeping the prisoner company, and trying to release it. Rutherford had but two shells in his rifle, and the beast was so ferocious that he concluded not to engage it in mortal combat, and it escaped.

JULY 24

Scientist kills polar bear during first field experience

BY NED ROZELL

Bob McNabb, 23, is just beginning what may be a long career studying glaciers. No matter how many seasons he spends on ice, he will probably never have a field experience like his first.

In May 2009, McNabb shot and killed a polar bear that was charging him outside a research station in Svalbard. The doctoral student observing an extremely far-north glacier in the Norwegian territory spoke about his experience when he returned to Fairbanks, where he studies at the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

This spring, McNabb traveled to the island of Nordaustlandet in Svalbard. The Connecticut-size island is just 10 degrees latitude shy of the North Pole. An ice cap covers 80 percent of its land area. The few mammals on the island include walrus, arctic foxes, and polar bears. No people live there. "It's one of the most remote places on Earth," said Regine Hock, McNabb's advisor and a scientist at the Geophysical Institute.

A research station built by Swedish, Finnish, and Swiss researchers for the 1957-1958 International Polar Year still stands on the island. It's called Kinnvika. The station, consisting of a main building, several others, and an out-house, is right on the coast, where polar bears sometimes wander the beach. McNabb encountered the polar bear outside of one of the snow-drifted frame buildings.

McNabb woke in the chilly research station on the afternoon of May 10 after a long night in which he worked on nearby Franklinbreen Glacier. His coworkers, from universities in Sweden and Finland, were still sleeping when McNabb thought of heating water for coffee.

"I was getting wood together for the stove when I heard glass breaking in the hallway," McNabb said.

He heard more smashing, coming from the room where his shotgun leaned against a wall. He yelled out "Hello," and got no reply. Then, above the drifted snow on a window right next to him, he saw the polar bear's paws pressing against the glass. They were the size of dinner plates.

He slipped into the next room, the one with the broken windows and the shotgun, and picked up the gun. His mind raced at what to do next.

He remembered that one of his colleagues had shooed away a bear a few days earlier by starting a snowmachine and revving the engine. McNabb decided to cautiously step outside and start a machine. He thought the noise would also alert others to the bear's presence, and going outside seemed more logical than staying in the station.

"(The bear) seemed determined to get inside," McNabb said. "I did not want to be in the house with the bear, and I didn't want somebody else to come out of the sleeping hut (a nearby building) and walk right into it."

Slowly turning the door latch and pushing it open to the cold, McNabb didn't see the bear at first. Looking out, he noticed the closest snowmachine had a pull-rope start, rather than an electric start. He didn't want to risk taking the extra time to start the first machine, so he walked a few steps farther, toward the machine with a push-button starter.

"While I was going for the next one, the bear came around the corner," McNabb said.

The bear looked at McNabb from about 90 feet away. McNabb

raised his shotgun and fired a warning shot into the air.

"It sniffed the air, looked at me, and then charged," McNabb said.

He raised the shotgun to his shoulder, firing four times at the white bear. The bear stopped its advance, growled, and shook its head. It turned away, ran about 120 feet, rolled over on the ground, and stopped moving.

McNabb ran back inside the building and reloaded his shotgun. He then went and told two Swedish logistic officers stationed there what had happened.

Those men went out and confirmed the bear was dead. They then called the governor of Svalbard, who advised them to remove the bear's stomach before foxes began feeding on the carcass.

Preservation of the stomach was essential for determining the animal's condition for an investigation by government officials of Svalbard, where polar bears are protected.

"(Killing a polar bear) is assumed to be a crime until proven otherwise," said Hock, who taught in Svalbard earlier this year.

"There's always a legal investigation."

A Svalbard police unit flew up to the Kinnvika station where McNabb shot the bear. They measured tracks as they recreated the incident, finding that the bear was about 60 feet distant when McNabb began shooting, and the bear turned away when it was 25 feet from McNabb's boots.

Though the government officials have not yet ruled whether McNabb would be fined for shooting the bear, both McNabb and Hock said they believe the evidence for self-defense was obvious.

“They found it was a male with nothing in its stomach,” McNabb said. “Before it tried to break into the building, it tried to eat two seats on the snowmachines. It was starving, I would guess, at that point.”

McNabb, a native of Kalamazoo, Michigan, had recently taken the university’s shotgun training

course taught by Fairbanks resident Joe Nava; he had also practiced shooting both at the Svalbard city of Longyearbyen and at the Kinnvika station.

“It was a good thing I had both the shotgun class and the other shooting experiences,” he said. “The class was the first time I’d picked up a gun in 13 years.”

A few weeks after the experience, McNabb said, “the movie of it has stopped playing in my mind.”

“After the bear fell down, I was still rushing on adrenaline, hoping the bear wasn’t going to get back up,” McNabb said. “Once I realized it was dead, I felt pretty sad about it.”

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 email at nrozell@dino.gi.alaska.edu.

Quotes

BY RICK KENYON

The other day, someone said to me, “I really like the anti-government quotes that you put in the *WSEN*.”

My blank look, followed by a comment to the effect that I was unaware of any “anti-government quotes” in the *WSEN*, seemed to turn on a lightbulb in my friend’s face.

“Oh,” said he, “they are not anti-government, they are pro-good government!”

Exactly.

I reminded my companion that many of the sayings were by the founders of our country.

“To take from one, because it is thought his own industry and that of his fathers has acquired too much, in order to spare to others, who, or whose fathers, have not exercised equal industry and skill, is to violate arbitrarily the first principle of association, the guarantee to everyone the free exercise of his industry and the fruits acquired by it.” —Thomas Jefferson

“The essence of Government is power; and power, lodged as it

must be in human hands, will ever be liable to abuse.”—James Madison, speech in the Virginia constitutional convention, December 2, 1829.

“The freedom and happiness of man...[are] the sole objects of all legitimate government.” — Thomas Jefferson, letter to Thaddeus Kosciusko, 1810.

As American historian Charles A. Beard (1874-1948) once said, “One of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our founding fathers used in the great struggle for independence.”

Of course, not all of the quotations we use are from the founding fathers.

For example, author Ayn Rand (1905-1982) is quoted as saying, “Today, when a concerted effort is made to obliterate this point, it cannot be repeated too often that the Constitution is a limitation on the government, not on private individuals — that it does not prescribe the conduct of private individuals, only the conduct of the govern-

ment that it is not— a charter for government power, but a charter of the citizen’s protection against the government.”

Sometimes the sayings target a certain form of government, often with a bit of humor.

“A socialist is somebody who doesn’t have anything, and is ready to divide it up equally among everybody.” —Irish comic dramatist George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

As Bill O’Reilly is fond of saying, “keep it pithy,” and many of our quotes certainly do:

“Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy.” —Ernest Benn

Of course not everyone likes some of these sayings, but as author George Orwell said, “If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.”

Finally let me close with the words of Will Rogers, “It’s easy being a humorist when you’ve got the whole government working for you.”

"A government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take everything you have."

~ Thomas Jefferson

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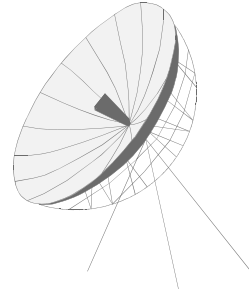
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Hunting regs for bear, moose change

BY RICK KENYON

Bonnie brought home the new Alaska Hunting Regulation booklet last mail day and I was surprised to see several rule changes for our area, Game Management Unit 11 (McCarthy area) and 13 (Glennallen area).

The first thing I noticed is that we will be required to obtain harvest tickets before taking black bear. The season (no closed season) and limit (3 per year) has not changed, only the added requirement of having the harvest ticket.

This new harvest ticket requirement applies to both Units 11 and 13.

According to an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) news release the decision was one of several bear-related items highlighting the Alaska Board of Games' deliberations at its spring meeting in Anchorage.

Currently, hunters need only a license in their possession to pursue black bears. For most species, such as moose, caribou and deer, harvest tickets already are required.

Harvest tickets include a report that must be submitted, outlining how many days the hunter

was in the field, where the hunt took place, how the hunter got there and whether commercial services were used. Currently, such information is collected only from successful hunters who bring in a bear to have it sealed.

According to ADF&G, black bear hunting is growing in popularity in many parts of Alaska. But game managers don't have a clear picture of how many people are actually hunting, where and how. The Board decided such data is critical for sound wildlife management.

Surprisingly, no harvest ticket is required for Brown/Grizzly bear for resident hunters. As has been the case, non-resident hunters must be accompanied by a guide. The season remains August 10-June 30.

The second major change I noticed is for moose. The past few years we have had to look for those 50" antler bulls unless hunting on federal land under subsistence rules. New this year is something called Community Harvest permits, or CM300. With a CM300, a resident hunter may take any bull during the normal August 20-September 20 season. What is a Community Harvest Per-

mit? The rule book refers you to page 15 where you find this paragraph:

"These permits may be issued to groups of resident hunters to hunt big game where the Board of Game has established a community harvest hunt area. This type of permit accommodates local hunting practices and creates a group bag limit. Hunters who sign up for a community harvest permit during a given regulatory year cannot also hunt for the same species under other regulations during the same regulatory year covered by the community harvest permit, except in specific circumstances. Other people can hunt in a community harvest area, however, they will have an individual bag limit."

What does that mean, you say? Good question. I called the Glennallen office and talked to Wildlife Trooper John Simeon. He said the new regulation is still in the formative stages and the details have not been worked out yet. Bear in mind these new regulations do not take effect until July 1, 2009. Trooper Simeon said that there should be some news posted to the ADF&G website by July 15. You can check for it at <http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/>.

McCarthy Road Volunteer Fire Departments

BY CAROLE E. MORRISON AND CARRIE HALE

Last year we started working to form the Crystal Creek Volunteer Fire Department, which would cover the area on McCarthy Road from Chokona River at 27 mile, to the Fireweed Mt. Subdivision at mile 51. This service area would put us between the Chitina and McCarthy volunteer departments service ar-

reas, filling in a gap of 23 miles, a distance that could be crucial to the area in the case of wildfire.

Today, we are an incorporated non-profit organization, certified and registered with the State of Alaska Fire Marshall's Office, and have recently requested a Federal Excess Personal Property fire truck from state forestry. We are in the process of obtaining communica-

tion equipment, fire fighting equipment to outfit the truck, as well as personal protective gear for fire fighters. Donations are needed for the organizational set-up and the equipment needed to outfit the department, and they are tax-deductible.

McCarthy Road is a favorite place for tourists and campers. With the hot, dry weather and hazardous

dry fuels along the road sides, there is potential for human caused fires: abandoned campfires, unsafe burning practices, improperly disposed cigarettes.

Structure fires also often escape into the wildland to threaten our neighbors, making "Firewise" all the more important. There was a house near Lake Louise that recently caught fire and spread into the wild lands. It was brought under control and stopped at three acres by rapid deployment of crews and engines through state forestry as well as a retardant ship and several

helicopters. With volunteer crews in Chitina, Strelna, Crystal Creek, and McCarthy we can work with the division of forestry to watch, patrol, inform, communicate and fight fire whenever it happens.

We encourage everyone to join, attend training sessions, volunteer your time, and donate money when you can to any of the volunteer fire departments near you, helping to make our part of the wilderness a safe place to visit and live.

Call Carole Morrison at 554-4456 or email crystalcreekvfd@yahoo.com or con-

tact any of the McCarthy Road Volunteer Fire Departments.

- Chitina Volunteer Fire Chief Dean Lenard 907-823-2250
- Strelna Volunteer Fire Chief Carrie Hale 907-802-1015
- Crystal Creek Volunteer Fire Chief Daniel Morrison 907-554-4456
- Kennicott McCarthy Volunteer Fire Chief Leath Kramer 907-960-1906

Rare original Declaration of Independence copy to tour Princess Alaska ships July 4th week

SANTA CLARITA, CALIF. —

A rare, original copy of the United States of America's founding document will make an exclusive appearance aboard Princess Cruises' Alaska-based ships the July 4th week, giving passengers the unique opportunity to see the only traveling copy of the Declaration of Independence — just as the country celebrates Independence Day. The historic exhibit will be showcased aboard all Princess ships calling in Juneau between July 1-8, 2009.

Hosted in partnership with Declare Yourself, a non-profit organization founded by legendary television producer Norman Lear, this unique opportunity marks the first time a copy of the Declaration has visited Alaska, and the first time a cruise line has shown the famous document.

The Declaration will be on display aboard the vessels for about two hours while each ship is docked in Juneau. The document will be shown aboard Diamond Princess and Star Princess on July 1; Coral

Princess on July 2; Island Princess on July 3; Pacific Princess and Golden Princess on July 6, and Sapphire Princess and Sea Princess on July 8.

"This is an amazing opportunity for our passengers to get a firsthand look at history, which is especially poignant at a time of year when our country celebrates its independence," said Jan Swartz, Princess Cruises executive vice president. "It's a rare occasion when we can bring such a unique attraction right on board — this document has never been shown on a cruise ship before. It will be a memorable way to mark the week of Independence Day as well as Alaska's 50th anniversary of statehood."

The only touring copy of the Declaration of Independence, Declare Yourself's historic document is one of an estimated 200 original broadside copies (about the size of a sheet of newspaper) printed by John Dunlap in Philadelphia in 1776 after it was drafted by Thomas Jefferson, to distribute across the colonies and to King George in England. This copy's current journey began in

1989 when a Pennsylvania shopper bought a frame at a flea market for \$4.00. Later, while inspecting a tear in the back of the painting, he discovered a piece of paper wedged between the frame and painting. He pulled it out and uncovered what would soon be authenticated as the 25th remaining copy of the Declaration of Independence. The document changed hands several times and was purchased in 2000 by Lyn and Norman Lear for \$8.14 million, with the goal of bringing the document directly to the American people.

Declare Yourself is a national nonpartisan, nonprofit campaign that was founded in 2003 to empower and encourage every eligible 18-year-old in America to register to vote. For more information about Declare Yourself, visit www.DeclareYourself.com.

Additional information about Princess Cruises is available through a professional travel agent, by calling 1-800-PRINCESS, or by visiting the company's website at www.princess.com.

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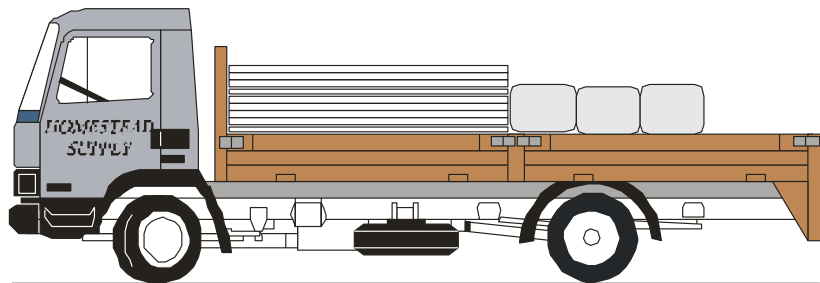
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"Get a jump on the Fire Season!"

Fishing, Chitina style

BY RICK KENYON

Once again the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church ran a fishwheel at Chitina for the benefit of church members and the community at large.

Though the fish were not as plentiful as other years, the two days (June 24-25) provided more than enough for the community meal planned for July 3 as well as fish for canning and freezing.

The wheel is owned by Cal Datta of Kenny Lake and used with his kind permission.

Sonny Asbury was the primary permit holder and attended the wheel for 48 hours.

His assistants were Kyan Kirby and John Rice.



Photo courtesy Kyan Kirby

Above: Rick and Bonnie Kenyon at the wheel.

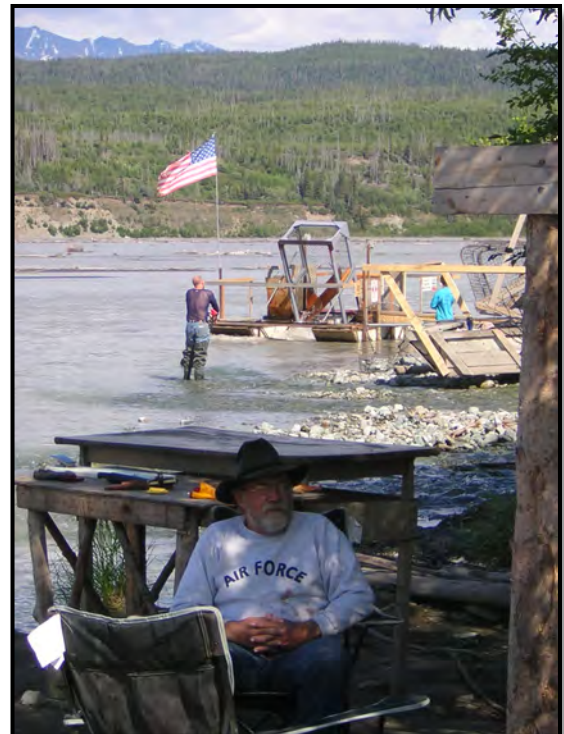


Left: Sonny Asbury and Kyan Kirby with a fine looking king salmon. Kyan was here last year and enjoys the McCarthy area. (See her Letter on page 35)



Photo courtesy John Rice

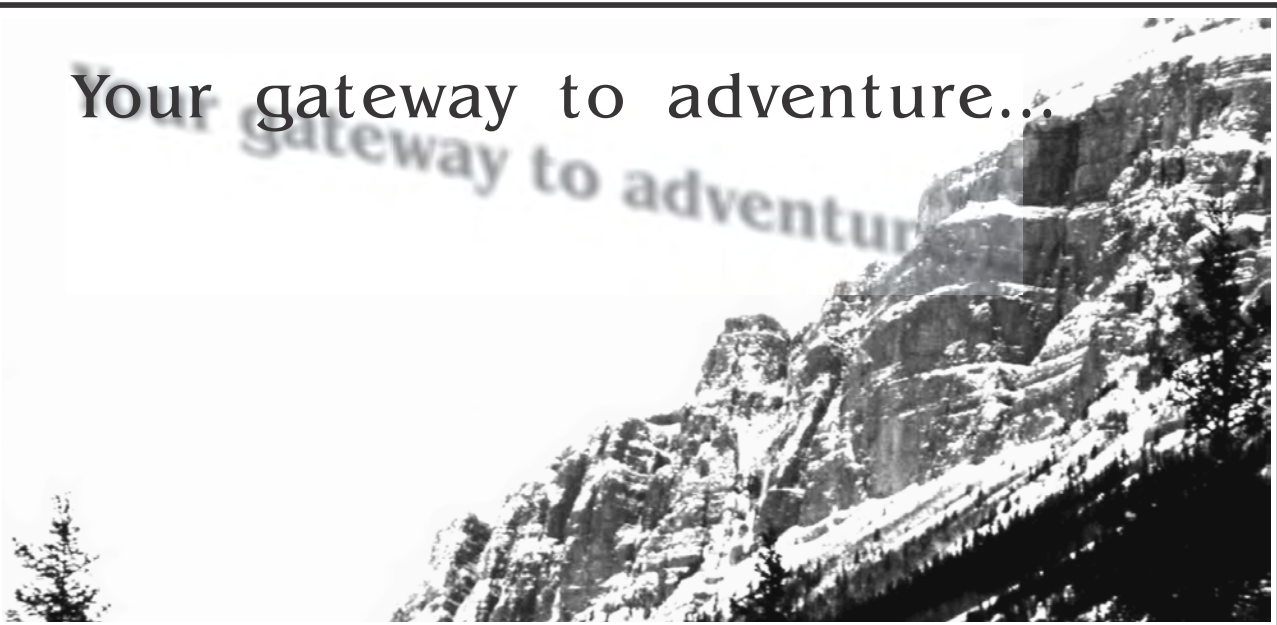
Typical Chitina fishwheel. Two large baskets are constantly rotating, being powered by the current. The fish are coming upstream and are lifted by the baskets and deposited in a holding bin on the side.



WSEN staff photo

Above: Sonny enjoys a peaceful interlude awaiting the next batch of fish. The person in the background wearing waders was dip-netting.

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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Friends, As I write to you I am sitting here at the window of our McCarthy home looking out the window at all the snow capped mountains in the distance and between here and there, all the beautiful green trees and wildflowers just come into bloom. It is breathtakingly beautiful. Our trip north was filled only with wonderful weather, beautiful scenery, and an abundance of wild life—bears, buffalo, moose, elk, caribou, deer, eagles, and even some llamas being raised on the farms. I guess I better come in from the woods and get into the kitchen though so I can do my job!

Here we are in the days of summer thinking of fresh fish, fresh vegetables and dessert. At least we here in Alaska are thinking that way! What could taste better on one of those days when you may be expecting some guests for dinner than a recipe I found in an old recipe book. The cover is gone and the book is in at least 5 pieces so I can't even give you its name, however the recipe is wonderful!

QUICK AND ELEGANT ORANGE ROUGHY (or cod or halibut)

1 to 1 ½ lb. orange roughy fillets
1/3 cup sliced mushrooms
¼ cup chopped onions
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon marjoram
¼ cup dry white wine
2 teaspoons lemon juice
¼ cup grated Monterey Jack cheese
¼ cup bread crumbs or dry stuffing mix (I like the stuffing)
½ cup melted butter

Sprinkle onions and mushrooms over the bottom of an oblong glass dish. Arrange fillets over the vegetables, overlapping only the thin part

of the fillets. Season the fish with salt, pepper and marjoram. Sprinkle the wine and lemon juice over all. Top with cheese and bread crumbs; pour butter over all. Cover with wax paper and microwave for 5 to 7 minutes on HIGH or until flaky.

NOTE: This may be baked in a conventional oven at 400 degrees for 7 minutes, covered and for 5 minutes more, uncovered.

I, personally, always prefer to bake rather than microwave especially out in McCarthy when power might be scarce. Just be sure not to over bake and dry it out.

Now, how about a couple of vegetable recipes. To be perfectly honest, I'm not a big fan of cooked vegetables — give me a raw one any day — BUT I do have a few like Bonnie's fried zucchini and eggplant parmesan that I love. In addition, I found one for carrots and another for eggplant that I can add to my list of "enjoyable cooked veggies." Both recipes I found in a cookbook I've had since 1977 whose proceeds went to benefit the American Cancer Society, Virginia Division, and had recipes in it that were contributed by Mrs. Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Gerald Ford, to mention just two. Again my books are yellowed and falling apart from use but wanted to share two of them with you. The first was contributed by a woman in Roanoke, Virginia.

LOG CABIN AND GLAZED CARROTS (serves 4-5)

½ cup Log Cabin Syrup
3 tablespoons butter
1 lb. cooked carrots (cook them to the consistency you like—of course, I like mine almost raw!)

Simmer ½ cup Log Cabin syrup and 3 tablespoons butter in skillet 2 minutes. Add 1 lb. cooked carrots— if carrots are large, cut into 3-4 inch

pieces. Cook slowly 10 minutes., turning frequently to glaze.

Now, how about one for eggplant. It was contributed to the same book by a woman from Alexandria, Virginia.

EASY EGGPLANT (serves 6)

1 large eggplant (I think she means one of our large eggplants in the lower 48)
6 large tomatoes, skinned
1 pound mozzarella cheese, sliced thin

Peel eggplant and slice cross-wise into paper thin slices. Blend tomatoes in blender until smooth. Butter a large casserole and make alternate layers of eggplant, cheese, and tomato, ending with top layer of cheese. Bake at 400 degrees for 45 minutes.

Now we go from vegetables to dessert (which of course I am always willing to do!). I was very lucky the other day because when I was talking to my sister, Kathie, on the telephone she happened to mention that a friend of hers, Birgirt Anderson, was stopping by to give her a piece of the cheesecake she was about to make! Well, I talked up a storm and convinced Kathie that there were so many WSEN readers out there that would love to have the recipe and that it would be necessary for me to taste it first. (Sounds good doesn't it?) So...for lunch today, Jim and I each shared pieces from two different kinds of cheesecake that were absolutely delicious. I'm going to share with you, my favorite readers, the recipes (Birgirt translated the first one from German to English) for each of the two cakes.

First, let me tell you a little about Birgirt. She was raised in Bavaria, Germany. Neither her mother nor grandmother liked to or had the time to cook and bake so Birgirt

took on the job at an early age. She got most of the recipes from friends. She met her husband when he was stationed in Germany. They married and moved to the USA. She still loves to cook and bake but the baking is her favorite. Most of her great dishes come more from memories using a handful of this or that than from an actual book but these two are written down. Hope you enjoy them as much as Jim and I do.

CHEESECAKE

4 egg yolks
 ¼ cup granulated sugar
 ¼ cup sifted flour
 2 cartons (2 pounds each) cottage cheese
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 2 teaspoons vanilla
 ½ cup heavy cream
 4 well-beaten egg whites
 ¼ cup sugar

Use your favorite pie-crust (use unsalted butter) and press into a well greased (unsalted butter) spring-form pan bringing at least a ¼ to ½ inch up the side. That will keep any of the mixture from oozing out. Put aside.

Whip the cottage cheese until all curds are smooth. If you don't have a sieve, use electric beaters or a food processor. There should be no lumps. Mix together the first seven ingredients.

In a separate bowl slowly add ¼ cup sugar to the egg whites while beating them until they form a medium to firm peak. OPTION: A handful of raisins or dried cranberries can be added right now, if you wish. Gently fold the egg whites into the batter. Pour into the pan over the crust and bake 1 hour or 1 hour and 15 minutes at 325 degrees. The center should be almost set. Cool and then place in refrigerator for 4 hours before serving.

Note: Birgirt doesn't use a graham cracker crust like so many of us do. Her crust is more like a pastry shell flavor and consistency.

CHEESECAKE 2

This second recipe Birgirt has adapted from the Philadelphia Cream Cheese container.

5 packages (8 oz. each) Neufchatel cheese
 1 cup sugar

3 tablespoons flour
 1 tablespoon vanilla
 1 cup sour cream
 4 eggs

Grease your spring-form pan with unsalted butter. Make your favorite pie crust recipe and press it into the well greased pan bringing at least a ¼ to ½ inch up the side. That will keep any of the mixture from oozing out.

Beat the cream cheese, sugar, flour, vanilla with mixer until blended. Add sour cream and mix well. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing on low speed after each just until blended. Pour over the crust. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour to 1 ¼ hours or until center is almost set. Cool completely. Refrigerate 4 hours before serving.

I hope you enjoy any of these recipes that you try and that you have a wonderful summer. If you have any questions or suggestions you can reach me at guj1072@q.com.

▲ LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

April 2009 saw average temperatures and below average precipitation. The high temperature for the month was 64 on the 30th (59 on Apr. 27, '08, 56 on Apr. 22, '07 and 50 on Apr. 22, '06). The low was 0 on the 1st (0 on Apr. 18, '08, -4 on Apr. 2, '07 and 0 on Apr. 1, '06). The average temperature for April was 34.0, compared to 34.1 in '08, 34.4 in '07, 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. Kennicott had a high of 58, low of 7 and an average of 34.6.

The precipitation for April was about average with 0.20 inches of liquid (0.50 in '08, 0.01 in '07, 1.14

in '06, 0.08 in '05 and 0.77 in '04). There was 2.9 inches of snow (7.0 in '08, trace in '07, 10.2 in '06, no snow in '05 and 8.7 in '04). Kennicott had 0.50 inches of liquid and 4.5 inches of snow.

The total snowfall at McCarthy for '08-'09 was 121.3 inches (73.4 in '07-'08, 44.7 in '06-'07, 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). Kennicott had 127.3 inches of snow (79.7 in '07-'08, 60.0 in '06-'07 and 96.9 in '05-'06).

McCarthy started April with 25 inches of snow on the ground and ended the month with 2 inches of snow.

The temperatures were about average for May. The high temperature for May was 78 on the 26th (70 on May 28, '08, 74 on May 25, '07 and 76 on May 26, '06). The low temperature was 23 on the 18th (22 on May 19, '08, 24 on May 8, '07 and 24 on May 17, '06). The May average temperature was 47.2, this compares with 44.8 in '08, 45.5 in '07, 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 3 days with the low of 25 or lower. Kennicott had a high of 74 on the 25th and 26th, a low of 30 on the 19th and an average temperature of 47.3.

The May precipitation at McCarthy was about average with 0.86

inches of liquid. This compares with 0.12 inches in '08, 2.50 inches in '07, 0.47 inches in '06, 1.64 inches in '05 and 1.05 inches in '04. There was a trace of snow on May 15th. Kennicott had 1.45 inches of liquid.

The ice on the West Fork of the Kennicott River began to break apart around April 28th and water was moving over the top. The river was clear of moving ice by May 3rd and all the shore ice was gone by May 6th.

The first third of June was warm and sunny with highs in the high 70's to low 80's. The lows were mostly in the upper 30's. There was only a trace 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. The first snow usually arrives sometime in late September.

ENJOY THE SUMMER WHATEVER THE WEATHER!

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Time to Seize this Opportunity

MEG JENSEN – WRANGELL SAINT ELIAS NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

Since coming to the Copper River Basin in November 2006 I have had the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with many individuals in the McCarthy – Kennecott community. These relationships have led me to a better understanding of many issues that affect both the local people and the park. Some of these issues have been easily resolved while others remain more challenging. In all cases, the dialogue has been indispensable in helping me understand the concerns of the individual and community as a whole. I have become aware of the challenges facing people who live, work and recreate in a remote location within the park. The challenges of running a business, working and living in this beautiful land are not for the faint of heart.

As superintendent of an ANILCA park and the largest park in the U.S., I also face challenges. One of the primary challenges is in finding creative yet legal ways to meet the intent of the laws and

regulations that guide park management and to do so in a way that responds to the real world needs of the McCarthy – Kennecott community. And, do this with existing budget and staff. There is no detailed cookbook in the NPS for how to manage a National Park in all situations. The NPS is learning more about managing ANILCA parks every day. In situations where laws, regulations and policies are ambiguous or appear to conflict, I may need to make a judgment call. I rely on your input in order to make an informed decision.

Some of our decisions significantly affect people, and this creates high emotional stakes in the outcome of the decision. Decisions, where the management guidance appears conflicted and the stakes are high, are the most difficult to make. These decisions are also the ones that generate the most public controversy. The park has worked with the McCarthy-Kennecott community on several issues in recent months. I have made decisions that have not been embraced by all involved. However, the discussion generat-

ed by these issues promises to lead to better long term solutions to many challenges facing the community and park.

Visitation to Wrangell St Elias National Park and Preserve in the McCarthy /Kennecott area increased 25% between 2007 and 2008, a big jump in one year. Visitors are enthralled with the natural wonders, historic treasures, and self-reliant pioneers who live in communities encircled by the park. More and more people will be attracted to our area, and this increased visitation, over time, will add to the variety and complexity of our opportunities and challenges as we move forward. We need to anticipate and address many of these before they become a crisis. We need to expand the dialogue, with park and community in tandem, and engage with one another year round. Let's expand our collaboration with one another, and institutionalize a deliberative process as decisions critical to us all are made.

We are now at a crossroads, facing both challenge and opportunity. I extend my hand – let's face them together.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May 15, 2009

Dear Publisher:

In accordance with your good advice (stated on the coupon included in the recent issue), I have attached the coupon and our check in the amount of \$25.00 for another two year subscription to your WSEN paper.

Thank you for your good work in producing an interesting and informative publication.

Sincerely,

Donald & Judy Morfield
Anchorage, AK.

May 27, 2009

Thank you for the great articles in every single issue! I always learn something new (or several things) and the recipes continue to be so good.

Katharine LaForest, Anchorage, AK.

May 23, 2009

I believe my subscription is due for renewal and I have enclosed my check for \$14.00.

I have enjoyed receiving my newsletter since I had the opportunity to visit you fine folks in McCarthy Alaska last year. Batten down the hatches —as I'm coming again the first of July. I will be staying with my brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Mary Golden. I'm preparing you all to brace yourself for an invasion of the Golden's.

I'm looking forward to spending some quality time at the Mercantile, my namesake—the New Golden Saloon.

See you soon,
Bill Golden, Neenah, WI.

June 4, 2009

Thank you so much for my July 4, 2008, grand time in McCarthy! It

is certainly different than Texas, my home state. There were so many things to do during the week I was there...cleaning salmon, watching the parade and games, visiting Kennicott.

I so enjoyed the free dinner, concert and Sunday service at the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church. I am returning for this year's events!

I am particularly excited about "The Alaska Awakening" at the Community Church with more activities this year. I understand it will be July 2-5. I can hardly wait.

I hope to meet each of you personally for all the events. I particularly enjoy praising our Lord God through song!!

See you there! And thank you,
Kyan Kirby, Millerview, TX



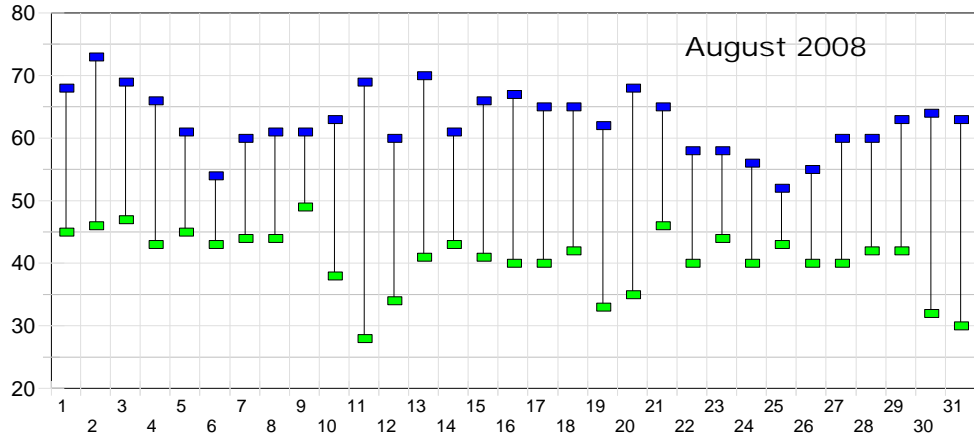
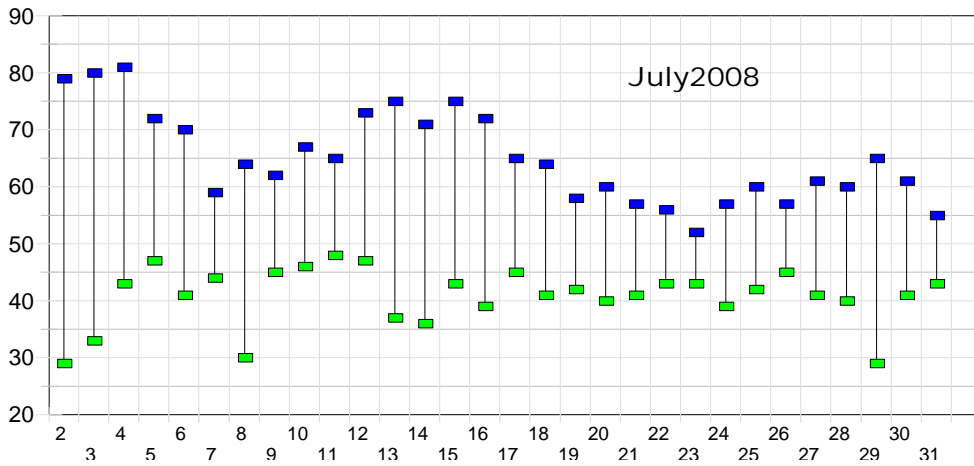
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