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Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Fifteen Issue One

January & February 2006

Two Dollars



Photo courtesy Nancy Ferrell

*WSEN wishes you a safe,
happy & prosperous
2006!*

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Happy New Year, readers of WSEN! It seems like we just wrote that, but a year has passed and a new one is beginning for us all.

Rick and I are enjoying the winter season here in McCarthy in spite of the adverse weather we have already experienced. Snow, ice, freezing rain and a week of very cold temperatures. We recorded -45 degrees as our minimum temperature that week. Neighbors check on each other, making sure everyone is staying warm. I am always thankful for the time we spent gathering our winter wood. One of our fall projects was building a new woodshed and filling it plum full. During that cold snap we found the shed a welcome sight.

We plan on mailing this issue on December 30. That will leave us a week to pack and close up the cabin and office before traveling to Florida and Georgia to visit family members. Rick's father, Carl Kenyon, lives in South Daytona Beach; my mom in New Smyrna Beach and son Rick Jr., and wife Maria and our four grandsons, Jonathan, 12, Stephen, 10, Joshua, 7, and Caleb, 5, live in Donalsonville, GA. The depth of winter is a wonderful time of year to pay them all a visit! The office will be closed between January 8 and February 2. If you want to contact us, you may do so by emailing us at wsen@starband.net. We check it frequently and will get back with you ASAP.

We hope you find our cover one worth saving. Our friend Nancy Ferrell, who has her roots in our little town, offered to let us use one of her beautiful photos of Kennicott. This scene is about 7 miles from our home and office. I would like to encourage you to check out Nancy's website at nanferrellphotos.com. She writes: "I get to live where people like to vacation...beautiful Alaska." Nancy lives and carries out her business in Anchorage, coming north to Alaska about 10 years ago. As she says, "I've been taking photos ever since." Another business venture Nancy is deeply involved in is her original and unique clock creations. You can view these as well as her photo collection on her web site and even pick up educational "tips" to make your own special memories. Thanks, Nancy! Another job well done.

I wish Nancy would have been on hand the other day when Rick and I were snowmachining home from the Rowlands. We came face to face with a bull moose who was enjoying the plowed, packed-down trail local humans had made. What a picture, I thought; however, that was just a fleeting thought as I searched for the nearest tree to duck behind. The snow alongside the trail was deep and had an icy crust between snow layers. I suspect Mr. Moose was fully aware of that and had already determined travel was much easier where he was and where we were. We would just have to wait while he finished his lunch! Rick finally revved the snowma-

chine engine and Mr. Moose decided he would give way to us. Naturally, we were thankful and relieved, but without a picture! We had left our camera at home.

As I put the finishing touches on this article, Rick is busy printing the rest of the finalized pages of the first WSEN for this new upcoming year. Rick and I joined with others in our town to celebrate Christmas Day yesterday. McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church held its annual Christmas program. I don't remember the last time Christmas Day fell on a Sunday but I was thankful to gather with others in remembrance of the true story of Christmas. Singing those ageless Christmas carols surrounded by neighbors and friends who are priceless gifts to me, filled my heart with gratitude. When Rick and I wrote and published our first (very small) edition of the *Wrangell St. Elias News* in July of 1992, we had no idea we would still be publishing it in 2006. Thank you for your continued interest in the stories and news we put forth. It is because of you we are still here doing what we are doing. You are valuable and we trust your new year will be a most blessed one!

WSEN welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Harlan Weitzenkamp, NE; Alan Christopherson, AK; Nathan Almquist, MN; Tom Hale, TX; Jim Buckingham, AK; Joseph Fedewa, MI; Joseph Gallant, AK; John Montepare, CO; Sheila Ristine, WA; Ashley Verplank, WA; Lois Taylor, CA; Tim Taylor, AK.

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Contributors to this issue: Ken Smith, Peggy Guntis, George Cebula, Don Welty, Hannah Rowland, Gaia Thurston-Shaine and Ned Rozell.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Anna Wallin: Winter is the time of year that many McCarthyites choose to visit family and friends. Anna decided to break up the season by going south for the Christmas holidays. After a week-long stretch of frigid temperatures that dipped down to -45, I'm sure Arizona with its sunshine and much warmer temperatures looked mighty good to Anna. Of course, her parents, Scott and Sally Wallin, and her grandparents, Jim and Peggy Guntis, all were eager to have Anna join in on the annual celebration festivities. According to Anna, they begin early and end late in the season.

In fact, she only had a few hours to change clothes and do some shopping after embarking from the plane in Tucson before her presence was needed at the Guntis's annual Christmas tree-trimming party.

Michelle Casey, Carl and Tracey Gressel: Saying goodbye is never easy, but it is something we all have to do at some time or another. Michelle was offered a job with Connecting Ties in Valdez this winter and she, Carl and Tracey have now relocated there for the present time. She assured us that she will be back as often as she can, but they are enjoying the amenities of a small city—running water, an indoor bathroom, a fully-supplied kitchen and heat at one's fingertips. Throwing in a library, a couple grocery stores and other shopping facilities all within walking distance makes Valdez a nice place to be—if you're not in McCarthy, that is!

We send our very best wishes to Michelle, Carl and Tracey in their new adventure!

Kennicott items: Marie Thorn of Kennicott (I'll refer to her as my roving reporter this issue) graciously wrote a depiction of life in the quiet (?) community of Kennicott this winter. It is much different than the hustle and bustle of summer.

"The greater Kennicott area, population 6 humans since Halloween, is home to 14 dogs as well. Tanker Mike Monroe is mixing tuna snacks with kibble for his own dog Samantha and has graciously adopted two more dogs until their respective owners return in late January. Keeping his floor warm is Anna Wallin's canine, Luna, and Rudy Richards, the 14-year old 'mayor of Kennicott' who survived his man father, Chris Richards, in a house fire during solstice 2001. We're all thinking of Chris and his family this time of year.

"Rudy, otherwise, was with Steve and Diane Thorn, Matt and Megan Smith, also of Kennicott, or Dave Williams and myself. We've all abandoned him for the holidays.... Thanks, Mike!

"At the home of Dave and Marie, cabin floor dimensions, 10 x 10, is a pack of 3 rabbit chasers—Husquvarna, Antionette, Rourke and Soltana Smith. Tana is in our care until Sunday the 18th when we will deliver her to Megan in Girdwood.

"Down the road are Chris Chester and Johnny McGrath. Chris is staying on the Sill homestead while Johnny is keeping a good eye on the Miller homestead. Chris has 6-month old Linda Lu from the summer 2005 McCarthy litter and Johnny has his hands full with the paws of Mouse, Moose (his own dog here from Califor-

nia), Xena, Angel, Dude, Tattoo and Morgan. Representing the feline contingent are Smirnoff and Bugs, the latter an albino who is deaf.

"Discussing all the personalities associated with these animals is highly entertaining, and hauling wood and water to keep these creatures warm provides us all plenty of exercise."

Ladies's Christmas Cookie Exchange rescheduled: Audrey Edwards was all set to play hostess to another annual Christmas cookie exchange for the ladies of the McCarthy/Kennicott area. The ladies were all set to attend. December 16th was the date and the Edwards's house was the place.

On that Friday morning, however, the participants awoke to one of those winter rains that causes trails and roads to turn into skating rinks. Walking to Audrey's house was out of the question; snowmachine tracks had nothing much to give them traction and those living on hills were unable to get down their driveways. Well... we determined they might be able to get down but getting back up was another story! Audrey decided the ladies would be best served to stay in the safety of their cabins and reschedule our festivity for another time. This time it will be a New Year's exchange. "Same time and place, but on Friday, December 30. Hopefully, the weather will be better and you can come," says Audrey.

The single men will have missed their usual Christmas cookie/candy plates, I'm sure, and for that we ladies of the community say, "We are sorry, but don't give up on us. There could be

some New Year's goodies in your mail box."

Neil Darish: One of those men who would have benefitted from the plate of goodies is Neil. When I called the McCarthy Lodge to see if he had any item of interest, he said he has been busy — working on the McCarthy 2006 Centennial Project, taking reservations and corresponding with returning staff for the upcoming summer season. Winter may be a quiet time for our town but not a time for inactivity as far as Neil is concerned.

Dan Elofsen: Speaking of holiday fare... Dan received a Christmas gift this last mail day from his mom, Mary Kaye Golden of Wisconsin. It was somewhat of a temptation for those of us who were on hand to sort mail. Dan's Christmas present was a box of Omaha Steaks and he was *not* on hand to retrieve the goodies for himself. It took courage on the part of the mail sorters (I was one) to resist starting a bonfire and "doin' in" those steaks! Dan's "assistant," Jeremy Keller, came to the rescue of his neighbor and offered to hand deliver the goods to their rightful owner. I hope you are counting your blessings this Christmas season, Dan!

News out Nizina Road: The Nizina Road is approximately 9 miles and down that way live some of my neighbors — summer and year 'round. At the present time, population is low in numbers but certainly not in quality. As I write this item, we are fast approaching Christmas and a good portion of folks are out visiting family members and some, like Kelly, Natalie and daughter Tessa Bay, are off on an adventure to places like Washington, DC. I'm sure Natalie is giving Tessa a real live history lesson in our nation's capital.

The Smith family — Kurt, Peggy and daughter Kelsey — will be enjoying the holidays tucked away in their cozy log home that Kurt built. Kelsey is staying busy with her homeschooling subjects. When Peggy is working her nursing job (this winter it is in Barrow), Kurt steps up to the plate and puts his instructor's hat on. I called them yesterday and Kurt answered the phone. He and Kelsey were making plans to drive to Fairbanks the next morning and pick up Peggy who will take her Christmas break with her family before returning to her nursing duties. Kurt said he had quite a list of projects he was working on but the major ones are bringing in the winter firewood and keeping his trails open. He was happy to report the McCarthy Creek crossing remained frozen during the most recent warm spell McCarthy endured. Traversing this creek can be a real challenge for my Nizina Road friends and neighbors.

The Keller family — Jeremy, Allie and son Bjorn — are close neighbors of the Smiths. The Kellers are back from a trip to visit family in Oak Park west of Chicago. If you read your last issue of *WSEN*, you will recall reading about Jeremy's accident while crossing the McCarthy Creek footbridge on September 17. Jeremy's leg is mending, albeit slower than he would like. What once was looked upon as a "new experience" for Jeremy is now seen as an "old (very old) experience." As is often the case for busy, active folks like Jeremy, it is difficult to stay off your feet. There are chores like firewood, caring for a large dog team that is just itchin' to mush down the road in hopes for something exciting to experience. Baby Bjorn loves accompanying his dad (via backpack) during chore time. Allie appreciates the

extra space and attention she can give to her winter job working for Wrangell Mountain Air. While the Bays are away, Allie answers emails, takes and responds to phone messages—all in the comfort of her snug cabin. Jeremy has dubbed his wife, "Super Woman." I can see why!

When Jeremy is not sprucing up his trails for future dog mushing expeditions or building a new snow/trail drag, he can be found fulfilling his position as president of MAC (McCarthy Area Council). Writing letters, making important phone calls and answering emails. Winter may be our slower season in McCarthy, but it certainly isn't a boring time of the year. At least not for the Kellers!

Back on the west side of the Kennicott River, I find the Welty family—Don, Lynn, René and Sarah —with plenty on their plate. Literally! In November Don, Lynn and René went deer hunting in the Cordova area and came home laden down with 4 deer and one "pesky" brown bear, says Lynn. It seems while Don and Lynn were packing out their winter meat, a bear decided he would give them a hand (paw?) and have a quick lunch to boot. Needless to say, Don has had his share of bear adventures so he didn't waste a moment deciding his next move. I think I better quit on this part of the Welty's item, as I suspect there is another *WSEN* story here that Don just might be willing to share with us all.

During the latter part of November and earlier in December, the Weltys enjoyed having two boarders, Tracey and Carl Gressel. Their mom, Michelle, preceded her kids to Valdez where she found a new home for her and her family. The two young people are now in Valdez and greatly missed

by friends and neighbors in McCarthy!

When I called Lynn yesterday, she updated me on the present happenings with her family. René is finishing up Phase 3 of Chugach School District's leadership program called Voyage to Excellence which is taking place in Anchorage. She did participate in several job shadowing projects and further pursued her interest in interior decorating. As a school project, René is redecorating a room in the Welty house and turning it into a TV/game room, using what she is learning and obtaining the materials to do the project.

Daughter Sarah has just arrived in Anchorage from Asbury College in Kentucky. She is meeting up with René and Don, who are also in the big city. The three will return any day now. While home alone (except for the chickens, dog Lady and dog boarder Tazzie Bay), Lynn has been working on a Christmas present or two, putting together a Christmas program for our local church and pulling out the holiday decorations and getting her home ready for her returning family.

Howard and Chris Haley: The Haleys always manage to stay busy. When I called today, Chris was working on a small project, installing a door knob to their new main bathroom. She tells me the room is nearly done now. Howard is working on trim work and they have hung the one and only "real" door in their house, on the new bath. I guess Chris is making up for the 2 weeks she has been gone. During the latter part of November, Chris traveled to Port Angeles, WA. to visit family; let's see... grandma, mom, aunts, uncles and nephews. She arrived back in McCarthy around Dec. 8. It took Howard a couple of days to brave the ice-laden McCarthy Road to

pick her up in Anchorage. Chris managed to miss a week-long cold snap, rain, and an onslaught of snow! She's not complaining!

A project they both are deeply involved in is researching the life of Howard's dad, Herb Haley. Herb died in an airplane accident in 1955 while Howard was a very young lad. He regrets not beginning this project 30 years ago, but tells Chris he was waiting for her to come into his life and give him a hand. She is. Finding people who knew Herb has been challenging but Chris's persistence is paying off for them both. Some of their contacts have led to pictures of Herb in his flying days as a pilot. He worked off and on for Cordova Air Service in the early 1950's. If any of *WSEN's* readers happen to have known Herb and can share stories, pictures, memories with the Haleys, please write Howard and Chris at: McCarthy #68, PO Box MXY, Glennallen, AK. 99588. If you would like to call them on the phone, their local number is 907-554-4496. They are both eagerly trying to fit the pieces together of Herb Haley's life.

The Rowland family —Keith, Laurie, Kaleb, David, Daniel, Hannah and Jubal: The most important item of interest concerning the Rowlands is a correction that I need to make. In last issue of *WSEN* I mistakenly wrote that Kaleb was in the 6th grade. The truth is he is in the 8th grade and has worked mighty hard getting there, too. As a matter of fact, Kaleb just turned 14 which is quite a milestone in his life. Kaleb, please accept my apology!

Laurie, teacher for her five students, should receive a great amount of credit for Kaleb's achievements. When school is in progress, she is 120% focused, as I've heard her say. I'm sure she misses her assistant, Anna Wallin, who is expected back in McCarthy early next month.

Keith, David, Kaleb and Daniel are doing well on their trapline, says Laurie. Also, the new Rowcon shop is getting a lot of attention these days. Rick Jurick of Kennicott is busy wiring the building for electricity.

Last, but not least, is Hannah's item of interest. She is well on her way to becoming a roving reporter for the *Wrangell St. Elias News*. Be sure to read her story on page 11!

Mark Vail: When I called Mark the other night, I caught him down in his root cellar. He managed to grab the phone before I hung up. I was glad. I was curious to hear the news from down his way. Things are extremely quiet for Mark this winter when it comes to human contact, but plenty busy and noisy when it comes to animal life —birdlife, that is. During the cold snap, the birds came out in full force to see if Mark could give them a hand in fending off the rigors of winter. Mark says most of the grosbeaks, nearly 50 chickadees, a few red polls and a tame female hairy woodpecker have remained in his neck of the woods where they find suet and sunflower seeds to augment their winter diet.

Refilling his wood shed is another project, says Mark, and chipping ice, items that are keeping a lot of us McCarthyites busy this winter.

Thank you! Those of us who travel to and fro in the McCarthy area want to thank those who make it possible to do so. After a challenging period with lots of snow and then rain, DOT's Chitina maintenance station, which services the McCarthy Road and airport, were able to get the McCarthy Road and the airport open. Thanks, Sam, Marty and Smitty!!

Also, on the thank-you list are our local operators —Lane Moffitt and Keith Rowland — for keeping our side roads and driveways open. With gas prices the way they are, it is especially good to let them know how much we appreciate their fine work!

Right-of-way question

BY KENNY SMITH

In McCarthy last summer a number of issue specific public meetings were held. These meetings were not sponsored by any recognized local organization but were apparently convened to take the pulse of the locals regarding west side of the Kennicott visitor parking and transport questions.

Speakers with expertise in various right-of-way and public parking matters addressed the assemblage. At the one meeting I attended, John F. Bennett, Chief of Rights-of-Way in the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' Northern Region addressed the gathering via a phone connect. Mr. Bennett spoke at length, answering quite a few questions. Some of which were probably not pertinent to the main topic under consideration.

What got my attention was Bennett's response to a question regarding a dedicated but undeveloped easement on a subdivision plat adjacent to the Kennicott River. His answer came as a complete surprise to me.

The specific question involved a dedicated street, Regal Street, in the West McCarthy Subdivision. Nobody has ever developed Regal Street although it was platted and dedicated for public use by the original owners. The question poised to Mr. Bennett was whether or not persons, not owners of property within the West McCarthy Subdivision, could go ahead and build that street.

Bennett responded that the act of doing so might not stand up in court. According to Bennett, a lawsuit way back in the 1970s in the Fairbanks area took under consideration a similar situation. He said that court had determined there must be "public acceptance" of an easement in addition to the

owner(s) of a subdivision dedicating the easement for public use on a plat. Public acceptance is recognized in a number of different ways according to Bennett. If I recall correctly, here are the circumstances he outlined under which a dedicated right-of-way meets "public acceptance."

- The access has previously been developed and used by the public.
- The dedicated access is necessary for property owners, in the subdivision, to gain entry to their property, even though it hadn't been opened up before.
- The access has been designated on a plat approved by the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources or by a political subdivision of the state such as a borough or incorporated municipality.

As a subdivider myself, this revelation concerns me since it contradicts some of what I assumed to be protocol with respect to access law in the state. It also contradicts opinion and the access practices of many contractors, surveyors and developers that I am acquainted with. Since this topic wasn't the principle reason the meeting was held I didn't pursue the subject other than ask a couple of questions. A few days later I talked to Mr. Bennett by phone and he was gracious enough to share his insights with me. Being this isn't an issue concerning state highways one shouldn't assume Mr. Bennett was representing the state in this regard, but he is a knowledgeable land specialist who was merely trying to help us out with some background information.

Apparently, around 1997 or 1998, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources began requiring all land owners and surveyors platting property in the state's unorga-

nized areas receive an approval of the plat from the DNR. Since I have three platted subdivisions in an unorganized area I checked this out. Sure enough, the ones in 1984 and 1985 didn't have DNR approval. But the one in 2001 did. Apparently, as a result of court ruling(s) that public acceptance of a dedicated right-of-way take place by approval from a government body and not merely by subdivisor(s) statement that the right-of-way is dedicated for public use, the DNR had imposed additional requirements. Even though this didn't occur until the late 1990s for unorganized areas, in organized areas, municipalities or boroughs have been approving plats for years, therefore, acceptance has occurred in these instances.

Even if a plat hasn't received approval from a government body, Bennett also suggested that there are two other means to achieve this "public acceptance." One being, previous development and public use of an easement, the other, the potential for use of an yet undeveloped easement by property owners within the subdivision whose property is adjacent to the easement in question.

The first question I posed to Mr. Bennett, for unorganized area plats in place before the DNR approval process came into being, was what if subdivisors of say, subdivision #2 platted property adjacent to subdivision #1, which had been previously platted, and based the road network within subdivision #2 on dedicated roads within subdivision #1, even though the roads in subdivision #1 had yet to be constructed. Mr. Bennett acknowledged that questions and arguments like that would probably have to be determined in court or through refinement of Alaska land law.

I asked about section line access provisions. Bennett responded

that most section lines, unless vacated, had already received public acceptance in accord with federal and state law.

I asked Bennett what was the difference between the dedicated Regal Street and the dedicated "McCarthy Highway" both of which are products of the West McCarthy Subdivision plat. In the case of the highway, the Alaska Attorney General's Office has even indicated, in writing, that the highway easement is a public right-of-way by virtue of the original owners dedicating it as such on the plat. Bennett responded that the public acceptance of that route came from the fact that the Alaska DOT&PF had been maintaining the highway for decades. I wanted to ask him, but didn't, how then is the Alaska Attorney General claiming 100 feet each side of center as depicted on

the plat for the McCarthy Highway when the DOT&PF has only been maintaining approximately 25 to 50 feet total width all these years? Wouldn't the argument that Regal Street couldn't legally be opened up be the same argument one could use to restrict the highway access to 25 to 50 feet?

In summary, be very careful before opening up a platted right-of-way even though it has been dedicated for public use by the subdividers of the property unless the plat has a stamp of DNR approval.

Bennett indicated to me he hadn't heard of any problems. But he seemed to agree with me when I pointed out that he had said that this is a relatively new development, which only began in the late 1990s after DNR came up with the public acceptance distinction. True, of

course, the problem may have originated back in the 1970s with the initial court action Bennett mentioned. It is my opinion that most people aren't aware of all this yet but after they are, in the ensuing stew of confusion, repercussions may begin bubbling to the surface.

Since this quandary involves the massive unorganized land areas in the state and perhaps thousands of plats without DNR approval, I believe it important that the Alaska Legislature and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources get involved and create enabling legislation for regulation that sorts things out and eliminates public anxiety, bewilderment, confrontation and unnecessary expense. Sometimes I question whether or not unorganized areas are being picked on in order to force organization.

McCarthy area celebrates Thanksgiving

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy:—Our town may be small in numbers, especially during the winter, but local residents of McCarthy and Kennicott make much of the holidays. Some times, however, it takes plenty of courage to venture out-of-doors.

Thursday, November 24, made its entrance with snow, mist, ice pellets and, last but not least, freezing rain. A few folks stayed home and celebrated around their own tables, but the majority walked or snowmachined to either the Tony Zak center or the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church to sample the traditional Thanksgiving dinner fare.

Kennicott resident Marie Thorn attended the Zak dinner which took place at 2:30 pm. Marie, who showed up early to get the wood stove fired up, discovered the stove pipe was plugged with ice. Thankfully another neighbor arrived in plenty of time to give Marie an extra hand at dislodging the ice. By the time the twenty plus guests arrived, Marie says the smoke had pretty much dissipated.

Two cooked turkeys were supplied by Joe Macchina of the McCarthy Lodge with a terrific variety of desserts. Once dinner was finished, Marie says some stayed behind to try their hands at a card game or two.

Another 15 locals showed up at the church at 4:00 pm. I attended this gathering and can attest to the great food and fellowship. Turkey, homemade dressing and gravy was prepared by Laurie Rowland. Plenty of side dishes and desserts filled the church's kitchen counter. While we relaxed from all the hard work of "eating," Anna Wallin set up her radio so we could catch the story behind Thanksgiving which came to us by way of a new local radio station, KIAM out of Nenana. To round out this special occasion, attendees gathered around the keyboard singing favorite songs and ended the evening giving thanks.

"No abounding of material prosperity shall avail us if our spiritual senses atrophy. The foes of our own household will surely prevail against us unless there be in our people an inner life which finds its outer expression in a morality like unto that preached by the seers and prophets of God when the grandeur that was Greece and the glory that was Rome still lay in the future." —Theodore Roosevelt

McCarthy Area Council discusses area roads and access

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy:—On November 25th fifteen McCarthy Area Council (MAC) members and locals met at the Blackburn Center. On the agenda were topics such as McCarthy Creek access and area road upgrades and maintenance.

Since the last MAC meeting of October 22, a preliminary survey of McCarthy Creek southside landowners has been sent out to help determine what kind of access is most desired. The survey requested the ranking of McCarthy Creek crossing options. Options included a tram, nothing, status quo, ATV capable bridge, a footbridge or a one-lane vehicle bridge.

Long-time MAC member, Meg Hunt, commented that the incoming responses will help refine the options leading to a group decision. She also noted that the traffic across the creek and down the Nizina Road is likely to continue to increase based on the current southside property owners as they begin to build and spend more time in the area. In addition, there is reason to speculate that there will be more property owners in years to come if and when the University creates new subdivisions.

Another MAC member, Neil Darish, an owner of McCarthy Lodge said he applauds the idea of learning the southside owners's opinions and looks forward to knowing what McCarthy town residents think, as well.

Parking in McCarthy is presently a serious problem. Those who live in the perimeters of the town are finding the scattered vehicles not only an eye sore but a vehicle can unknowingly block necessary access to cabins or local businesses. This does motivate some to cast a wistful eye at a vehicular bridge which would enable landowners on the southside of the creek to take

their vehicles home or at least across the creek. The few roads that meander through downtown McCarthy and to residential cabins are narrow and leave little room for parked cars. A small number of southside residents have received permission from individual McCarthy landowners to park their vehicle on private property. Even, then, the lots are small and leave very little room for extra vehicles and/or freighting materials.

Survey results as of December 19
Out of 65-70 surveys sent out, 29 have responded with the following results.

One-lane vehicle bridge, open: 10
One-lane vehicle bridge, locked: 5
Tram: 5
ATV bridge: 4
Status quo: 3
Footbridge: 2

It is hoped the preliminary survey will be completed by mid-February when an area-wide survey will be taken.

Then there is the challenge of maintenance of the Nizina Road—a state-owned road that dead ends at the Nizina River (it once went to May Creek) and is the major road leading to all who own property on the southside of the creek. To date DOT has not stepped forward to provide maintenance seriously needed on portions of the road. Landowner Kelly Bay, who lives at the end of the road, says this problem needs to be addressed before providing an upgraded access across the creek. Improved access will result in increased use of the road. Some are of the opinion that a vehicular bridge would aid DOT equipment or a private contractor to safely access the road for future repair. Whatever side of the McCarthy Creek access issue folks are on, MAC and other residents are explor-

ing and discussing the various options.

One option is to look into what local contractor, Keith Rowland, owner of Rowcon Services and Bridges, LLC could provide for a creek crossing. Rowland is builder and owner of the Kennicott River Service Bridge, a one-lane locked vehicular bridge which spans the river downstream of the Kennicott River footbridge. This bridge is open to pass holders only.

Jeremy Keller, president of MAC, reported that he had talked to Laurie Rowland the morning of the meeting to inquire as to what extent the Rowlands might participate. According to Jeremy, the Rowlands will further consider involvement when a consensual community decision has been made. If the community decides that they want some form of heavy vehicle bridge (gated or not) then Bridges, LLC would be more than willing to work with the community. If not, then their business is inclined to build a removable bridge that suits its personal business purposes and would not be left in the creek.

Another important issue discussed, was the lack of winter maintenance to date on the McCarthy Road and the McCarthy airstrip. Due to recent snowfall, the road was closed to vehicular traffic. DOT usually plows the airstrip after approximately 6 inch accumulation but this year 30 inches or more have built up without any maintenance. The situation has caused concern from locals as well as mail pilot Lynn Ellis of Ellis Air Taxi in Gulkana who flies the mail run twice a week.

MAC agreed to write letters to DOT concerning winter plowing for the road and airstrip as well as letters showing support for future McCarthy Road improvements.

The scheduled December MAC meeting has been canceled due to an expected low turnout.

National Park Service draft management policies document ready for review

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to update the policies that guide the management of the national park system. The policies are being updated to improve their clarity and to keep pace with changes in laws, regulations, socio-economic factors and technology. The revised policies will also improve understandings among NPS managers, and between NPS managers and the public, regarding how decisions are made in protecting park resources and providing opportunities for public enjoyment of the parks.

"These policies give our managers the tools they need to manage parks for now and for future generations," said Director Fran P.

Mainella. She encouraged people to read and analyze the draft document in its entirety and not as separate segments so they may understand that "these draft policies in no way increase the likelihood of more snowmobiles, cell towers, personal watercraft, commercial activities or reduced air quality" in the national parks.

In testimony before a Senate subcommittee recently, the NPS emphasized "the policies clearly underscore that when there is a conflict between use and conservation, the protection of the resources will be predominant."

The proposed policy, as well as a comparison between the current (2001) policy and the proposed poli-

cy, are available on-line at the following address:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?projectId=13746&documentID=12825>

There is also a link to the management policies from our home page, www.nps.gov.

The web site allows you to download individual chapters or the entire document. Note that all documents are MS Word files, except the last two (the Entire Draft and the Official Comparison version), which are listed in .pdf format.

Instructions on how to comment on the policy documents are available at the web site. Public comment runs through February 18, 2006.

Exciting news from Copper Oar

BY GAIA THURSTON-SHAINE

In early November, the sale was complete and it was finally time to let the news fly. Wayne Marrs (owner of St. Elias Alpine Guides) and I called friends and business associates in the McCarthy-Kennicott community to announce that we had purchased Copper Oar Rafting. After several months of planning and negotiating, we were relieved to have the decision finalized and be able to share our exciting news!

In addition to purchasing the rafting company, we also have plans to move the office building to a new location on the McCarthy Road, between the Hale family's lot and

Glacier View Campground. Here we will represent both Copper Oar and St. Elias Alpine Guides and offer parking and information to visitors as they first arrive in the valley.

I am extremely excited to be an owner of the company started by my good friend and mentor, Howard Mozen. Local residents remember well the early days of Copper Oar, when, as a young teenager, I was the junior guide, tagging along on trips and giving up anything for a chance to go down the river. As the years went by, I became a full-fledged guide, and then eventually one of the folks training new guides, showing them the secrets of the river. I am honored and excited

to be in a position to offer similar experiences to others.

Copper Oar looks forward to continuing relationships with the many experienced guides who have worked for the company in recent and not so recent years. We plan to have Howard, Tim Reidel, Mark Vail, myself and other faces from the past out there sharing our many years of experience with newer guides and treating our guests to local stories and knowledge.

Copper Oar and St. Elias Alpine Guides will keep their individual identities but will be run together out of all three locations: the Motherlode Powerhouse in McCarthy, the new West-Side office, and our office in Kennecott.

"Given [the] association of evil with unhappy people, it is quite remarkable how little attention is paid to happiness as a moral, rather than only a personal psychological issue. Too often the pursuit of happiness (not the pursuit of fun or excitement) is regarded as a selfish pursuit, when in fact it is one of the best things a person can do for everyone in his life and for the world at large. The Founders of America were brilliant in many ways, not more so than by enshrining that pursuit alongside the pursuit of life and liberty." —Dennis Prager

Farewell, *Copper Valley Bi-Weekly*; hello, *Copper River Record*

BY BONNIE KENYON

Glennallen: —Sam Lightwood is saying farewell to the *Copper Valley Bi-Weekly* and turning “this demanding child” —the whole kit and caboodle —into the most capable hands of Jim and Mary Odden. The new name for the Glennallen-based publication will be the *Copper River Record*. The great exchange will be official on January 1, 2006. “We hope to continue Sam’s tradition of service to valley communities, and maybe we’ll rope him into the occasional ‘Old Homesteader’ commentary,” says Mary.

In a message to his readers, advertisers and others, Sam writes: This is a notice that the issue of December 21st is intended to be the last in which I will be involved... Thanks to all subscribers, readers, distributors advertisers, writers, and photographers and friends and neighbors. Your support and patience has been much appreciated.

Mary worked with Sam since January of 2005 and began doing the editorial side of the paper in May. Sam says he is sure readers have noticed the “considerable im-

provement in content and appearance since then.”

Mary is no slouch in communication skills. She brings with her a masters in writing, a teaching background in English at UAF, in McGrath and at Prince William Sound Community College in Glennallen. “In fact, I’ll teach a class this spring; it’s something I really enjoy,” says Mary. “I worked for newspapers in Idaho and Montana way back when, and used to write occasionally for Linda and Jeremy’s (Weld) *Copper Country Journal* in the 1980’s.”

Jim retires from the state forestry in McGrath at the end of April 2006. The Oddens felt this new venture looked like a good opportunity to do the newspaper together. They plan to do this for several years at least. “We’ll see if it suits us and if it continues to feel as useful as it feels right now,” comments Mary.

A paper that is useful, thoughtful, a source of information, not sensation is Mary’s desire for the *Copper River Record*. A two-week interval allows the Oddens time to correspond with people they interview, not just hit them once. “We want to be an instrument for differ-

ent voices throughout the communities to be heard. A newspaper has always been an instrument of democracy,” says Mary. “We try to bring in other writers—including student writers. And we want to help give people in the valley a sense that we are in this together.”

Jim and Mary are working with Sam trying to get organized in order to pick up the details of running their own newspaper. One immensely vital detail is persistence—something Sam knows extremely well. Says Mary, “I’ve always admired Sam’s persistence in making sure there was a paper for this area for the last 30 years. He picked it up whenever it looked like there wasn’t going to be one. We’ve also always admired his values and his enterprises and his thought, so, in a way, we just felt like it was our turn.”

New addresses for *Copper River Record* are: Copper River Record, P.O. Box 277, Glennallen, AK. 99588. Phone and fax: 907-822-3727. Email: mail@copperriverrecord.com Web page: www.copperriverrecord.com

McCarthy Road upgrade disappears from STIP Commissioner says project still priority

BY RICK KENYON

The latest draft Statewide Transportation Improvements Program (STIP) caught area residents off guard. After being told that the project was “high priority” by Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) officials at a recent town meeting, the draft 2006-2008 STIP dropped all mention of upgrades to the McCarthy Road.

Although he did not explain why the project does not show in the STIP, Commissioner Mike Barton said the project was still on track. “Completion of the EIS remains a priority,” said Barton.

He also said plans for using the \$2 million from the state’s general fund were unchanged. He reiterated that a contract for brushing the edges of the McCarthy Road had been let, and plans were ongoing to

widen and improve the horizontal alignment at Hug-a-Boulder Bend.

“This will involve blasting into the existing hillside above the road,” said Barton. “The blasted material will be used to create riprap for placement at the Lakina River Bridge to repair erosion damage and will also be crushed to provide surface material for the road.”

Barton said they will be putting out a contract, to begin this spring, to crush approximately 25,000-

30,000 cubic yards of surfacing material from the Chokosna area (27 mile), which would allow resurfacing of 15 to 20 miles of road.

Asked about the \$5 million SAF-ETEA-LU Earmark for the McCarthy Road, Barton said it is still subject to the Congressional appropriation

process, and that State legislative authority to receive and expend is also needed.

Governor Murkowski has included \$6.25 million for the McCarthy Road in his proposed 2006 budget. The line item reads, "Perform major maintenance on

sections of the McCarthy Road. Improve the most critical sections of this route, important to tourism in Southcentral Alaska and access to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park." (\$2 million state, \$4.25 million federal)

Book review —The Alaska Almanac

Alaska's favorite fact book is celebrating 29 years of "setting the record straight." Since 1976, those looking for facts about the last frontier turn to *The Alaska Almanac* published by Alaska Northwest Books.

Updated each year, this affordable, best-selling guide offers accurate, timely facts on geography, history, economy, employment, recreation, climate and people of Alaska with the most "ests" ever—largest lake, tallest mountain, longest coastline, biggest cabbage and more.

Whether checking facts for a newspaper article or a school report, solving hotly debated disputes, or directing visitors to annual events, the Almanac is a handy, reliable source for the facts. As an added bonus, Mr. Whitekeys, one of Alaska's funniest men, continues to dig up some of the most extraordinary facts about the "Great Land." For instance, on page 78, Mr. Whitekeys writes: Alaskans are the second highest per capita consumers of SPAM in the nation. Winter hunters wisely take SPAM on the polar ice pack because SPAM doesn't freeze! Another interesting fact he writes

about is found on page 114: There are 152,500 bears in Alaska. Statistics show, however, that you are 100 times more likely to die in the U. S. A. from bees, wasps, or hornets than you are to be killed by a bear in Alaska.

The Alaska Almanac is edited by Nancy Gates and published by Alaska Northwest Books, an imprint of Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company. It measures 5 3/8" x 8 3/8", contains 240 pages, 50 black and white photos and 12 maps. It comes in softcover and sells for \$12.95.

Teenth Friday

BY HANNAH ROWLAND (AGE 9)—

On Friday, Nov. 18, all the kids in McCarthy got together for a Teenth Friday. To start us off, René Welty taught us about teamwork and leadership. She led us in some games that used teamwork, such as "Charades" and "The Alligator Hop." Then she told us about when she went to Maine and Utah with other young adults. While there, the group enjoyed a wilderness challenge and practiced their skills in leadership and teamwork.

Kelsey Smith and Tessa Bay gave a presentation about their sci-

entific work at Long Lake. They explained that salmon and other kinds of fish were spawning there. The girls are responsible for taking several types of tests once a month in this important body of water. They demonstrated to us how they filled a test tube full of water to test the chemicals in the water. Then they used a different tube to see if there was any dissolved oxygen in the water. They also used a net with a filter in it to skim off some of the bugs in the water so they could identify them.

After a small break, Matthew and Robert Shidner told us a little

bit about their upcoming Geography Bee. To study for the Bee, they colored in some land and waterways with different colors in their official Geography Bee practice workbook. They memorized as many facts from the book as they could. Soon, they will enter a contest with other students in grades 4-8 to see who can answer all the questions that the Bee officials ask them. We hope you do well in the contest, Matthew and Robert!

Our afternoon was topped off with a delicious chocolate cake that Cynthia Shidner made. Yuuuummy!

"The most important thing I have learned over the years is the difference between taking one's work seriously and taking one's self seriously. The first is imperative, and the second disastrous." —Margaret Fontey

Gold opened Alaska; but what is it good for?

While I was driving the Steese Highway recently, large piles of boulders lining the road—the tailings of a gold dredge that had munched its way through the area years before—inspired a debate on gold.

One passenger spoke of what an absurdity it is that we humans place such a high value upon gold. “If jewelry isn't your thing, what good is gold?” he asked. “You can't eat it. If a space alien were to land here and ask why gold is so valuable, I don't know what I'd tell him.” I looked around the car. Except for the wedding rings of my two companions, I saw no gold. Back at home, I once again failed to see any gold.

What good is gold?

My search for an answer led me to the *Minerals Yearbook*, published by the U.S. Department of the Interior. In the yearbook, Bureau of Mines geologist John Lucas explains that gold is in almost every office and home. Touch-tone phones, for example, have up to 33 electrical contact points made of gold. Take the gold out of the computer I'm now tapping this column into, and the computer won't work.

Low voltages and currents in modern electronic circuitry require connectors and switch contacts that conduct electricity reliably and con-

sistently. Gold doesn't corrode and conducts electricity better than any metal other than silver and copper. Gold also isn't affected by magnetic fields.

But don't go tearing old phones apart expecting a bonanza. One of the wonderful properties of gold is that it is so soft and malleable that it retains its conductive properties even when spread thin enough to barely cover the surface it's coating. Gold is so elastic that one troy ounce can be hammered into a sheet of gold leaf that covers 250 square feet. That same troy ounce of gold can be pulled into a 50-mile long strand of wire.

Gold is used in electronic equipment because it's dependable in extremes of heat and humidity. In the Hubble Space Telescope, for example, gold was used for contacts and connectors that will long outlive the telescope's usefulness. Astronaut's visors are coated with gold thin enough to see through because gold is a great reflector of the sun's heat and light rays. Glass used for house and office windows sometimes contains a layer of gold, and gold-coated mirrors are used by military aircraft to confuse heat-seeking missiles.

Fine powdered gold even makes one of the world's finest lubricants. Unlike oil, gold isn't affected by chemical breakdown and evapora-

tion. Gold, held in bar form in such places as Fort Knox, Kentucky, was once used to back up the paper money of many countries. But the “gold standard” became meaningless after World War I, when the U.S. and other countries began printing more and more bills. The value of the paper currency soon exceeded the value of the country's gold reserves. President Franklin D. Roosevelt removed the United States from the gold standard in 1934.

One of the densest metals, gold is 19.3 times heavier than water by volume. A cubic foot of gold, which would fit easily into a plastic milk crate, weighs more than 1,200 pounds. A cubic inch weighs nearly a pound.

Despite all its practical properties, only about 20 percent of gold mined today is used for circuitry, window-coating, and other non-jewelry purposes. The major reason we value gold so much is because there isn't much of it on the planet. According to the Bureau of Mines, if all the gold ever extracted on the planet were gathered tomorrow and molded into a square cube, that cube would be just 60 feet high and 60 feet wide. That cube would weigh about 264 million pounds. And what good would a house-sized cube of gold be, you ask? At least no one would be able to walk off with 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. This is a reprint from a column published in November of 1996. Ned Rozell is currently out of state.

“It is easy to think the State has a lot of different objects — military, political, economic, and what not. But in a way things are much simpler than that. The State exists simply to promote and to protect the ordinary happiness of human beings in this life. A husband and wife chatting over a fire, a couple of friends having a game of darts in a pub, a man reading a book in his own room or digging in his own garden — that is what the State is there for. And unless they are helping to increase and prolong and protect such moments, all the laws, parliaments, armies, courts, police, economics, etc., are simply a waste of time.” —C. S. Lewis

The World Around Us

By DON WELDY

Winter here in the Wrangells comes early, and leaves late.

The vast majority of our diverse bird population migrates out of the area, leaving a few hardy species behind to brave the long winter. Much to the delight of us winter residents, grosbeaks, chickadees, redpoll, woodpeckers, jays, grouse and ptarmigan are a few that choose to stay in the area.

Many of the migrant birds embark on long, seemingly impossible journeys to their wintering grounds. One such bird is the golden plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). This small shorebird has long distance cross country flying skills that make us pilots look like "bird brains."

Adult plovers arrive in Alaska in May and June, making their nest in dry tundra or tussocks. Both parents tend the three to four eggs until hatching, 26 days later. The male then leaves, with the female staying till the chicks can fly 23 days later. The female then leaves the young to fend for themselves, following the male to their wintering grounds in Hawaii and Polynesia. The young feed on insects, (no shortage of those here in the summer!) crowberries, and blueberries, fattening up for the long journey ahead.

It is beyond our comprehension how the adults find their way to Hawaii across 2300 miles of open sea. Even more how these young birds find their way, having never been there or having adults to show them. With nowhere to land, being unable to swim, the birds are not capable of making the long non-stop flight with the available fat reserves.

How then do they ever make it? The birds somehow know to flock up with other juveniles and hold a v-formation, allowing them to increase flight efficiency by 23% over

solo flight. They somehow also know to fly at the optimum, energy efficient speed, according to their particular weight and shape. This gives them an impressive weight to fuel consumption rate twenty times more efficient than our flying machines.

Eighty eight hours and 250,000 wing beats later these inexperienced aviators reach the Hawaiian Islands. It is still unknown how the birds know how much fat is needed for the trip and how to arrange to have this precise amount at the proper time. It seems they are able to calculate distance and specific rate of fuel consumption for a place they have never been.

Even more impressive is their system of navigation. Only a 5 percent error and they miss the island, this is not a process of trial and error. Without maps or compass, G.P.S., or flight instruments this juvenile "bird brain" finds its way over 2300 miles of featureless sea, continuously compensating for wind speed and direction, darkness and adverse weather. The question of how these birds complete this "mission impossible" remains unanswered.

A large number of disorientation experiments have been carried out with homing pigeons in an attempt to understand how birds accomplish complex navigation. This bird's navigational capabilities extend beyond the bounds of our imagination. Even when birds were anaesthetized for the outward journey, or if their cages were rotated continuously, they were able to return home from far away. Simply having a sense of direction is not enough for this type of navigating; they have to have a sense of geographical location relative to their home territory. The tendency to drift off course due to winds must be compensated for continually to fly a direct route. Merely homing in

would not compensate for wind drift and would lengthen the route, as many beginning pilots learn. In the case of the plover, such a curved course could prove fatal. Similar to an autopilot, they seem to be able to sense and adjust throughout the trip. Just where this autopilot is located in the bird, and how this information for operating is coded, is not known.

Birds are truly an image of God's creative power, invisible attributes, and eternal power (refer to Romans 1:20). A real stumbling block to evolutionary thinking with the incomparable feather, unique respiratory system, and "autopilot," just to name a few. The challenge to evolution does not come simply from a few fanatics, but from the study of nature itself, defying man's self-proclaimed wisdom. "Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed times; and the turtle dove, the swift, and the swallow observe the time of their coming, but my people do not know the judgement of the Lord." (Jeremiah 8:7) Get to know the creator, bypassing this judgement, through faith in Jesus Christ, giving thanks for this wonderful world around us.

References:

1) <http://www.aquatic.uoguelph.ca/birds/speciesacc/accounts/plovers/dominica/account.htm>

2) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Golden_Plover

3) <http://www.scsc.k12.ar.us/2002migratio/Projects/CarpenterD/Default.htm>

4) <http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/pubs/notebook/bird/plovers.php>

5) <http://www.icr.org/index.php?module=articles&action>

6) <http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation>

Check out websites 5 and 6 for more information!

THE CHITINA LEADER

January 1914 February

DANCE AT CHITINA NEW YEAR'S EVE

The crew of the rotary report a very pleasant dance at the Chitina Hotel, Chitina, on New Year's Eve. There are quite a few strangers in the town and these together with the residents formed a pleasant party. The old year was ushered out and the new one in with appropriate festivities.

BLACKSMITH WILL STAY RIGHT WITH CHITINA

Fred Walter, the blacksmith at Chitina has denied the report that he was to close his shop and accept a position with a mining company. He has a good location opposite the stage office and is always on the job ready to shoe horses or do blacksmithing of any kind.

Jan. 6

The analytical results of the water at Nabesna show it to be highly mineralized and the quantity of lithia present is exceeded by not more than three of the well-known waters marketed. And thus the prospect of another industry for Alaska looms up big, especially as practically all of this water is owned by Henry Bratnober, capitalist and mine owner.

JOE STANTON GETS VALDEZ-GULKANA CONTRACT

Joe Stanton, the mail carrier, has secured the government contract to carry two mails a month from Valdez to Gulkana during the months of June, July, August and September, for which he is to receive \$1,400 from the eight trips.

The contract held by James Fish for the past four years called for the payment of \$1,950 for the service.

Stanton's contract will run for the next four years.

Dr. E. F. Montgomery writes from Shushanna Junction that he has returned to the end of the track for another load of supplies. He was accompanied on the trip over the glacier by Mr. Greenwood and another man. They had one horse, a double-ender with 300 pounds of freight and made the trip from Shushanna over the glacier to Shushanna Junction in two days. The first night they spent at Clark's roadhouse and the next day were in town. The doctor believes the party holds the record for quick winter traveling from the diggings to the railroad.

Dr. Hale, the dentist, has gone on his regular professional trip to Kennecott and other points along the railroad.

Supt. Jack Ingram, of the Alaska Road Commission, with a force of 16 mechanics left for McCarthy on Thursday to begin construction work on the Nizina Bridge. It is expected that it will take about 90 days to complete the bridge, it depending somewhat on the stability of the ice in the river, upon which it is intended to lay the false work.

The new federal jail at this place, being built by Deputy Marshal Wm. E. Wood is about completed, and will be dedicated on Saturday evening with a barn dance, given by the deputy marshal to his friends.

The Mother Lode people have begun hauling ore from the foot of their tramway, to the railroad, at McCarthy. In all they have about six hundred tons sacked, which is destined for the Tacoma smelter.

No longer will the station on the C. R. & N. W. Railroad from which the stampedeers to Shushanna take their departure from the railroad to the diggings be known as McCarthy. The name of the place has been changed and is now officially known by employees of the road as Shushanna Junction. The new name will be less confusing to stampedeers and Alaskans generally as there is a place on the Tanana river known as

"McCarthy." The name "Shushanna Junction" identifies the place with the mining district as no other name would.

Jan. 13

Maude Earle, well known in the interior camps since the early Dawson days was an arrival from the interior on the train last evening. She comes from the Shushanna having traveled from Ruby to the new diggings and out over the glacier by dog team. She made the trip from Shushanna to McCarthy in three days and then sent her team to Fairbanks to be cared for until her return from the outside.

Last night Griff Ellis, who is employed on the Copper River Railway as engine watchman at Shushanna Junction, met with an accident, which was not discovered until 7 o'clock this morning, when he was found unconscious. Griff had evidently fallen from an engine, during the night, and when picked up by the train crew the extent of his injuries could not be ascertained.

MINES TRIBUTARY TO CORDOVA

The current issue of the Alaska and Northwest Mining Journal devotes considerable space, not only to advertising Cordova and the opportunities presented here, but also contains a resume of the different mining properties,

tributary to this place, and the work being done on them, which makes interesting reading and is herewith republished:

Bonanza Gold Mining Co.

Located 1 ½ miles from railroad at Mile 192, 475 feet above track. On Porphyry mountain, formation quartz stringers in porphyritic granite. Driving tunnels following a series of stringers. Started at 3 inches wide, deepened out to 9 inches, in first five feet, and is holding to that. Tunnel is now in 192 feet with 100 feet of depth, following ore. Sending 3,500 pounds to Tacoma for mill test March 20th. Expects to work 50 men this summer. Now has two shifts working, night and day. Will put in Pelton water wheel, compressor and three drills.

Barrett, on Mile 191, near the track, grew oats, timothy, rye and clover, and all cured well. Has been eliminating seeds; this will be fourth year. Second year growth was by far the best. Barrett took first prize, a bronze medal of A. Y. P. for spuds raised in Alaska. Expects to grow same crops this year.

Tjosevig Property

Chris Tjosevig has a promising group of claims, located on left arm of Kennecott Glacier. Works all year round. Copper runs from chalcopryite to calcacite. This property now being examined by Eastern capitalists with a view to purchase.

Blackburn Mines, Ltd.

Operating on the Green Group on McCarthy Creek. Located on both sides of Nizina river, above mouth of Chittistone, 23 miles by river from railroad at Mile 191, 12 miles direct. Have 250 feet of tunnel completed and will work 12 men

this year. High grade copper, chalcocite and bornite in lime. Will do a lot of development work this year. J. E. Barrett, manager.

Houghton-Alaska Copper Co.

Next to Mother Lode, on same formation as the Bonanza. Expected to be opened up on a large scale this summer.

Porphyry Quartz Co.

J. E. Barrett and John Bloomquist, free milling low grade proposition running from 40 cents to \$51.00 per ton in various assays. Will average about \$4. Located 1 mile from Mile 193 on railroad.

Bonanza Mine

Now has 300 men working, with a monthly output of over half a million dollars. Most wonderful copper mine in the world. Large bodies of 70 per cent undeveloped. Mine been in operation three years and four million dollars in dividends declared. The ore now being mined is a chalcocite. Immense bodies of chalcopryite are in reserve.

The Kennecott Mines company are operating the Bonanza mine, to which a railroad, 196 miles long, was built from Cordova, so that the ore could be taken out for treatment. During the past year much attention was also paid by this company to their Jumbo and Erie chalcocite deposit, which is situated about a mile northwest of the Bonanza. Sufficient development work has been done to put this property on a shipping basis. All development work has been paid for from the ore. A tram has been installed to carry the ore to the railroad—a distance of about four miles.

Mother Lode Property

Extensive development work has been done by the Mother Lode Copper Mines Company, on their property located across the mountain from the Bonanza mine. During the past summer considerable ore was taken from the tunnels and 500 tons were sacked and will be shipped out to the smelter this month. Under the direction of Geo. E. Baldwin a tram, three-quarters of a mile in length, has been built from the mine down the mountain to McCarthy creek, along which a road has been built twelve miles to the railroad at Mile 191.

Jan. 27

C. F. Boggs, who conducts the Glacier roadhouse, 33 miles from Shushanna diggings on the McCarthy-Shushanna trail has written an interesting letter to the Daily Alaskan. He says that during the past month the weather has been exceptionally fine, only two days being stormy. No fatalities occurred on the trail nor were any horses lost.

The location of the Glacier roadhouse enables Mr. Boggs to keep count of the travelers to and from the diggings. He reports that during January 57 men and two women, with 13 dog teams and 31 double enders passed his place bound for Shushanna. During the month there were 62 men, two women, seven dog teams, 43 double enders, and eleven head of loose horses came out. The mail and express have traveled off time, making two trips each day during the month.

Feb. 20

Clinton J. Griffith, of Kennecott, has taken over the McCarthy Hotel and will

hereafter conduct it under the name of the Hotel Golden. Mr. Griffith plans remodeling the building and conducting a strictly up-to-date hotel. He has also been granted a liquer license and has ordered bar fixtures and equipment.

CHITINA, Feb. 23 —

Recent arrivals from Shushanna state that while no new discoveries have been reported many miners, who have spent the winter working on the creeks are busy sawing lumber for sluice boxes and otherwise preparing for next summer's activities.

Many large outfits have gone over the glacier to the diggings during the past few weeks for miners who are planning extensive operations next summer. The miners who came into the country via the White River route strongly condemn the route and are coming to McCarthy for supplies having used up their outfits in getting into the country.

The game warden is after those who have been slaughtering game out of season and a number have been tried and heavily fined. The new federal building is nearing completion.

The young men, E. W. Harris and A. L. Hanot, who recently came over the trail report it in fine condition for fast traveling. They made McCarthy in 21 ½ hours from Chisana on foot.

While crossing the glacier recently Oscar Breedman had the misfortune to lose one of his best horses in a crevasse in the glacier, near Boggs' roadhouse. It was one of the big iron greys of which Oscar was very proud.

Feb. 27



Alaska National Parks Seeking Public Comment

Alaska's National Parks are inviting comment on each park's Compendium. The Compendium is a compilation of all designations, closures and restrictions imposed under discretionary authority within the regulations covering national parks. The Compendium, as part of the park-related regulations, helps provide for the use, enjoyment and protection of Alaska's National Parks.

A copy of each park's proposed compendium for the 2006 season is available at www.nps.gov/akso/compendium. A written copy may be requested directly from the park or the National Park Service, 240 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501, Attn: Compendium.

Comments will be accepted by mail or e-mail between January 1 and February 15. Comments are welcome at any time in addition to this timeframe, but comments received after February 15 will be considered in future compendium revisions.



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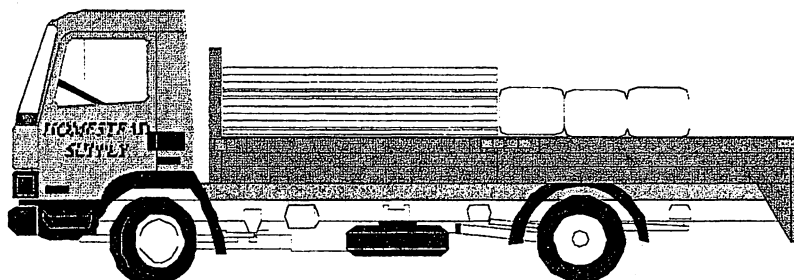
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Hit the slopes but slap on the sunscreen

Sun protection is a must year round

New York, NY (December, 2005)— If you are one of the 10 million skiers or snowboarders expected to hit the slopes this winter season, remember to pack your sunscreen. It is easy to think that being in a cold environment does not put you at risk for sunburn, when in fact ultraviolet (UV) rays can be even more damaging on the slopes than on the beach.

Skiers and snowboarders may be unaware of the dangers they face from the sun while on the slopes. For every 1,000 feet of elevation, ultraviolet exposure increases by about 8-10 percent. So a skier with an average complexion, at 11,000 feet above sea level in Colorado, will burn at noon after 6 minutes of unprotected sun exposure, compared to 14 minutes in Orlando. In addition, snow reflects about 80% of the ultraviolet light from the sun, only compounding the problem and further increasing the risk for skin cancer.

"Statistics show that fewer than 20% of Americans wear sunscreen all year-round," said Perry Robins, MD, President of the Skin Cancer Foundation. "That is not enough, considering the sun shines 12

months a year and UV rays are present year-round no matter what season, altitude, temperature or time of day."

To protect yourself this ski season, follow these important sun protection tips:

Use sunscreen whenever you spend time outdoors. Both snow and strong wind can reduce the effectiveness of sunscreen, so remember to:

- Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher.
- Apply sunscreen liberally and evenly to all exposed skin.
- Be sure to cover often-missed spots: lips, ears, around eyes, neck, scalp and hands.
- Reapply at least every 90 minutes, and more often after sweating or exposure to wind and snow.

Cover up.

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Tightly woven fabrics and dark colors offer more protection.
- UV-blocking sunglasses with wraparound or large frames protect your eyelids and the sensi-

tive skin around your eyes, common sites for skin cancer and sun-induced aging.

Be mindful of time spent in the sun, regardless of the season.

- Keep track of the time you spend in full sunlight.
- If you are on the slopes for most of the day, take a few breaks indoors to reapply sunscreen.
- Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration from the sun.

Always remember, in ice and snow wear a hat, sunscreen and lip balm, and slip on some sunglasses to cut down on the sun's reflection. To find out more about how to protect yourself from the sun this winter and all year-round, visit www.skincancer.org, or call 1-800-SKIN-490.

The Skin Cancer Foundation is the only national and international organization concerned exclusively with the world's most common malignancy—cancer of the skin. The mission of this non-profit organization is to increase public and professional awareness about the prevention, early detection and treatment of skin cancer.

WRST update and news

BY BONNIE KENYON

The following update and news was sent to WSEN by Vicki Snitzler, Acting Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve on December 16, 2005.

Superintendent Jed Davis and his wife Nancy are settling into their apartment in Anchorage. "Jed is continuing the treatment regime that he started at Gerson Institute in California. His latest bloodwork shows that his liver function is good

and the tumor has not grown. Jed is feeling very positive about his treatment and is feeling well, though very tired," writes Vicki.

NPS employees have been able to meet with Jed regularly via phone, video conference or in person when they are in town.

"He thanks everyone for their support and kindness. If all his tests go well in February, Jed is hoping he will be able to start making plans to return to the Copper Basin," says Vicki.

She passes on the news, "I will be passing the Acting Superintendent 'hat' to Danny Rosenkrans, Park Lands Specialist, in early January."

Rick and I pass on our thoughts and prayers for Jed's speedy recovery and return to his desk at Copper Center. If you would like to drop Jed a note of encouragement, you may write him at: 1101 Cordova Street, Apt. 341, Anchorage, AK. 99501.

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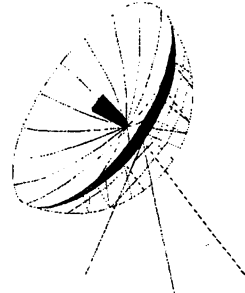
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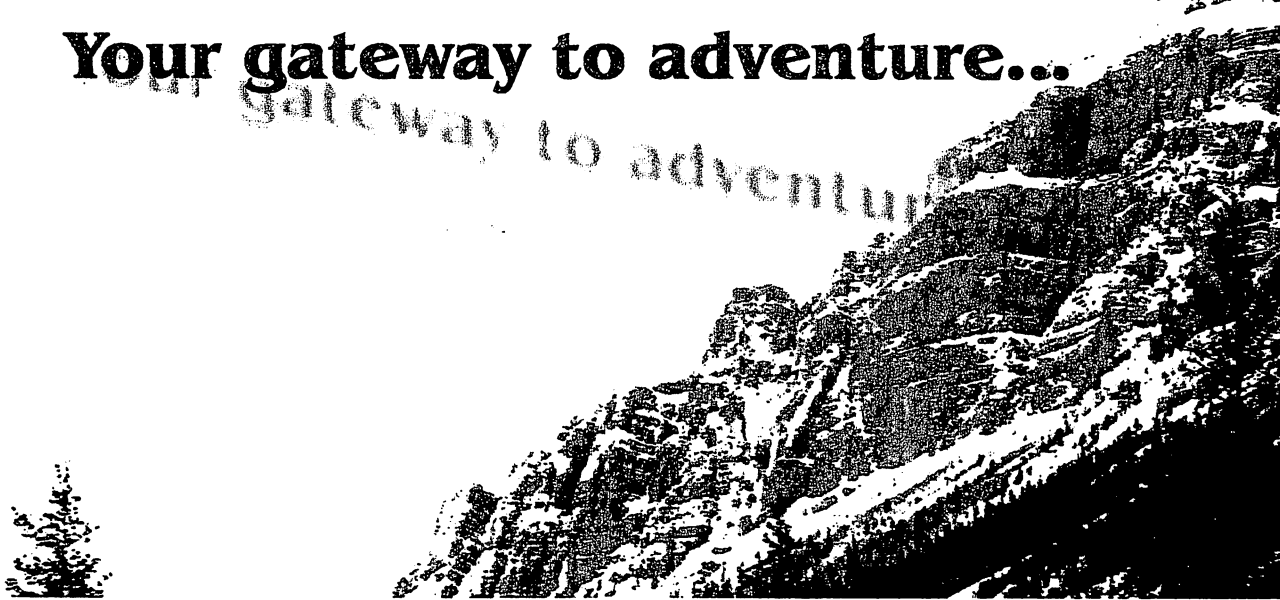
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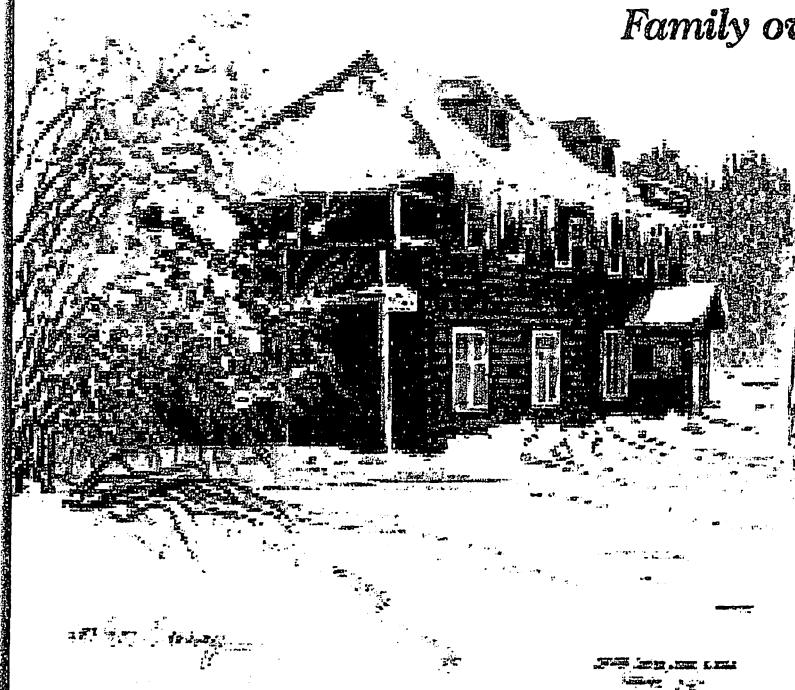
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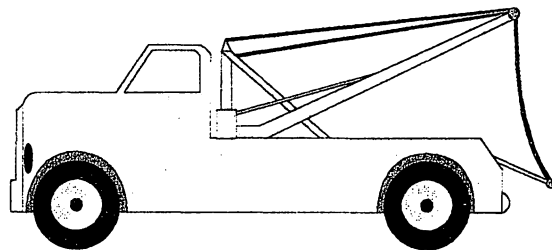
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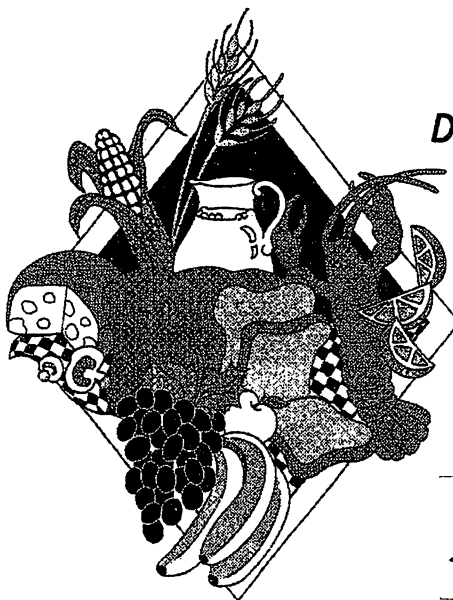
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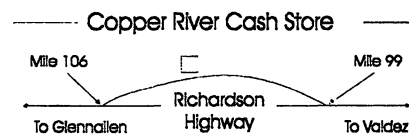
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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNNIS

Here we are in the dead of winter and hungry again! Don't you wish we could be more like the bears and give up eating for a few months? After sitting a lot more than I should have last summer, I'm trying to take some pounds off and being surrounded by holiday desserts didn't help any. I'm trying to get my mind in the right track by thinking VEGETABLES.

I wish I were a lover of cooked vegetables (just love those raw ones) but I'm not—maybe it's because they are so good for you. I do have a few recipes for you though that I actually like.

First is a favorite from a very special person, Bonnie Kenyon. If I haven't given you this one before I should lose my job because Bonnie's Zucchini Pancakes are the best, bar none. First you must understand the word zucchini and the word ZUCCHINI. A "zucchini" is the kind I get at home that are about 5-6" long and about 1 1/2" in diameter. A "ZUCCHINI" is the kind that come from her garden that are at least 24" long and at least 5-6" in diameter. Bonnie and I can split one and each get a couple of meals!

BONNIE'S ZUCCHINI PANCAKES

2 cups grated unpeeled zucchini
2 tablespoons diced onion
1 tablespoon parsley (freshly-cut parsley is the best!)
1/2 cup flour
1 egg, well beaten
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
olive oil

Mix all ingredients (except the oil) and drop like pancakes into a pan of hot olive oil. Use just enough oil to cover the bottom of the pan. Fry the pancakes until golden brown on both sides. Makes 10-12 pancakes.

(Note from Bonnie: I wish I could take full credit for this delicious recipe, but it is found in one of my favorite cookbooks called, "Cooking Alaskan by Alaskans." The recipe was submitted by Mamie Jensen of Juneau. Rick and I eagerly watch our zucchinis grow so we can flip these pancakes onto our dinner plates.)

MY MOM'S EASY BAKED BEANS

I always keep the ingredients around for these beans. Jim loves them and they are a nice side-dish during winter or summer.

2 16-18 oz. cans pork and beans (I always use Campbell's because that's what she used)

3/4 cup brown sugar

1 teaspoon dry mustard

6 slices bacon cut up into pieces

1/2 cup ketchup (I always use Heinz because I'm from Pennsylvania and because Mom used it.)

Mix all the ingredients and bake at 325 degrees for 2 1/2 hours. I partially fry my bacon a little so I can throw away some of the grease but she never did! This recipe is supposed to serve 8 but you know my Jim!

ASPARAGUS CASSEROLE

18 saltine crackers
1 can long spear asparagus
4 hard-boiled eggs
1 small jar pimentos
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 cup grated cheese

In a casserole break up 18 saltine crackers. Add 1 can long spear asparagus and juice. Slice 4 boiled eggs on top. Add 1 small jar pimentos. Pour a can of cream of mushroom soup over the top and sprinkle with 1 cup grated cheese.

Bake at 325 degrees about 30 minutes.

CABBAGE AND NOODLES

This is a favorite of my sister Kathie. She just called me the

other day and was all excited because she had just made it again. This is kind of one of those recipes that the amounts aren't real definite so you can use what you want.

1 medium-to-large head of cabbage
2 or three onions (if you like onions)

Garlic salt

Noodles (cooked) (about 3/4 of a lb.

Bag she said)

1 stick of butter

Slice the cabbage and onions into thin slices. Melt the butter and then mound the cabbage and onions into the pan. Sprinkle the seasoning on the cabbage and then push it down so you can get a lid on and let it cook until tender. Cook and drain the noodles. Mix the noodles with the cabbage mixture, retaste for seasoning and serve warm.

(Cook the cabbage until done and just add the noodles to heat up. You don't want to overcook the noodles.)

SPINACH CASSEROLE

I happen to love spinach so I wanted to include this one that a friend gave me back in '86.

2 cups cottage cheese

1/4 cup butter cut up

1/4 lb. Velveeta cheese, cut up

3 tablespoons rounded, flour

2 pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained.

Dash salt and pepper

Combine ingredients and put in a greased 1 1/2 quart casserole.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Can be made the day before and baked just before serving; can be frozen before baking.

BROCCOLI AND LIMA BEAN CASSEROLE

1 - 10 oz. pkg. frozen chopped broccoli

1 - 10 oz. pkg. frozen baby lima beans

1 pkg. dry Lipton onion soup

1 cup sour cream

- 1 can cream mushroom soup
- 1 can sliced water chestnuts
- 2 cups Rice Krispies browned in 3 tablespoons butter or margarine

Cook vegetables as directed on package. In greased casserole blend together onion soup, sour cream, mushroom soup; add sliced chestnuts and vegetables. Put browned Rice Krispies on top. Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

Now for one we had last night for dinner that Jim and I both liked.

PASTA AND VEGETABLE TOSS

- 1 cup broccoli florets
- ½ cup sliced carrot
- 1 garlic clove, minced

- ½ of a medium sweet red pepper, ½ of a medium green or yellow sweet pepper, sliced thin
- ½ cup sliced mushrooms
- ¼ cup sliced celery (optional)
- ¾ cup tomato or V-8 juice
- ¼ cup chopped fresh basil or the equivalent in dried
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese

6-8 oz. of uncooked penne rigate or fettuccine if you prefer

Cook the pasta according to the package directions. Meanwhile in a large nonstick skillet, saute the broccoli, the sweet peppers, carrots, mushrooms, celery and garlic in

about 1 tablespoon of oil. Add the juice, the basil and the salt and pepper. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered for about 3 minutes. Add the drained pasta to the vegetable mixture and toss to coat. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. This makes about 4 servings.

Once again, if any of you have any suggestions, recipes, or requests, e-mail me at jgelec@starband.net or mail them to me at 11270 E. Golf Links Rd., Tucson, AZ 85730. I'd love to have some recipes that use those won ton or egg roll wrappers and some "light desserts."

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

October 2005 was rather warm and with average precipitation and some snow.

The average temperature for October was 30.0 (31.1 in Oct. '04 and 32.0 in Oct. '03). This was about 4 degrees above normal. The high was 52 on October 7th (52 on Oct. 7, '04 and 75 on Oct. 2, '03). The low was -1 on October 30th (-5 on Oct. 23, '04 and 0 on Oct. 31, '03). There were 2 days with the low 10 or lower and 5 days with the high of 50 or above. *This compares with Silver Lake's average temperature of 30.8 (32.7 in Oct. '04 and 32.6 in Oct. '03). The high at Silver Lake was 51 on October 2nd (53 on Oct. 4, '04 and 70 on Oct. 3, '03) and their low was 10 on October 22nd (7 on Oct. 23, '04 and 5 on Oct. 31, '03). Silver Lake had 1 day with the*

10 or lower and 1 day with a high of 50 or above.

The total liquid precipitation was 0.40 inches (3.27 in Oct. '04 and 0.61 in Oct. '03). About a third of the precipitation fell as melted snow, with a total snowfall in October of 3.7 inches (12.3 in Oct. '04 and 3.5 in Oct. '03). *Silver Lake had 0.40 inches of liquid (3.70 in Oct. '04 and 0.67 in Oct. '03) and 7.5 inches of snow (7.5 in Oct. '04 and 1.0 in Oct. '03).*

The snow depth at McCarthy was 1 inch on October 26th and increased to 3 inches on the 31st. *Silver Lake had 4 inches on October 13th and ended the month with 0 inches. Silver Lake saw the first ice begin to form on October 29th (Nov 1, '04, Oct 29, '03, no ice Oct. '02, and Oct. 26, '01).*

The first half of November saw below average temperatures and average snowfall. The data for the

second half will be missing as I will be away until February.

Here are a few totals as of November 14. The high was 15 on November 10th (43 on Nov. 10, '04) the low was -32 on November 6th (-7 on Nov. 17, '04). Liquid precipitation was 0.55 inches with 10.4 inches of snow, compared with 0.95 inches and 5.5 inches of snow in '04. There was 9 inches of snow on ground, up from 3 inches on November 1st. The Kennicott River was completely covered with ice the morning of November 14th. I'll do my best to summarize November in the next issue.

December and January are usually the coldest months with lows falling to -50 and colder.

Daylight is down to just under 5 hours by December 21, before it begins to increase again.

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FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin addresses an issue of personal responsibility that is fundamental not only to our civil society but to our humanity: the ethics of speech. He reminds us that the Golden Rule should apply not just to how we act toward others but how we speak about them. His presentation was delivered during the September 1995 Center for Constructive Alternatives seminar "Fiction and Faith".

WSEN printed this in the March & April 1996 issue but the message is timeless and bears repeating.

Over the past decade, whenever I have lectured throughout the country on the powerful, and often negative, impact of words, I have asked audiences if they can go for twenty-four hours without saying any unkind words about, or to, anybody. Invariably, a minority of listeners raise their hands signifying "yes," some laugh, and quite a large number call out, "no!"

I respond by saying, "Those who can't answer 'yes' must recognize that you have a serious problem. If you cannot go for twenty-four hours without saying unkind words about others, then you have lost control over your tongue."

Just think about your own life for a minute. Unless you, or someone dear to you, has been the victim of terrible physical violence, chances are the worst pains you have suffered in life have come from words used cruelly—from ego destroying criticism, excessive anger, sarcasm, public and private humiliation, hurtful nicknames, betrayal of secrets, rumors, and malicious gossip.

Testing Your Speech

There is no area of life in which so many of us systematically violate the Golden Rule. Thus if you were about to enter a room and heard the people inside talking about you, chances are what you would least like to hear them talking about are your character flaws and the intimate details of

your social life. Yet, when you are with friends and the conversation turns to people not present, what aspects of their lives are you and your companions most likely to explore? Is it not their character flaws and the intimate details of their social lives?

All too often, many of us criticize others with harsh, offensive words, turn disputes into quarrels, belittle or humiliate others, and inflict wounds that last a lifetime.

The Power of Words

One reason that many otherwise "good" people use words irresponsibly and cruelly is that they regard the injuries inflicted by words as intangible and therefore minimize the damage they can inflict. For generations, children taunted by playmates have been taught to respond, "Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words (or names) can never hurt me." But does anyone really think that a child exposed to such abuse believes it?

An old Jewish teaching compares the tongue to an arrow: "Why not another weapon - a sword, for example?" one rabbi asks. "Because," he is told, "if a man unsheathes his sword to kill his friend, and his friend pleads with him and begs for mercy, the man may be mollified and return the sword to its scabbard. But an arrow once it is shot, cannot be returned."

The rabbi's comparison is more than just a useful metaphor. Because words can be used to inflict devastating and irrevocable suffering, Jewish teachings go so far as to compare cruel words to murder. A penitent thief can return the money he has stolen; a murderer, no matter how sincerely he repents, cannot restore his victim to life. Similarly one who damages another's reputation through malicious gossip or who humiliates another publicly, can never fully undo the damage.

Words, quite simply, are very powerful. Indeed, the Bible teaches that God created the world through words. At the beginning of Genesis we learn, "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." I would submit that human beings, like God, also create with words. Consider the fact that most, if not all, of us have had the experience of reading a novel and being so moved by the fate of a character that we have cried, even though the character who has so moved us doesn't exist. All that happened was that writer took a blank piece of paper, put words on it, and through words alone created a human being so totally real that he or she is capable of evoking our deepest emotions.

Words are powerful enough to lead to love, but they can also lead to hatred and terrible pain. We must be extremely careful how we use them.

A Jewish folk tale, set in nineteenth century Eastern Europe, tells of a man who went through a small community slandering the rabbi. One day, feeling suddenly remorseful, he begged the rabbi for forgiveness and offered to undergo any form of penance to make amends. The rabbi told him to take a feather pillow from his home, cut it open, scatter the

feathers to the wind. The man did as he was told and returned to the rabbi. He asked, "Am I now forgiven?"

"Almost," came the response. "You just have to perform one last task: Go and gather all the feathers."

"But that's impossible," the man protested, "for the wind has already scattered them."

"Precisely," the rabbi answered.

(Condensed and reprinted with permission from IMPRIMIS, the monthly journal of Hillsdale College.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Rick & Bonnie,

Just scanned through the latest issue.

WOW there is a lot going on in your neck of the woods :-)

I must admit that I have pretty much stopped reading most newspapers - too depressing and slanted in viewpoint...

But your publication is always read from front to back! It is always informative and I love the way it gives a special insight into your community and neighbors.

Thanks for another great issue!

Mary

Dec 2, 2005

I wanted to let Bonnie know the gift subscription that Lynn and Jeannine Moeller ordered for Harlan came in yesterday's mail. Both of us are looking forward to reading it. When we are finished I'm sure we will pass it on to Lynn and Jeannine so they can enjoy it too.

We had a great time visiting your area this past Aug. The 3 days we spent in that part of the country was the highlight of our 18 day trip. After we toured the Kennecott mine Harlan was ready to come home.

Figured it couldn't get any better than that.

Our stay at Ma Johnson's and meals at the restaurant were a pleasant surprise. Good service, good food and great people.

Hope all have a wonderful Holiday season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from Harlan and Nancy Weitzenkamp
Oakland NE

NPS subsistence log permit

The National Park Service has released for public review an Environmental Assessment for a subsistence house log permit in the McCarthy Creek area of Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve. The Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared according to requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, applicable regulations, and agency procedures.

The public review period is December 16, 2005 through January 17, 2006.

The NPS preferred alternative would issue a special use permit to the applicant that authorizes the

harvest of 120 subsistence house logs in the upper McCarthy Creek valley.

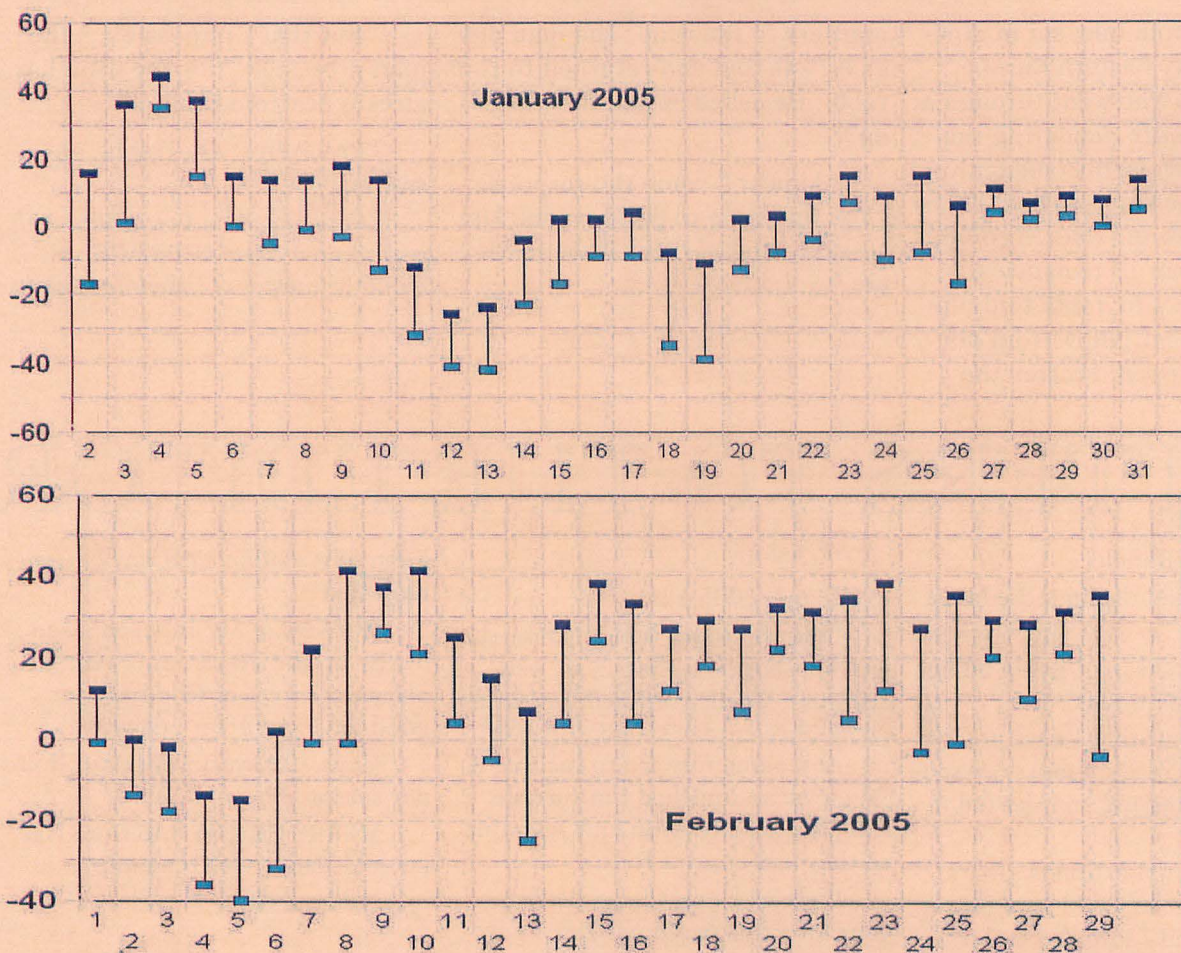
The applicants would be allowed to harvest dead standing timber only during the winter, subject to applicable policy, permit procedures, and conditions. The applicants would not be allowed to harvest subsistence house logs greater than 0.5 mile from the designated route; or within 300 feet of McCarthy Creek or any other water body.

If you would like to comment on the EA, the document may be obtained by contacting Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve at

907-822-5234, Post Office Box 439, Copper Center, Alaska 99573. Copies will also be available at the mail shack in McCarthy, Alaska. Comments on the EA may be sent by mail to the park at the above address during the public comment period.

Interested parties may also review and comment on the EA online. Go to the NPS website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> to retrieve the EA and provide your comments online.

If you have any questions, contact Steve Hunt, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 907-822-7242.

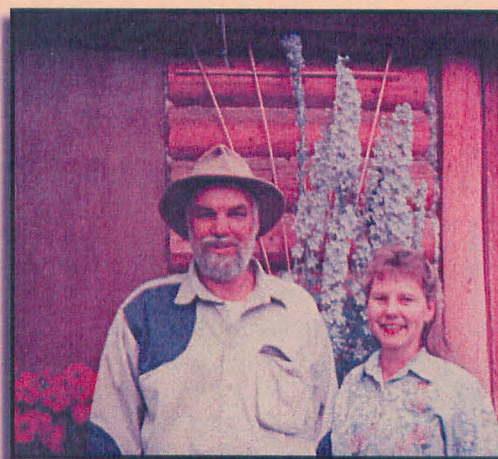


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