

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Sixteen Issue One

January & February 2007

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Pilgrim update

Papa pleads "no contest" — says only has months to live

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12th Annual Ladies' Cookie Exchange

You can judge the winter population of the McCarthy area by how many ladies turn out for the annual Ladies' Cookie Exchange. As you can see by the photo at right, this is a lean year!

Left to right: Lynn Welty, Betty Adams, Hannah Rowland, Bonnie Kenyon, hostess Audrey Edwards. Jeannie Miller is taking the photo.



WSEN staff photo

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Happy New Year —2007 —to you, our readers! Rick and I trust this year is your best ever!

McCarthy is starting the year off with 12 inches of snow —not much compared to the rest of the state I hear. However, it's twice as much as we had 2 months ago when Rick and I were putting the final touches on the November/December 2006 WSEN. Most of the then-exposed rocks are covered and make snowmachining much more enjoyable.

Shortly after we mailed our last issue, Rick and I headed to Anchorage where we caught a plane to Daytona Beach, Florida. Rick's dad, Carl Kenyon, my mom, Neta Schafer, my brother Ron, wife Rhonda and their three boys all live in that area. We all celebrated Thanksgiving together along with our son, Rick Jr., his wife Maria and our 4 grandsons, Jonathan, Stephen, Joshua and Caleb, who drove down from their home in Donalsonville, GA. It made a very memorable family reunion. Long-time subscriber and close family friend, Wayne Wilber, also joined in on the festivities.

Daytona was experiencing January weather in November so we

Alaskans were very comfortable. Sadly for our neighbors, McCarthy was experiencing January weather in November also. Our minimum thermometer recorded -41 while we were gone.

Although we mailed the November/December WSEN on November 8th, quite a few of our readers did not receive their copy until the first week of December. We apologize for the delay. It seems some issues travel quicker than usual and others are held up en route somewhere.

Rick and I thank all our subscribers who sent us Christmas cards this year. Todd Salat, your 2007 Alaska's Spectacular "Wild Things Calendar" is beautiful! The photography and natural history is superb. Thank you for thinking of us. If any of you would like to view or order Todd's work, please visit www.salatshots.com.

I want to thank my neighbor Jeannie Miller for her assistance in taking the picture that is on this issue's cover. The one you took came out better than the ones I snapped. The only downside is that you didn't make the picture and I did!

Kenny Smith has provided us with another recollection from his memory bank of historical figures.

His story of Frank DeCaro is found on page 6. The picture of Frank is hanging up in the McCarthy Lodge courtesy of George Herben and so our thanks go out to Neil Darish and George for their use of this fine photo.

Recently we received word that there has been a plea agreement in the Robert Hale (Papa Pilgrim) case. The trial had been scheduled for January 16th in Glennallen. Rick has written an update which you can find on page 8. Last, but not least, our thanks go to our regular contributors Peggy Guntis, George Cebula, Don Welty and our most recent Neil Darish. Rick and I appreciate the extra mile you each go to give of your expertise to us and the WSEN readers.

WSEN welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Online — William McKinney; Jenny Rosenbaum; Andrew J. Cesare; Robyn McGhee; Rick LaComa. Nick Liberrati, IL; Walter Becker, AK; Kenda Chapman, AK; Peter Browne, WA; James and Laura Hron, MN; Joseph and Bernadine Satterfield, OH; Linda and Clair McCord, OH; Judi Morach, AK.

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Contributors to this issue: Peggy Guntis, George Cebula, Ned Rozell, Don Welty, Neil Darish and Kenny Smith..

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Dave Hollis: My first item of interest this issue comes all the way from the Big Island in Hawaii. Dave sent Rick and I several picture post cards (one of Dave decked out in Hawaiian attire, standing in front of a bike shop where he picked up a *recycled* “new mongoose” bike complete with front and seat shocks. “A smooth ride,” he writes). The following is Dave’s item of interest written in his own words:

“After working for the park service through September, I visited my folks in Florida. They were well, so I headed to Hilo, Hawaii in late October. I’m renting a nice room near downtown until January —then I’ll head home to McCarthy. I’ll be staying in a cozy cabin up in Kennecott —with spectacular views of Mount Blackburn. But first in mid-December I’ll be hiking and backpacking with Dave (Williams) and Marie (Thorn) in awesome Volcanoes National Park here on the Big Island. It should be fun!”

“Winter in Kennecott will be beautiful and very peaceful, but somewhat lonely. I’m looking for single female correspondence. I’m 52, single, never married, with no children. My interests include hiking/backpacking glaciers and mountains, and bicycling dirt roads and trails. I have very limited e-mail access in winter. Please snail mail me at: Hollis/37-A, McCarthy, PO Box MXV, Glennallen, AK. 99588-8998.”

By the way, Dave, thank you for the delicious ground coffee that you included in the package. Rick and I are enjoying it, especially during these cold winter mornings!

Neil Darish: It may be winter in McCarthy when things *usually* slow down, or come to an abrupt halt. Neil, however, is not one to let the grass grow under his feet or, to be in tune with the season, let the snow pile up beneath him. With the lodge, gift shop and restaurant (to name a few) closed for the winter, I expected Neil to kick up his feet and enjoy the solitude. Not so!

When he suggested Rick and I come over for a “show and tell,” I knew he was doing anything but that. Instead he said, “Jeremy Keller, Jason Lobo and I have been busy finishing up the remodeling of my house. I am re-organizing the office and winter storage for the lodge, and now I have a new space for all those starts for the landscaping and greenhouse. I am already browsing through seed catalogues! Meantime, I just completed the new brochure for the lodge and getting lots of planning done for next season. I have been on CVT [Copper Valley Telephone] power this winter—and I will power CVT this summer, so it is nice and quiet in town these days!”

Okay, so he is enjoying the solitude, but at the same time, NOT kicking up his feet in the manner I thought.

Howard and Chris Haley:

The Haleys don’t let the snow build up under their feet either. Howard has been working on a major upgrade of their power source. He and Chris are now enjoying the fruits of his labors. A new SKW Northern Lights Diesel generator is in place along with a large battery bank to store all that good energy and to complement this fine set-up are new Outback invertors.

Chris is making use of all that good “juice” and getting ready for spring —she’s building swallow houses. During the cold weather spell that occurred during the Thanksgiving holiday week, she pulled out all her old photos, sorted them and sent her extra copies to her brother. When that project was accomplished, and the cold temperatures were still hanging on, she decided to can some moose meat, fish, veggies and, last but not least, mix up a batch of her grandma’s apple butter. Chris tells me that now that the cold snap has snapped out of it, she is taking her chores to the outdoors by catching up (if that is ever possible!) on cutting unwanted brush on the property.

Recently Howard returned from the city sporting a new 2006 GMC truck. The Haleys brave the McCarthy Road frequently (for locals) and need a good set of wheels to do it properly and safely. Chris drove it over the other day when she came to give Rick and I haircuts. She admitted Howard had to

give her a few operating lessons before she could even start it up and adjust the driver's seat. And Chris is really handy with mechanical things. I'd say Howard is staying busy these days just trying to figure out what all those buttons do. Congratulations, Chris and Howard, on your new purchase.

Cal Ward, Jr. and son Joseph: Cal and Joseph stopped by the other day and we had a nice visit over a cup of tea. Cal Jr. is considered a "year-rounder" now. He says he started his cabin when he was 18 but is now back at age 48 and finishing it up. Although Cal doesn't live in our immediate neck of the woods, he is still considered a McCarthy resident.

When he drives down here on his snowmachine like he did the other day, I'm guessing it comes out to be an 8-mile trip one way. He and the rest of the Ward family own property at the base of Fireweed Mountain. Rick and I have known them for quite some time but we don't see them as often as we'd like.

Joseph is 21, has a college degree in aviation and is a pilot for Frontier Flying Service of Fairbanks. He loves flying those twin-engine planes, he says, but he is also enjoying building up some time in his dad's "bush" plane, a SuperCub. Cal Jr. reminds me that there is a big difference piloting a twin-engine turboprop and flying a plane like this. It sounds like Joseph is handling it like a pro. I cannot help but think that it does run in the Ward family. Cal's brothers, Art and Doran, are both pilots and had a good teacher — Cal Sr.

Cal's older son, Randy, 29, was also out to visit him a couple of weeks ago. Randy presently lives in the Palmer area but is preparing to move to Sitka where he has a state job awaiting him. It seems the last time Rick and I saw Randy was when he was a very young lad while he was visiting his grandparents, Cal and Pat.

Cal, just in case we haven't welcomed you back properly, here's a big WELCOME!

Update on Gene and Edith Coppedge: Many of our subscribers know and have visited the Coppedges who were owners of Silver Lake Campground located at Mile 11 of the McCarthy Road. As we reported in a previous issue of *WSEN*, Gene and Edith, finally said their goodbyes to neighbors and friends and headed to the warmer climate of northwest Georgia.

We are happy to report that they arrived safely at their new home (Edith's hometown) of Summerville. "This is a beautiful part of the country, but not like Silver Lake," writes Edith. Living conditions are much easier in their new location. Can you imagine inside plumbing, running water, gas and electric, garbage and trash pickup and mail delivered at the front door? Edith and Gene are counting their new-found blessings.

It wasn't easy to sell their home and business of many years, but due to health problems and old age difficulties living off the beaten track, our friends, the Coppedges, made their decision to turn their faces south. Writes Edith: "It was hard to leave Alaska, 40 years of accumulation and 40 years of pre-

vious friends. The accumulations we left behind, the friends and family we brought with us in our hearts, and hope to see all of you in Heaven. We thank God for all our friends and family."

McCarthy Creek tram site inspected: On November 2nd, the Department of Transportation sent Engineering Manager, Steve Henry, of Fairbanks, and Steve Oswald, Engineering Assistant, of Valdez, to the McCarthy area to view the McCarthy Creek tram right-of-way. According to Henry and Oswald the two-day visit was a "reconnaissance trip" only. Please stay tuned for their final report and response.

New NPS superintendent visits McCarthy: Meg Jensen, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve's newly-appointed superintendent, paid a visit to McCarthy during the second week of November. According to Ed LaChapelle, who hosted the informal gathering at his cabin in downtown McCarthy, the occasion brought out 8-10 local folks. Local and park politics were not discussed but the main focus was on meeting Superintendent Jensen and introducing her to the community.

FISHING DERBY 2006: Well, it's that time of year again, says Jim Kreblin, our Long Lake ice-fishing Grand Marshal. Dig out your fishing rods, fellow fisherfolk, and sharpen up those hooks and lures. Jim announces this year's derby —our third annual —to take place on Saturday, March 24th. Just in time for spring break. No particular starting time, says Jim, but most local participants usually begin arriving between 9 and 10 a.m. (Say, Jim, could you have Nomad

start digging the holes earlier this year?)

McCarthy's Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange: The 12th cookie exchange took place on Friday, December 15th at Audrey Edwards' home on Swift Creek. The following ladies came by car, 4 wheeler and foot: Jeannie Miller of Kennicott; Betty Adams, Hannah Rowland, Lynn Welty and Bonnie Kenyon, all from the west side of the Kennicott River.

What we may have missed in quantity, the ladies made up in quality of their favorite Christmas fare. The warm and friendly conversation covered a wide variety of subjects: fixing flat tires on the McCarthy Road (ask Jeannie Miller about a tool that is a "must" for all area ladies); the challenge of taking our daily walks in the middle of winter; raising, butchering, and eating (or why you cannot eat!) home-grown pigs; cell phone service in McCarthy, along the McCarthy Road and in the city; or what it's like vacationing in Hawaii. Betty wondered what ladies in New York City talk about at their Christmas cookie exchanges! The rest of us were not quite qualified to answer that question.

Among the delightful lunch fixings Audrey had awaiting us were: chicken nuggets; deep-fried, stuffed jalapeno peppers; crab and artichoke spreads and a delicious cake. Hot spiced tea bubbled on the stove and was served to the ladies in Audrey's fancy tea cups.

Ten cookie plates were assembled for the single McCarthy men, the ladies's yearly offering.

Thanks, Audrey, for another successful cookie exchange!!

Wolf attacks target local dogs: The month of December

had McCarthy area dog owners on guard against what appeared to be a lone wolf who was threatening and successfully killing local pets.

According to local reports, Jason Lobo discovered his dog Sadie dead while on his way home from work. Neil Darish, one of the first to hear of the incident, said he was not sure exactly where Sadie was found, but that the dog's remains were found within 1.5 miles of town. According to Neil, Kyle Myers told him the story of his dog Roscoe running out of the woods looking very afraid. (Kyle said Roscoe only had that scared look once before). Kyle also mentioned some teeth marks on Roscoe's back, but, thankfully, they did not break the skin. Kyle then noticed the wolf's tracks inside his own footprints in the snow the next day, indicating that the wolf had followed Kyle and his two dogs (Roscoe & Avery) home.

Another sad incident occurred with Dorothy Adler's dog. The remains of Quinn, Dorothy's faithful companion for nearly 13 years, was found by neighbors a day before Dorothy returned home. Lone wolf tracks were found at the scene.

No other accounts have been reported and it is hoped the wolf has traveled out of the vicinity. Our sympathy goes out to our neighbors, Jason and Dorothy, for their losses.

Peggy, Kurt and Kelsey Smith: When I called the Smith's home, located on the Nizina River, Kelsey answered with a cheerful "hello." I told her I was wondering what was happening out her way and she eagerly shared what a wonderful Christmas holiday she and her folks had this year.

Peggy is "our" nurse in McCarthy. When I say "our" it doesn't

mean she practices nursing here, but we all know who to call with our questions. I guess there isn't enough illness in our town to enable her to keep up her nursing skills locally so she is working in Barrow this winter.

Kelsey said she and her dad drove to Fairbanks on December 21 and picked mom up and brought her home. Christmas was terrific. Kelsey received a stereo and a keyboard; Peggy was gifted with a beautiful Greek bowl that her grandparents purchased for her while vacationing in Greece recently and Kurt is now the owner of an iPod. Now that was a surprise to hear. Kurt with an iPod! What is happening to our bush fellows these days. (Rick has an iPod, too, Kurt!) Kelsey says he loves it and has his own favorite music he listens to regularly.

Peggy returns to Barrow tomorrow and Kelsey and her dad will return to Kelsey's school work. She didn't sound quite as excited about that as she was about her Christmas gifts!

Trig Trigiano: Recently Trig braved the McCarthy Road to bring in some building supplies. Rick and I invited him down for supper so we could catch up on his activities. Trig is partially retired now from his job with the University of Alaska Anchorage. That means he works 9 months of the year in town but then he gets to retire to his McCarthy home and work the other 3 months on his property. He has a lot on his to-do list but at least he found time to pay us a visit.

He even surprised us with a box of Truffles which, Trig, we are thoroughly enjoying! Thanks again!

My recollections of Frank DeCaro

"The man who saved Kennecott"

BY KENNY SMITH

Early in 1960 I began my commercial pilot career with Cordova Airlines. I was assigned to Chitina, (which was the end of the road in those days), under the tutelage of Howard Knutson. Shortly before the summer work season began I met Frank DeCaro. Frank was foreman at Kennecott, for a fellow by the name of Raymond Trotachau who employed a small crew there.

Trotachau had purchased the surface property rights to the entire Kennecott complex in 1957 from the Kennecott Copper Corporation. He did business under the Sultan Sawmill & Mining Company name. Cordova Airlines had been taking weekend tourists into Kennecott, via the May Creek airport, until Ray acquired the property. After that they had to suspend these visitor operations as Ray closed off entry and began to strip the property of everything of value that could be surface transported to May Creek and flown out. By 1960 Trotachau's crew had pretty much removed all items that could be marketed in his pacific northwest salvage business and had begun removing high grade copper ore left on the surface by the corporation prior to their shutdown of the facility in late 1938.

In 1960 the crew began bulldozing the first ever vehicle roads up to the Bonanza and Jumbo mines. In addition, the rails were pushed off of the bed between Kennecott and McCarthy making access to the mine site more convenient than the old wagon road had been.

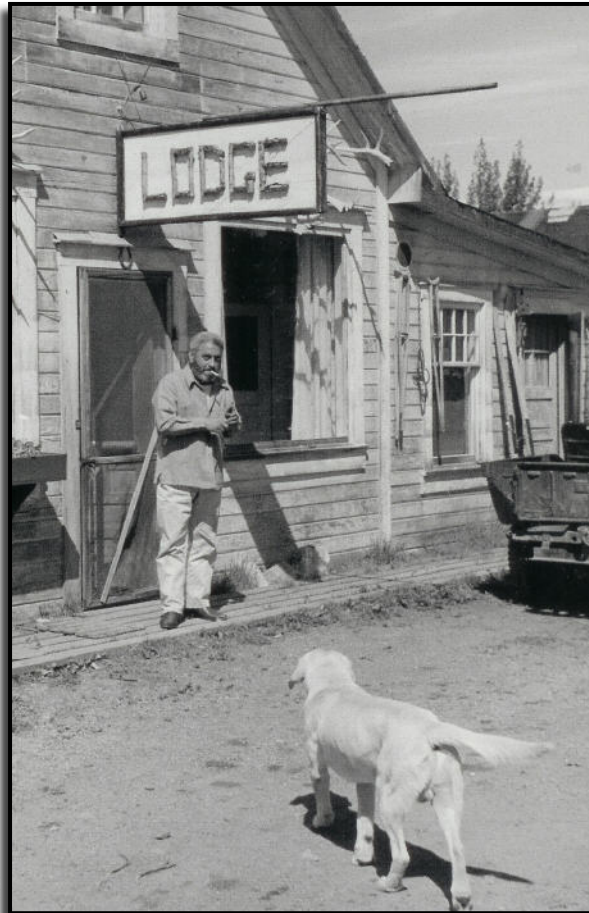


Photo by George Herben—used by permission

Over the next few years I got to know and admire Frank DeCaro. Trotachau rarely visited the operation and when he did he didn't stay long, but Frank was always there. Trotachau was, of course, responsible for the payroll. Often he would be late. When this occurred the crew would become slightly edgy. I recall more than one occasion where they quit work entirely until the pay showed up. Frank would simply take these occurrences in stride; when discussing problems he usually did so with a sly grin often accompanied by a wink or two.

Managing this operation wasn't any easy chore since some of the crew members Ray would retain were borderline unemployables,

from the tough Pioneer Square area of Seattle, prone to settle matters with fists instead of the art of verbal dialogue.

By no means was the entire crew comprised of problem workers though. Our well-known McCarthyite and friend, the late Gordon Burdick, originally from Washington, came out of the university system down there. He was a good basketball coach and teacher. Because he had some formal knowledge of geology he was one of the first to accompany DeCaro and Trotachau north.

Another interesting personality that became a regular, season after season, was Joey Lopez. Joey had been a prizefighter. Perhaps I somewhat embellish his career ranking here but if I remember correctly he had been a middle weight and worked his way up to number three in the world at one time. And that was dur-

ing the days when there was only one middleweight champion, not three or four as it is today. One time, when I flew supplies in to McCarthy for Trotachau, I unloaded a huge 60-pound sack of red beans. I asked Frank what all the beans were for? He said, "Oh, Joey, he thinks he is going to make a comeback and wants to get in shape."

After Trotachau sold out, Lopez moved to Anchorage. He retired from the steamfitters union in Alaska. Over the years he personally sponsored a number of major boxing events in Anchorage. Our paths would often cross and when they did he would apprise me of the whereabouts of the old Kennecott crew. It

was from Joey that I learned both Frank and Ray had passed on.

Recently, well known Wrangell Mountain photographer, George Herben, conveyed an anecdote regarding Frank. George spent considerable time photographing the area when Frank was foreman. He recalled that Frank was at one time an opera singer. Unfortunately, an accident had injured Frank's chest and ability to sing professionally. One evening at the McCarthy Lodge, the proprietors, Jack and Liz Weinrick, were entertaining friends. George and Frank along with Bob and Bertha Glud from Cordova were in attendance. Jack was playing the fiddle and Bertha the accordion. All of a sudden Frank stood up and began singing, "Old Man River." The force and delivery of Frank's baritone performance was so emotional-

ly stunning that George said he will never forget it.

As the story goes, when Trotachau acquired the property rights from the corporation part of the deal was that he would destroy all structures there. Evidently, some officials in the organization had a phobia over potential liability if the mine buildings were left intact. Trotachau had agreed to tear them down.

Now, on first blush, that might appear to be a simple commitment. But it actually amounted to a huge and expensive undertaking. Since Trotachau was profit motivated this labor intensive obligation didn't receive high priority. The crews could only be spared for an effort like this in the early spring before snow levels at the Jumbo and Bonanza melted down to the point where they

could begin high grading ore again. The most Frank was able to accomplish in this regard was to tear the top off the mill building, that occurred around 1960.

As the years rolled by it became obvious that Frank appreciated McCarthy and Kennecott very much. Trotachau didn't back off the plan to get rid of the buildings though, except, he did abandon the idea of tearing them down. Instead, he wanted Frank to burn them all down. Frank told me personally that he just didn't have it in his heart to do this. Since Ray rarely showed up at Kennecott there wasn't much opportunity for him to pressure Frank. So, when Ray decided to sell the property in the winter of 1962/63, to more responsible owners, the buildings still stood.

Thank you Frank.

A plea for artifacts

BY NEIL DARISH

2006 was our Centennial year here in McCarthy. The McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum (MKHM) held a wonderful series of events to celebrate our past. Obviously most readers of WSEN have been to McCarthy & Kennicott and we would like to invite the WSEN readership to spread the news about an important museum collections project to benefit the town and our Museum.

Our 100 years of history here is spread throughout America, in the form of wonderful artifacts that have become souvenirs to many visi-

tors over the years! It is important to note that the Museum board sees these artifacts as important pieces of our town's history, and many times, the only reason these pieces of history were saved is because some one took it home as a souvenir. It seems contradictory, but those who visited and took artifacts from the area are responsible for preserving an important piece of local history. These items could have been lost forever. The reality is there were decades when no one seemed responsible for the "debris" in this area. Prior to the National Park Service establishing preserva-

tion methods here, most people easily left the area with an artifact or two.

The question is: now what? The answer is: let the world know that the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum would welcome the return of McCarthy related artifacts! If you have (or know someone who has) something of interest from McCarthy, why not donate the material to the museum? The MKHM is a non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible. Why not leave your legacy as someone who has actively participated in preserving a part of McCarthy?

McCarthy Road Blog online

BY RICK KENYON

Those of us who drive the McCarthy Road know how valuable it is to have up-to-date information on the condition of the road. A new Web Log (Blog) is now online at

<http://wsen.net> on the right lower part of the page.

At the bottom of the box containing the Road Blog are two hyperlinks. Click on the left one to read the latest messages that road users have left. Click the right link if you have recent information

that you are willing to share with others.

The Blog has been very well received this winter. Conditions can change daily so be sure and take a look if you are planning a trip to McCarthy.

Hale pleads “no contest” but denies guilt

Family doing well in Palmer

BY RICK KENYON

December 26—Sitting in a wheelchair and dressed in prison orange, Robert Hale— better known as Papa Pilgrim—denied that he had done wrong even as he agreed to a no contest plea that will likely result in a 14-year prison sentence.

Hale, 65, told the judge that doctors do not give him much time to live.

“I spent Christmas Day in the hospital and they found some blood clots in my knee. Doctors this morning gave me months to live, so I’m not really concerned, but for my family,” Hale said.

Members of the family watched as Hale entered no contest pleas to sexual assault, incest and coercion, essentially admitting to raping one of his daughters over the course of several years.

But while entering the pleas, Hale denied the charges.

“I want to make it clear that I never in any kind of way ever sexually assaulted anyone but for all counts and purposes, for the families, I plead no contest for all this. I think I understand with a clear mind that this is what’s best for my family and me,” he said.

Sentencing is set for April 30. Prosecutors say Hale will likely get a 14-year prison sentence. Hale could have received a slightly stiffer sentence had the case gone to trial, but prosecutors say they didn’t want to put the daughter through that.

“When I got this case, it was full bore. We were not going to make any offers — no offers —

because the behavior was egregious, horrible behavior. And after about a year and a half, and I give my wife most of the credit, my heart got a little soft because I don’t want this girl to have to go in front of cameras and tell what happened. What happened is awful and horrible,” said assistant district attorney Richard Payne.

The case will not be closed until the April 30 sentencing, and observers say that Hale could withdraw his plea under certain circumstances up until the final sentence is handed down.

The lawsuit against the National Park Service, which resulted after NPS rangers posted the road that leads to the family’s homestead to be closed to motor vehicles — later saying it was only closed to the Pilgrim family — that other residents could use the route for subsistence— is still pending. A three-judge panel on 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled against the Pilgrims, saying government can regulate access in a national park. Later, in an unusual move, the judges say they may decide to take a second look with a larger panel.

Meanwhile, the family has been living in the Palmer area with the Buckingham family. The Buckinghams are a Christian family who have nine children of their own.

Accompanied by their mother, Rose, the children have settled into the Buckinghams’ cozy log home outside Palmer. Eight girls share a bedroom of neatly-made bunks and hang their clothes outdoors on the porch. The boys bunk together, Buckinghams and Hales, in two cramped basement rooms

down a stairway choked with overcoats and coveralls.

Jim Buckingham retired last summer as a lieutenant colonel after 26 years in the Army. Three years ago, he was teaching at West Point. He has an engineering degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a master’s from Stanford and a doctorate from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

In 2003, the Buckingham family moved to Alaska and bought the land outside Palmer, on Lazy Mountain.

“We just purposed that we were going to build a cabin,” Jim said.

And they did. The gambrel-roofed home of local three-sided logs was originally only 24 feet by 34 feet, which is large by McCarthy standards but small for a family of 11. It would soon be *much* too small for comfort.

The Buckinghams met some of the older Pilgrim sons and their mother Rose at a home church meeting in Willow the winter of 2003-2004.

During the next summer, the two families got acquainted and in late October, with access to the Pilgrim homestead almost impossible due to Park Service intervention and harsh weather, the entire Pilgrim family came to Lazy Mountain for what would become a prolonged stay. It proved to be the beginning of the end of Papa Pilgrim’s hold on his family.

The Hale children said their father could make a great show of kindness at times. Yet to seek his kindness or praise was to invite punishment for being prideful.

Papa could also make a show of anger, they knew well, and any child who violated a rule — or failed to report a violation — might find himself cast out, the recipient of what is known in some cultures as “shunning.”

Things soon grew stressful. Papa was growing increasingly nervous in the structured environment of the Buckingham home.

“The young men said to us, ‘Don’t be surprised if we leave in the middle of the night,’” Jim Buckingham recalled.

Around New Year’s of 2005, after coming and going several times, Papa Pilgrim angrily pulled his family away to McCarthy, forbidding them ever to come back.

Things went bad quickly.

According to the charging documents against Hale, a single violent incident with one of his daughters involving rape, kidnapping and assault occurred Jan. 10, 2005, soon after they returned to McCarthy. According to investigators, the incident occurred in a small shack on family property near the Kennicott River, where it had been moved after local residents chased the family from a right-of-way in the town of McCarthy.

Shortly after that incident, the three oldest Hale daughters left the McCarthy area and moved in with the Buckinghams. The older boys seemed unsure of what was happening. The family had always stayed together in the past.

By September of that year, news of Hale’s misconduct — not just in the January incident, but apparently going back a number of years—started coming out. The older children started talking to Alaska State Trooper investigators.

Things happened fast. The Buckinghams agreed to take in all

the older children. A warrant was issued for Pilgrim who fled McCarthy and managed to avoid arrest until October 5. Shortly after his arrest, Rose and the seven smaller children left the homestead, which had been dubbed “Hillbilly Heaven” but apparently wasn’t, and joined the rest of the family in Palmer.

“Our primary concern as a family is the safety and welfare of Country Rose and her 15 children during this very difficult period in their lives,” said Jim Buckingham in a published statement. “We have been privileged to discover in Country Rose and her older children a genuine desire to do what is right before God and man ... a pursuit which has been greatly hindered by their father who demanded unwavering submission to his gravely misguided authority.”

“Over the last six months of close contact with the older children, we have discovered young men and women that have purposed in their hearts to genuinely follow Jesus Christ, to amend the wrongs of the past and set an honorable and productive course for their lives in the days ahead. We, along with others who know them well, are committed to assisting the Pilgrim family in whatever way we can to achieve those noble goals.”

Moses Hale, age 20, told us that he and his brothers had not known what was going on. He said they only knew that something was not right.

“Through the support of the Buckingham family and the Lord working in our lives, our eyes were opened to the sin and deceit which had been occurring behind the scenes and which was hidden from my brothers and I,” said Joseph Hale, the oldest of the boys in a written statement. “When our sister came to us for help, we were

united in our desire before God to take whatever action was necessary to protect her.”

The boys had hoped that their father would repent.

“We hold no bitterness, anger or resentment towards our Papa but simply desire that he be held accountable for his actions before God and man. We would pray that he would openly confess his sin before God and repent ... knowing that God is able and willing to both forgive his sin and save his soul... The requirement that we count the cost of following Christ has required that we be obedient to the Scripture which says, ‘He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me.’ Matthew 10:37.”

Since breaking free of Papa’s influence, things have changed dramatically for the Pilgrim children.

Using some difficult-to-understand religious logic, Papa had convinced the older children that although it was good and righteous for he and Rose to have 15 children, the children should never have families of their own.

Free of his influence, the older boys learned to make decisions on their own. WSEN has been pleased to cover the weddings of two of the boys to two of the Buckingham girls.

Both newlywed couples now live in houses of their own, not too far from the Buckinghams. Both newlywed women are pregnant.

Editor’s note: Thanks to Tom Kiszia for much of this information. Tom has written an excellent story about the Pilgrims which you can read online at <http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/pilgrims/story/8514719p-8407713c.html>

Online only subscriptions available

BY RICK KENYON

Wrangell St. Elias News subscribers now have a choice of delivery methods. We have been constantly updating our online issues, and now can offer a complete online version which looks just like the print version. It is posted in PDF format, which can be read with the free Adobe Reader. (Most browsers already have the reader built-in.) You can

download the file to your computer for later viewing, and you can even print out a few pages or the complete issue.

We also post an html version which includes 6 or 7 of the main stories of that issue. It loads much faster than the PDF version for those of you with a dial-up connection.

Regular subscribers can access the online version also. If you are

not currently getting a "key" to the full version each month by email, just drop us a line at WSEN@starband.net and we will add you to the mailing list for each issue.

If you prefer to get the *WSEN* online only, you can save a few bucks. Online only subscriptions are only \$11 per year instead of \$14 for the print version. Our new renewal notices will offer this option.

Regional Advisory Council Nominations requested

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE—

The Office of Subsistence Management is accepting applications and nominations to fill seats on the Regional Advisory Councils that advise the Federal Subsistence Board. The deadline for submit-

ting applications is January 10, 2007.

The councils meet twice yearly and advise the Federal Subsistence Board on subsistence management regulations and policies. They also serve as a forum for regional public involvement in Federal subsistence management.

Council members are knowledgeable about subsistence, commercial, and sport uses in their region.

For an application or additional information, please contact Ann Wilkinson at the Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3676.

Call for proposals to change Federal subsistence fishing regulations

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The Federal Subsistence Board is accepting proposals through March 23, 2007 to change subsistence fishing regulations on Federal public lands and waters in Alaska. This is the first step in the development of regulations for the April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009 regulatory year.

The Board will consider proposals to change Federal subsistence fishing seasons, harvest limits, restrictions on methods of harvest, and customary and traditional use determinations. The

Board will also accept proposals for individual customary and traditional use determinations from residents of national park and national monument resident zone communities, or those who already hold a Section 13.44 subsistence use permit.

Federal public lands include national wildlife refuges; national parks, monuments and preserves; national forests; national wild and scenic rivers; and national conservation and recreation areas. These lands also include Bureau of Land Management areas that are not part of the national conservation

system. Federal subsistence regulations do not apply on State of Alaska lands, private lands, military lands, or Federal lands selected by the State or Native corporations.

To request a proposal form or for more information, contact the Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3873 or by e-mail, subsistence@fws.gov. The proposal form can also be found under the Laws and Regulations – Fisheries section of the Federal Subsistence Management Program website, <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>

NPS regulation revisions open for comment

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service is proposing to revise the special regulations for NPS-administered areas in Alaska to update provisions governing subsistence use of timber, seaweed collection, river management, ORV use, fishing and camping. The revision would also update definitions, prohibit using motorized vehicles to herd wildlife, and establish wildlife viewing distances in several park areas.

The proposed rules were published in today's Federal Register and are open for public comment through February 26, 2007.

Each park area in Alaska has a compendium consisting of the compiled designations, closures, openings, permit requirements, and other provisions established by the Superintendent under the discretionary authority granted in 36 CFR 1.5 and elsewhere in regulations. The NPS reviews these provisions on a regular basis for possible addition to the general and special park regulations; the proposed regulations are additions or changes to individual park regulations.

Among the regulations proposed are:

- Glacier Bay National Park proposes to promulgate as regulation several compendium entries related to the Alsek River, particularly as it relates to overnight use. This includes group size limits in the Alsek Corridor.
- The NPS is proposing exceptions in certain circumstances to the solid waste disposal site requirements in four Alaska park areas, including Gates of the Arctic, Glacier Bay, Lake Clark and Wrangell-St. Elias.
- Kenai Fjords National Park proposes to move to special regulations items currently in the compendium and in the Exit Glacier Area Plan. The proposed rule includes moving current compendium rules restricting food storage in the campground and camping consistent with bear management and the Exit Glacier Area Plan; pro-

hibiting the use of bicycles, except on the road or parking areas; prohibiting snowmachines in part of the Exit Glacier area except on the Exit Glacier Road, parking areas, a marked route through the Exit Glacier campground to Exit Creek and within Exit Creek.

The proposed changes are on-line at the Federal Register www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/browse.html by using the link for "Back Issues" and selecting December 27, 2006.

Comments or questions may be submitted via E-mail NPS to: akro_regulations@nps.gov. Use RIN 1024-AD38 in the subject line. By mail: National Park Service, Regional Director, Alaska Regional Office, 240 West 5th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501. Or comments may be submitted by Fax at (907) 644-3805. All submissions received must include the agency name and RIN. For further information, contact the National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office, 240 West 5th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501.

Some people just shouldn't go into the woods!

One day Dave and Fred were bear hunting, and they got lost.

Dave tells Fred, "Wait, don't panic. I learned what to do in case this happens. You're supposed to shoot up into the air three times and someone will hear you and come with help."

"Okay," said Fred.

So he shoots three times into the air.

They both wait an hour and no one shows up. So they shoot three times again and still no one shows up.

Bewildered they try this again and again for the next couple of hours.

Fred starts to look a little worried, then he shouts, "It better work this time, we're down to our last three arrows!"

UAF tests fuel cell

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA—

The Alaska Energy Technology Development Laboratory at the University of Alaska Fairbanks recently announced a successful field test of a prototype propane fuel cell. The cell, manufactured by Massachusetts-based Acumentrics and installed at the Kenai Fjords National Park's Exit Glacier Nature Center near Seward, ran for more than 1,100 hours straight and did so with no measurable degradation in its efficiency.

"From a technical point of view, it is an important milestone we have achieved here," said Dennis Witmer, director of AETDL. "It is one step closer to these kinds of fuel cells becoming devices that can be useful in remote locations."

The fuel cell was part of the original design for the nature center. It was first installed and used in the summer of 2004. Since then, a team of researchers and technicians has been fine-tuning the cell's performance. In August, Park Service officials fired it up again and it ran until the end of the season.

"It's not going back to the factory this winter. It has been mothballed for the winter and we plan on starting it up (next) summer," said Tim Hudson, associate regional director for operations and resources for the National Park Service's Alaska region. "We like the promise of this technology as a way to replace diesel generators, decrease the possibility of fuel spills and provide a cleaner and quieter source of power."

The Exit Glacier fuel cell is notable for several reasons. It uses a fuel source—propane—that is more portable and usable in remote areas than the hydrogen or natural gas that usually powers fuel cells. It was also able to adjust its output to deal with fluctuations in power demand at the center, a phenomenon known as load following. And its most recent test run happened in real-world conditions, rather than in a laboratory with controlled power demands and constant monitoring and adjustment by technicians.

In addition, Witmer said, the Exit Glacier cell is able to efficiently generate relatively small amounts of power. A typical diesel generator is most efficient when it is generating 100 kilowatts of electricity, which is about 100 times more than a small building or cell phone tower would use.

"At one kilowatt, there is no convenient, efficient technology ... and that is where fuel cells really have a hope of finding some market," he said.

The reason for the efficiency is the way fuel cells generate electricity. Like a diesel generator, they use a hydrocarbon fuel source. But while the electricity in a traditional generator results from fuel burning and driving a mechanical generation device, the energy in a fuel cell comes from an electrochemical reaction.

"A fuel cell is a device that converts the energy from fuel directly into DC electricity," Witmer said. "The idea is that the efficiencies are better with the direct elec-

trochemical conversion, especially at lower power levels."

In addition to generating electricity, the fuel cell provided heat to the nature center during its test run from mid-August to late September.

Witmer said that propane fuel cells are still a long way from being practical for the average consumer. However the successful test at Exit Glacier shows that the technology is meeting technical milestones. If the cells are eventually available to the public, it's hard to predict all of their potential applications, he said, noting the number of devices that have come about as the internal combustion engine became smaller and more economical.

"Because we don't have anything really good smaller than a diesel generator, we really don't know what the demand would be for a one-kilowatt generator," Witmer said. "That to me is the really exciting thing."

The Exit Glacier Nature Center fuel cell test is the result of a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the Arctic Energy Technology Development Laboratory at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Other funding partners include the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory, fuel cell manufacturer Acumentrics, the Propane Education and Research Council, fuel cell contractor Energy Alternatives, the Denali Commission and the Alaska Energy Authority.

"Free speech means hearing things you like and agree with, and it means allowing others to speak whose views you do not like or agree with. This—listening to the other person with respect and forbearance, and with an acceptance of human diversity—is the price we pay for living in a great democracy. And it is a really low price for such a great thing. We all know this, at least in the abstract. Why are so many forgetting it in the particular?" —Peggy Noonan

The world around us

BY DON WELTY

Hardly a week goes by without a major magazine or newspaper reporting on a study showing “evolution in action” or “proof of evolution.” Being somewhat misleading, they are actually reporting on instances of micro-evolution or, more appropriately, called adaptation.

Micro-evolution or adaptation produces changes within strict limits, is non-directional and works with existing genetic information. These changes are caused by a loss or rearrangement of existing information already present in the DNA. Micro evolution/adaptation is real, observable science and is actually the opposite of macro-evolution.

Macro-evolution is used to describe a process thought to produce directional, information increasing, large scale change as in “molecules to man.” At one time, it was thought that the same processes that caused micro-evolution/ adaptation could be extrapolated, with enough time, as a mechanism driving the large scale change for macro-evolution. This idea has largely been dismissed today as more research is done. Random mutations of the genetic code acted on by natural selection has not led to more complex organisms.

Bacterial resistance, Galapagos finches, pacific salmon and peppered moths are all the result of either selection of existing genetic variability, as with the finches, salmon and moths, or the rare occurrence of a beneficial mutation, as in the case of bacterial resistance. All these can be genetically shown to be only adaptation, generally with a loss of genetic information.

Though magazine articles and school textbooks still often claim that the same mechanism of change is responsible for micro and macro

evolution, it has been known by leading evolutionists for some time now to be an inadequate explanation.

In a 1980 Chicago meeting of leading evolutionists from around the world, this question of, “Whether the mechanisms that produce micro-evolution can be used to explain macro-evolution” was the focal point. Their conclusion was a clear no! ⁽¹⁾ The large majority at the conference agreed that the neo-Darwinian mechanism of mutation and selection could no longer be regarded as a plausible explanation for the origin and diversity of living things. ⁽¹⁾

Pierre Grassé, called the “dean of French zoologists,” had this to say. “Mutations are merely hereditary fluctuations around a median position; a swing to the right, a swing to the left, but no final evolutionary effect... are not complimentary or cumulative. They modify what pre-exists.” He goes on to say because mutations are mostly harmful, they produce “downhill” changes not “upward-onward” evolution. He goes on to condemn attempts to use selection to salvage a few favorable mutations for evolution. ⁽²⁾

Next time you see the headline reading “evolution in action,” replace evolution with adaptation and you will have an accurate picture of what is really happening.

Dogs are an example of micro-evolution by selective breeding. From one wolf-like ancestor we have been able to “select” certain traits to produce all the diverse breeds of dogs. Diverse, yes, but still dogs. The original wolf-like dog having rich genetic diversity or information, and the individual purebred types having lost much of their diversity no longer having the genetic information that produces other non-breed traits. This built-in diversity allows the animal to adapt,

sometimes remarkably fast, to changing environmental conditions. It does not allow the animal to change into something altogether different no matter how much time passes, and is actually the opposite of macro-evolution!

Zoologist Pierre Grassé, quoted earlier, also stated that “his knowledge of the living world convinces him that there must be an ‘internal force’ involved in the history of life.” ⁽²⁾ Similarly, Albert Szent Gyorgyi, Nobel prize winner, said that the origin of complex traits by random mutation has a probability of zero, and that his observations of living things forced him to at least postulate a creative force.

Many other scientists believe the remarkable adaptability built into various “kinds” was put there by their creator, allowing for changing environmental conditions.

When I consider all the complexity and magnificence in living organisms like sight, hearing, circulatory systems, reproductive systems, respiratory systems and nervous systems, just to name a few, the words of David in Psalms come to mind: “I will praise you [Lord] for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are your works, and that my soul knows very well.”

¹⁾ Lewin, Roger, *Evolutionary Theory Under Fire*, Science, November 21, 1980.

²⁾ Grassé, Pierre Paul, *Evolution of Living Organisms*, Academic Press, New York, 1977.

³⁾ Parker, Gary, *Creation: Facts of Life*, 2002.

⁴⁾ Gould, Stephen Jay, *Is a New General Theory of Evolution Emerging?*, *Palaeobiology*, Winter 1980.

Recommended web sites:
<http://ier.org/> and
<http://answersingenesis.org/>.

THE CHITINA LEADER

January 1915 February

Cordova, December 31 — Rev. Jas. McBride, who returned on yesterday's train from the interior, where he spent the week at Chitina, Kennecott and McCarthy, reports that 30 men recently stampeded from those places to Rex Creek, southeast of Kennecott, the stampede being based on a rumor of the discovery of good placer ground.

Francis E. Johnson, the telegraph operator at Donnelly's, whose body was found on the Chitina-Fairbanks road by travelers from Nome several days ago, had started from his station to the relief cabin to install a new stove which was needed at the cabin. He left with a horse and sled. The horse has not been found. Johnson had fallen into the lake and been frozen to death after pulling himself from the water.

The relief cabin at the Rapids is maintained by the military authorities for the aid of travelers and for the men employed in keeping the line open. Hundreds of mushers have found safety in it and the stove having been burned out a new one was ordered put in.

LOCAL AND SOCIAL McCARTHY NEWS

McCarthy, December 29, 1914 —A Christmas entertainment was held Christmas eve in Mr. Peter Johnson's hall. This being the first Christmas tree in McCarthy for all the children, everyone was enthusiastic and did their own part toward making it a success. The children responded with a delightful, entertaining and beautifully rendered program. St. Nicholas was there and presented each

child with a present and well filled stocking of goodies from the tree. After the presents were distributed, a lunch was served by the ladies and a very social evening ensued.

Christmas day Charlie Royal's dog team nearly ran down and demolished Bill Spencer's team of "Huskies" in his endeavor to overtake and capture the load of little fairies Mr. Spencer was taking for a Christmas ride. Charlie is seriously thinking of entering his team in any dog race — nobody barred.

Sam Thomas lost a horse on the Nizina one day last week, while en route to the Chitina diggings. Sam recovered his load of freight, however, and getting another horse from McCarthy, continued on his way.

It is sad, indeed, that we have another death to relate this week, that of Mr. Tim MacMullen, an old time Alaskan, who passed away at the Kennecott hospital on December 27. Relatives have not been located.

Jan. 5

OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Cordova, January 6 — Cards have been received here announcing the marriage of Miss Florence Hull and Mr. Wesley Earl Dunkle on Tuesday, December 22, at the home of Miss Hull's sister, Mrs. Margaret Hull Badger, in Oberlin, Ohio. Miss Hull was formerly employed as stenographer at the Kennecott mines. Mr. Dunkle, is a mining engineer in the employ of the Alaska Syndicate and is well known in Cordova. Mr. and Mrs. Dunkle will be at home in Cordova after January 15.

LOCAL AND SOCIAL McCARTHY NEWS

The body of Louie Schonberg, the Shushanna trader, murdered a few days ago, was found in a deserted cabin near the beach, where he had evidently been dragged after being shot. Keys were missing from his person and it is supposed the slayer believed that Schonberg had a cache of gold around his store. The slayer had not been found at last reports. Mr. Schonberg was a man about 52 years old, an old "sourdough" and came here from Dawson at the time of the rush into Shushanna.

A dance was enjoyed New Year's eve in Mr. Peter Johnston's Hall, a number of Kennecott persons coming down for the occasion. The proceeds of the dance were used for relief purposes and two relief tents with stores to be erected near the summit of Rohn glacier, there being quote a long stretch without any places of shelter. The first tent is to be erected 10 miles beyond the McCloud roadhouse, the other, 10 miles further on, leaving about another 10 miles until the relief tent (now up) the other side of the summit is reached.

Jan. 12

The 250-ton shipment of ore from the Mother Lode copper mines, which is being made on the steamer Mariposa tonight, is the third by this company and brings the total up to a little more than 640 tons for the three seasons since this property was added to the list of Alaska's wealth producers. The Mother Lode is a wealth producer in all the term implies, as previous shipments aggregating 391 tons

averaged \$160 a ton. It is believed this last shipment contains ore of a grade equal to that of the first which was \$173.60 per ton. The shipment made today is to be followed by another early in February.

McCARTHY DECLARES AGAINST SALOONS

War between the wets and drys of McCarthy has been declared, and the latter are circulating a petition from which the following extracts are taken:

"We, the undersigned citizens of McCarthy and vicinity, believing that the best interests of this part of Alaska will be conserved by a discontinuance of the saloons, agree that we will not sign a petition for a saloon license during the present year. This locality is rich in minerals and every available dollar is necessary for outfits and development work."

The petition was circulated last Thursday and was signed by approximately 75 per cent of all adults living within the two mile limit. Among those not signing were several that were out of town, a great many of whom are known to be in favor of the movement, some others refused to sign for business reasons. The signers wish it understood that their motive is to change existing conditions, in which there is nothing personal.

LOCAL AND SOCIAL McCARTHY NEWS

John Barrett has just returned from a trip to the Kiagni, where he reports that in the neighborhood of 12 men are engaged in prospecting and development work. Barrett reports that a trail has been cut

across the bench, leaving the river entirely, which is 22 miles shorter than the original route, making the distance not to exceed 35 miles from McCarthy. He expects good reports from this section during the coming season.

C. E. Hawkins left McCarthy this week for Shushanna, where he will develop some mining property he owns. He took with him a season's outfit. Henry Alheit took him and his outfit in with his dog team.

Mrs. M. E. Sturges, mother of Mrs. Wm. Wooden, died this morning at Charley David's roadhouse, which Mr. Wooden is operating this winter. Mrs. Sturges recently came here from California to visit with her daughter. Another daughter, Mrs. Burrows of Cordova, was with her at the time of her death.

A movement was started today looking to a term of school for the children of McCarthy. Something like 24 come within the school age. As is well known, the McCarthy school is situated nearly 3 miles from McCarthy, and of course it is impossible for the scholars to attend during the winter. The suggestion was to give two entertainments each month, preferably dances to defray the expenses of the room necessary and the teacher's wages. The suggestion met with much encouragement. John Baltuff said that he would furnish a suitable room for the conduct of the school for \$15 per month, which seems very reasonable.

A trial in the commissioner's court commenced yesterday and continued over until today, in which Mr. Gus Erickson accused Jesse C. Arnold of assaulting and robbing him, resulted in an acquittal. Arnold is the bartender in the Junction saloon.

John Yankee and Sam Williams were haled into the commissioner's court yesterday charged with using ob-

scene language on the streets. Both plead guilty and were given \$20 or ten days; they failed to pay and are serving their time as guests of our marshal.

Jan. 19

A COMPANY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

During the past two weeks about 500 tons of high grade copper ore has been shipped from the Mother Lode mine to the Tacoma smelter. This is particularly gratifying as it brings into prominence another good shipper located in the Copper River district. James J. Godfrey, president of the Mother Lode Copper Mines Company is at the property and states that he hopes to ship out an additional 1,000 tons before the winter is over. The difficulty is not in taking out the ore from the mine but to transport it over a wagon road from the end of the tram to the railroad at McCarthy. That is slow and tedious work, but President Godfrey and his efficient force are working with their accustomed energy to secure the best possible results while the ground is frozen. When a spur of the railroad shall be built to the Mother Lode property then will that mine be rated as among the constant and regular shippers of some of the highest grade copper ore produced in the United States. Their ore is similar to that produced at the celebrated Bonanza mine, which has made this section of the country famous for the richness of its ore.

Feb. 2

OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Cordova, February 5 —W. E. Catheart brought a fine specimen of moose in from a point along the railroad and is having it tanned by Chris Jensen.

After an absence of nearly three months, Vincent J. Dw-

yer, the big merchant and operator at Strelna, returned on the steamer Alameda this morning. While outside he had the good fortune to possess himself of an attractive bride, who accompanied him north and will make her home at Strelna. After the marriage at Bellingham the newly weds spent a month in California. They are now quartered at the Windsor Hotel and will leave on Monday's train for Strelna, where Mr. Dwyer will again become active.

Feb. 9

McCarthy, February 8, 1915 —McCarthy people called a public meeting during the past week to discuss methods for obtaining a school for the 24 children now in McCarthy for the ensuing year. A. E. Todd was elected chairman and he appointed the following committee to take the matter up with Governor Strong and Delegate Wickersham, F. H. Foster, chairman, R. I. Marshall and John Barrett. It seems quite probably that those empowered to act do not understand that a distinctly new condition prevails with regard to the school by reason of McCarthy being a new town in no way connected with Blackburn, which is one mile and a quarter nearer the Kennecott school than is McCarthy. The people here feel that on account of the inaccessibility to the above mentioned school and the large number of children of school age that they are entitled to a school. These children have been without school privilege for a year and it is to be hoped that they will not be unprovided for another year.

McCarthy had another dance since the last news letter, which was attended by 30 couples, held in Johnson's hall and all had an enjoyable time. Several couples from Kennecott were present.

Bill Spencer took two relief tents up onto the glacier

on the Shushana trail. He is entitled to no little credit for furnishing these safeguards to trail life, first, by getting up a dance to provide funds to buy the tents, then going up with his dog team and putting the tents in place.

Rev. James L. McBride of Cordova was a visitor to Kennecott last Tuesday night, where he held services. In passing through McCarthy he was greeted by a considerable number of children, whose friendship for him was evidenced by the greeting rendered him. As a result of Rev. McBride's detective work here we have a regular Sunday school, full set of books, a good attendance and the children and grown people as well, had a most enjoyable Christmas tree and exercises, also occasional church service. In passing through McCarthy last Tuesday the Reverend gentleman doffed his coat, grabbed a truck and assisted the agent and train crew in unloading 60 tons of freight. May the efforts he puts forth in "detective" work be more frequent.

Last Sunday Gus Priesner and Miss Peggie Ward went out hunting the elusive ptarmigan. After a day's sport they repaired to the Blackburn roadhouse for dinner. It was thought by some of Gus' friends that he was contemplating matrimony. However, their mistake was apparent when it was learned next day that "Peggy" had taken her departure for Chisana with Chester P. Brown.

The weather conditions here during the whole of the present winter have been the most pleasant ever experienced by our residents either here or elsewhere. Twenty-four below, the lowest registered, with 15 above, the highest, with sufficient snow for excellent sleighing and no winds or storms.

Feb. 16

American dipper swims throughout Alaska winters

BY NED ROZELL

On the upper Chena River in the heart of a cold winter, a songbird appeared on a gravel bar next to gurgling water that somehow remained unfrozen in 20-below-zero air. Then the bird jumped in, disappeared underwater, and popped up a few feet upstream.

The bird continued snorkeling and diving against the current of the stream, which is so far north that in December direct sunlight never touches it. Instead, the sun bathes only the tops of spruce trees with a ruby light.

Soon, two other dark birds with bodies the size of tennis balls landed near the first. Bending from their knees, they bobbed up and down, and then all three jumped into the stream. It seemed crazy behavior for a cold winter day, but swimming is how American dippers make their living, even here in Alaska, where they range as far north as the Brooks Range.

Mary Willson, a biologist, ecologist and consultant from Juneau, might be the only Alaska researcher who has studied the American dipper. For the past four years, she's been pulling on her chest waders to follow dippers on waterways near Juneau's road system, and she's gotten to know the character of what she calls "a very cool bird."

The dipper often feeds while flying underwater; using the liquid as it does another fluid, air. The

birds also snorkel, swimming on the surface with their heads below the water surface, aided by flaps that cover their nostrils while diving. And, according to *The Birder's Handbook* by Paul Ehrlich, David Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye, "these birds are able to forage on the bottom of streams in which the current is too fast and the water too deep for people to stand." Sometimes they also pick up rocks on stream

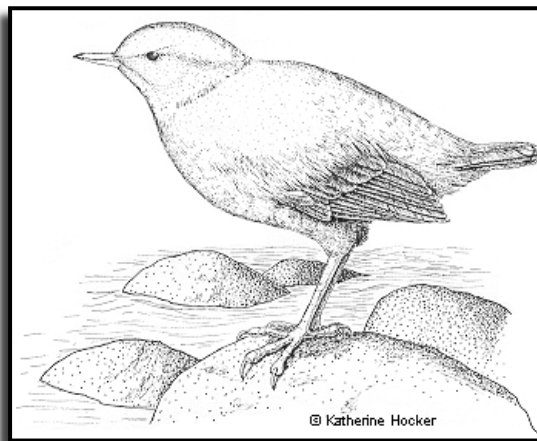


Photo Courtesy of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game / Katherine Hoeker

bottoms to find food underneath.

Dippers depend on clean, open water. In very cold places, the birds appear at openings in ice caused by water upwelling, and dippers can dive through one hole in the ice and emerge from another one. Near Juneau, dippers sometimes appear at deltas where streams flow into the ocean.

Dippers eat aquatic and flying insects and are skilled enough to catch small fish, Willson said. She has seen a dipper with four tiny fish in its beak at once. Another time,

she witnessed a dipper catching a four-inch fish called a sculpin.

"It had to beat that one on the rocks until it was in enough pieces to eat."

Willson thinks the dippers can survive the transition from 32-degree water to subzero air because of their feathers, which are denser than other songbirds', with large oil glands near the base of their tails. They dip their beaks in the oil glands and wipe oil on their feathers, perhaps to keep themselves waterproof.

Nobody knows how dippers survive the cold, dark winter in northern Alaska and the Yukon. Willson said scientists have studied the effects of severe winters on the similar European dipper, which ranges above the Arctic Circle in Scandinavia. They have found that extreme cold spells kill many of the birds. She wonders how dippers in the Far North don't perish in the frigid air temperatures and during the long nights between the three-to-four hours of twilight.

"They are visual hunters," she said. "In the pits of winter, they'd have to hurry-scurry to get enough food in the time where there's light to hunt."

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.

Environmental group announces "Youth Summit"

The sixth Annual Civics and Conservation Summit, taking place this April 14th-18th, where teens from around the state meet for an exciting four days where they will learn to become effective voices for change,

learn how to talk to and meet media, legislators and fellow peers. Be ready for a fast-paced and empowering week! Limited to 15 students, applications due February 15th. Cost is \$200, limited scholarships available. Contact: Polly Carr or Wi-

ley Cason at AYEA@NWF.org or (907) 339-3907. Applications can be found at www.AYEA.org.

Sponsored by Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, a program of the National Wildlife Federation.

National Creek update

KENNECOTT—

Access to the upper reaches of Kennecott is still hampered, but not cut off.

According to Keith Rowland, Rowcon Services used 3 loads of rip rap and 540 yards of gravel to recreate a low-water crossing near the National Creek Trestle. Snowmachines, hikers and cross-country skiers have been using the crossing over the ice.

The trestle itself was heavily damaged during the flooding in October. While Park Service workers have installed bracing under the structure in an attempt to prevent its collapse under snow load this winter, the bridge is closed to traffic. When asked what we can expect for this summer, spokesper-

son Glenn Hart had this to say: "Our hope is that with additional shoring or bracing, the trestle can be used for pedestrian traffic, [but] 4 wheelers and vehicles will have to rely on the low water crossing, which was repaired last Fall. If the trestle doesn't work out, we will come up with some type of temporary bridge for pedestrians."

"The trestle has needed substantial repairs for many years now," said Hart. "Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is dedicated to completing the rehabilitation and restoration. We are hopeful that some type of funding will come through for restoring the trestle to the appearance and function it had historically (with additional safety improvements such as better guardrails). This project is

in the customary funding request system and it has been bypassed for a number of years. Should we receive emergency money, the extent of work will depend on how much funding is made available. Our long term goal is to have a historically 'accurate' trestle — hopefully with a sample of the rail track installed."

Asked about the Assay Office, (see Letters to the Editor) Wrangell-St. Elias Park Planner Vicki Snitzler told us they will be "looking at a variety of alternatives concerning the assay building, one of which would be to relocate what's left of it. At this point we really don't know what actions would be feasible both technically and financially."



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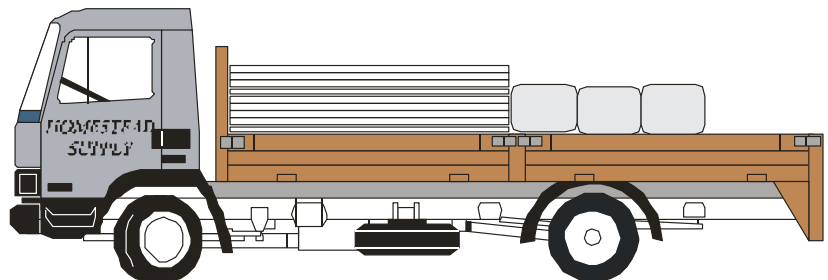
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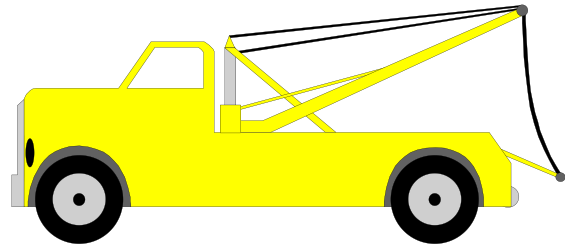
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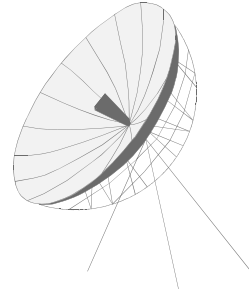
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Alaska's National Parks are inviting comment on each park's Compendium. The Compendium is a compilation of all designations, closures and restrictions imposed under discretionary authority within the regulations covering national parks. The Compendium, 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 2007 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 4 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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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Happy 2007 everyone! I hope you had a great 2006 and that 2007 is even better. Can you believe how fast these years fly by? Maybe it's just that I'm getting older and every day seems to count a little more. There is one thing that doesn't seem to change each year and that is that I still love to eat!

I bought myself a recipe organizer program for my computer, and I started inputting the recipes I've shared with you over the last few years. I'll have to wait 'til summer when I see Rick and Bonnie to get some of the back issues I can't seem to find. I don't want to repeat a bunch of recipes that I've already given you, but until I find them, have patience. One thing I noticed right away and is that I never seem to tell you how many people a recipe will feed. I'll try to do better in the future. Okay, let's get started.

It's winter and what better time for soup. I thought I'd give you a few of my favorites even if I've shared them with you before.

CHEESY HAM CHOWDER

(I found this in Company's Coming by Jean Pare while traveling through Canada —great book)

2 cups diced potato
1 cup diced onion
1/3 cup diced carrot
1 chicken bouillon cube (1/5 oz. size)
1 cup water
1 teaspoon Parsley flakes
3/4 cup fresh or frozen peas

6 1/2 oz. canned or fresh flaked ham
2 cups milk
8- oz. mild processed cheese, cut up (Velveeta is good)

Put first 6 ingredients into saucepan. Cook until vegetables are tender. Cool a little and then put through a blender and transfer it back into the saucepan. Add peas, ham, milk and cheese. Heat, stirring often. Gently simmer to cook the peas. It makes about 8 cups and is really, really good.

This next one I found in the "Better Homes and Garden Soups & Stews." I love it because I love Barley and for once I love something that's good for me! Sorry, but even for myself I forgot to write down how many it would feed.

BARLEY BEEF SOUP

2 pounds beef shank crosscuts (I just used a good stew beef or whatever was easy to get.)

6 cups water
1 large onion, chopped
3/4 cup red wine (You know you can substitute non-alcoholic wine or beef broth, if you wish.)

1 1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon finely, shredded orange peel
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 clove of garlic, minced
3/4 cup quick cooking barley
1 medium green pepper, chopped (about 3/4 cup)

(I also added carrots and a little zucchini.)

Trim off excess fat from beef. In a Dutch oven combine first 8

ingredients. (I used long-cooking barley so I added that too.)

Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and then simmer covered for 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until meat is tender.

Remove meat from soup. Skim off fat. When meat is cool, remove from bones (if there are any) and cut up.

Return meat to soup with uncooked barley, if you used the instant, and add the green pepper and any other vegetables you wish. Simmer about 10 minutes or until the barley and vegetables are tender.

Now, one of my all-time favorites and one that the family loves.

CREAMY-CHICKEN-VEGETABLE CHOWDER

1 1/2 cups milk or half-and-half

1 cup chicken broth
1 (10 3/4 oz.) can condensed cream of potato soup

1 (10 3/4 oz.) can condensed cream of chicken soup

2 cups chopped up cooked chicken or turkey (you can use canned also)

1/3 cup chopped green onions

1 (11 oz.) can Mexicorn (just corn with red and green peppers), drained

1 (4.5 oz.) jar sliced mushrooms, drained

1 (4.5 oz.) can of chopped green chilies

6 oz. (1 1/2 cups) shredded cheddar cheese

In a 4-quart saucepan or Dutch oven, combine milk, broth, potato soup and chicken soup and blend it well. Add all the remaining ingredients except the cheese; mix well. Cook over medium heat for 5 to 8 minutes or until onions are tender, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Add cheese; stir until melted.

This is great served with tortilla chips or rolls.

Now, just one more that is really, really good.

MINESTRONE

(makes about 3 quarts)

- 1 ½ pounds Italian sweet sausage - remove from casings and break up
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup diced onions
- 1 cup sliced carrots
- 3 cans consomme
- 2 cups sliced zucchini
- 2 cans diced tomatoes with juice
- 2 cups shredded cabbage (I just get one of those cole slaw bags if I'm near the store.)
- 1 teaspoon basil
- ¼ teaspoon oregano
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 cans great northern beans, unstrained

- chopped parsley
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon Accent
- shredded Parmesan cheese

Skin and brown the sausage; add carrots and onions. Cook 5 minutes. Add the next 7 ingredients and simmer 1 hour. Add beans, salt, and pepper and cook another 20 minutes. Garnish with parsley and Parmesan and enjoy!

Have a great winter and I'll see you in the spring.

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

October 2006 was rather warm and with well above average precipitation and some snow.

The average temperature for October was 33.2 (30.0 in Oct. '05 and 31.1 in Oct. '04). This was about 7 degrees above normal. The high was 50 on October 12th (53 on Oct. 3 '05, 52 on Oct. 7, '04 and 75 (not a misprint!) on Oct. 2, '03). The low was 6 on October 29th (-1 on Oct. 30, '05, -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.

The total liquid precipitation was 5.65 inches (0.40 in Oct. '05, 3.27 in Oct. '04 and 0.61 in Oct. '03). Most of the precipitation fell as rain, with 3.43 inches record-

ed in 36 hours on October 9th -11th.

During the same period 6.3 inches were recorded at Kennicott by Mike Monroe. There was flooding with numerous damage reported throughout the area. The Kennicott River rose 3.60 feet and crested at 18.70 at noon on October 11th. This was up from 15.10 feet at 6 am on October 9th. Total snowfall for October of 8.4 inches (3.7 in Oct '05, 12.3 in Oct. '04 and 3.5 in Oct. '03). The snow depth at McCarthy was 0 inches on October 18th and increased to 5 inches on the 21st and ended the month with 6 inches on the ground.

The first half of November saw well below average temperatures and no 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 15. The high was 26 on November 1st (15 on Nov. 10, '05 and 43 on Nov. 10, '04) the low was -29 on November 15th (-32 on Nov. 6, '05 and -7 on Nov. 17, '04). Liquid precipitation was 0.01 inches with 0.2 inches of snow, compared with 0.55 inches and 10.4 inches of snow in '05. There was 6 inches of snow on the ground, the same as on November 1st. The Kennicott River was completely covered with ice the morning of November 15th. 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.

Well, I don't know as I want a lawyer to tell me what I cannot do. I hire him to tell how to do what I want to do." —J.P. Morgan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor

December 4, 2006

Editor's note: Molly was born in Kennecott April 10, 1922. That makes her a "Kennecott Kid." Her parents were Geraldine Dalton O'Neill and John B. O'Neill.

Do so enjoy —so very much—each issue as it comes. It brings my birthplace closer to me in a special way!

Molly O'Neill Huckins

November 18, 2006

Editor's note: Another Kennecott Kid, Vernice (Sissy) Lommel Kluh comments on our recent coverage of the flooding at Kennecott. A portion of her letter follows. If you haven't yet read Sissy's book, "Born in Kennecott," be sure to get a copy.

The Nov/Dec issue arrived today. A beautiful issue! You did a great job covering all the news —photos too!

I just about cried when I read about the Assay Office. That was my Father's first job when he came to Kennecott about 1916. He was a young assayer in Kellogg, Idaho at the time and Stephen Birch was traveling thru the States on his way back to Alaska looking for an assayer and offered my Dad the job. I was my Dad's best pal and spent many

hours with him in that assay office. I can see they may have to give it up. Rebuilding it in the path of the National Creek floods is useless. However, that Assay Office was a very critical part of the mining industry. The NPS should definitely make every effort to keep this historical asset! It would be my dream to see the Assay Office restored. Of course it needs a new location, out of harms way, possibly closer to the mill. Do you think there would be any interest in organizing an effort to save this most important and historically significant Kennecott asset before it is all hauled away?

The over all restoration plans seem to be moving right along. The recreation hall looks great and seems to be in demand for many functions. Congratulations to all those involved!

Take care you two and regards to all up there who remember us. I'm heading to bed now to finish reading every article in WSEN!

Sissy Kluh

Editor's note: Another WSEN subscriber who has significant ties to Kennecott writes:

11/16/06

On your recent issue Neil Darish had an article on arti-

facts. On the bottom of page 29 he mentions letters between W. E. Smith and Harvey Sullivan who was my father.

Would it be possible to obtain copies of these letters?...My dad died when I was 14 and I don't have many copies of his many activities.

Thanks for your help.

George (Sullivan)

Sorry about the flood.

Sounds like it took out my bunkhouse where I lived in 37.

November 16 & 17, 2006

Editor's note: Andy Cesare is a new online WSEN subscriber. He is referring to an article written in our November/December 2006 issue, "Martin Radovan remembered."

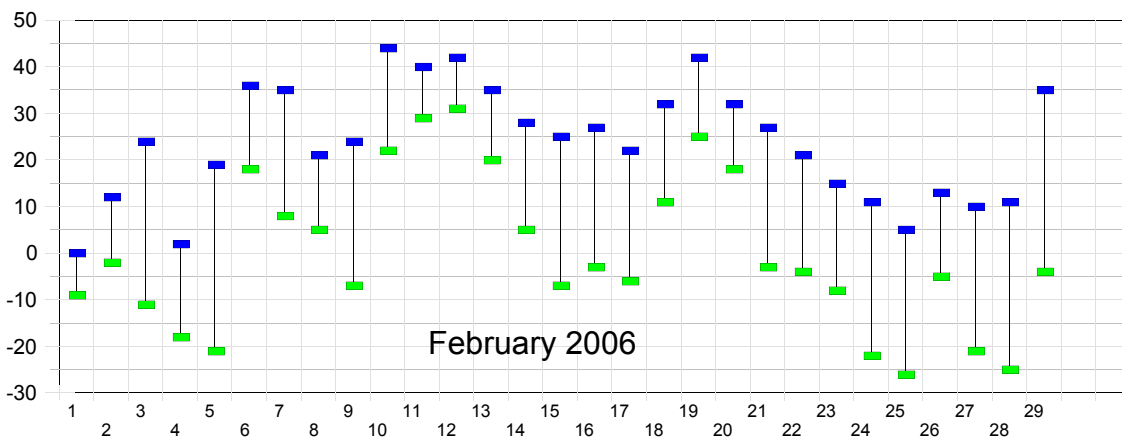
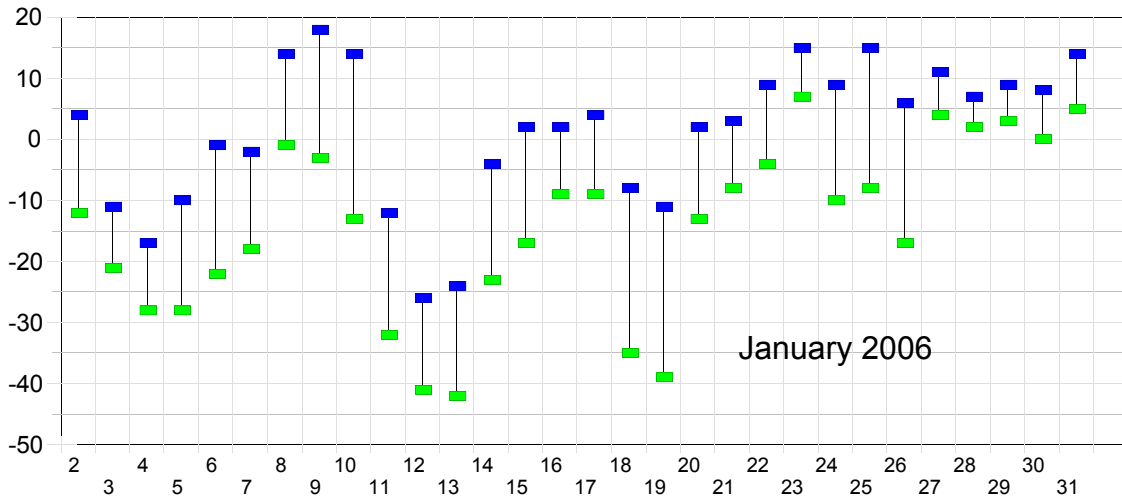
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I subscribed today to your news publication (internet only).... Martin Radovan was my great uncle. Scott Radovich is my first cousin. I have seen the video Scott made from his recent trip to Glacier Creek —it was awesome.

What a nice article on my Uncle Martin! Thank you so much for enlightening our family about Martin.

Andrew J. Cesare

"It is not the business of government to make men virtuous or religious, or to preserve the fool from the consequences of his own folly. Government should be repressive no further than is necessary to secure liberty by protecting the equal rights of each from aggression on the part of others, and the moment governmental prohibitions extend beyond this line they are in danger of defeating the very ends they are intended to serve."—Henry George



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