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Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Vol. Eleven Issue Two

March & April 2002

Two Dollars



A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Greetings from a chilly McCarthy! Winter is still here with -29 degrees last night as our minimum temperature. It is March 7th and the WSEN is about a week late. We decided to wait until the local dog race occurred on the first of this month so we could cover it in this issue.

As you can see by the front page, we did manage to catch a few photos. In the middle picture is Mark Vail with two of his dogs, Dotty and Chakina, coming into the finish line during the skijoring race. The lower picture demonstrates Frances Bursch and Ian Ludwig as the weight for Bekah Ward's dog Cloudy in the Weight Pull contest. Be sure to read the rest of the story on page 6.

I want to call your attention to a request from me to you, our subscribers, on page 28, under the cooking column. I'm eager to include more of "you" in our upcoming issues.

Our youngest contributor to this March/April WSEN, is Kaleb Rowland, 10, who wrote his first news item for this paper. You can find it on page 12.

As you know, the WSEN is bimonthly and therefore we are sometimes later than we like to be in reporting important information. The January issue came out much earlier than usual because Rick and I left for a trip Outside. On December 19th, our town suffered the loss of friend and neighbor Chris Richards. Because the printing had already been done, we could not include the sad news in that issue. Even though it is coming to you on the late side, we

wanted to share a write-up of Chris' life and the announcement of his upcoming memorial service. We cannot thank Chris' brother Duston Richards enough for taking the time to write about Chris and fill in those pieces of his earlier years. You can find these articles on pages 14 and 15.

A note from the publisher is usually the last article we write so if there is something last minute we want to share with you, I can make room for it here. On Monday, March 4th Keith and Laurie Rowland's log house building project started big time. By the time Rick and I arrived at their site that afternoon, the house was already taking shape! Rick took pictures of the operation but we just didn't have room to include them this issue.

Fairbanks Truss Company, owned by Jay Williams and Laurie's brother, Dave Persons, (both subscribers) were busy lifting each number-coded log into its designated spot with the use of their gigantic boom truck. Amazing to watch! Today they are ready to begin putting the roof on. We just wanted to say congratulations to the entire Rowland family!

Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following new subscribers: Doug Vollman, AK; Bob Retherford and Dora Gropp, AK; Marie Gregory, NJ; Sarah Whiteside, NY; Laura Silver, NY; Erica Harris, NY; Lila Vogt, AK; Carla Hilgendorf, AK; Bob and Joyce Person, CA.

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**FAX (907) 554-4494 (note
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**NOTE NEW E-mail:
WSEN@starband.net.**

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Contributors to this issue:
George Cebula, Ned Rozell,
Kaleb Rowland, Vicki Rood,
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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Sam and Kris (Rueter)

Gregory: Most of *Items of Interest* readers will recognize Kris Rueter's name because I have written about her for some time. But, what some of you may not know, is that Kris has made a significant name change. We are honored to now address her as Mrs. Sam Gregory!

Local McCarthy resident, Mark Vail, wrote of his trip to New York (in the Jan./Feb. 2002 WSEN) to attend Kris and Sam's wedding on October 27. The wedding was held in a church in lower Manhattan.

In a recent Email from Kris, she wrote of her and Sam's past, present and future items of interest to share with us all:

"We had lots of Alaska highlights in our New York setting. Besides having about 20 family and friends that traveled from Alaska, Mark Vail and Nancy Cook brought some smoked salmon that Nancy and I had caught in the Copper River to share with everyone at the wedding. The New Yorkers loved it!

One of the Irish musicians led the party to sing the song "North to Alaska" at the reception which was followed by a lot of dancing. It was extra special to have the Alaska spirit travel to New York during such a turbulent time for the city and the country.

The morning after the wedding, all the Alaskans met us in Central Park on a beautiful, sunny, fall day. Sam and I were touched that every person from our immediate family plus many from our extended family made it to help support us and celebrate with us. For Sam, whose

family is about as big as the size of McCarthy in the winter, we felt lucky to have all the support.

We have both been busy in New York working toward taking our summer in Alaska. Also we are very excited about our March trip (me around the 9th and Sam, the 15th). Our cabin projects are already lining up but I think we will keep our expectations low so we can enjoy some visiting and relaxing, too."

Congratulations, Sam and Kris! We are so happy for you both and look forward to seeing you in person over a nice cup of tea. You both are loved.

The English/Ward family: The month of December 2001 found other McCarthyites in far off places. Doran, Roni, Adam and Bekah returned to their Seattle home for Christmas and the New Year. They even traveled to Washington, DC and took in several special sights. According to Roni, there were no lines and the locals were very nice. "It was a wonderful, educational trip for all of us." As Adam and Bekah's homeschool teacher this year, Roni is now dreaming of taking her "students" to Boston. "Nothing like seeing the real things to teach history and government."

Their Fireweed Mountain home was still waiting for them when they returned to the area first week in January. Since then daughter Bekah has spent her free time mushing Rosie (Jeanie Miller's dog on loan), Pitka (Andy and Cynthia Shidner's dog on dogsitting status) and her own dog, Cloudy. She also is enjoying skijouring. Son Adam is doing well with snowboarding.

Quilting is Roni's favorite

pastime this winter. When husband, Doran, is not piloting an Alaska Airlines' jet, he is splitting firewood for the family or hauling water.

And, so, as you can see, life is not boring, stagnate or uneventful in this household.

The Bursch family: Tom, Cate, Frances and Maggie are presently in Anchorage so I cannot call them up for an "item." However, Frances, Maggie and Bekah Ward are 3 busy young ladies these days. Together they have planned an upcoming winter event for McCarthy area locals. The March 1 event is called: It's a Dog Race in McCarthy!!! Be sure to check out the results on page 6.

Chad Reymiller: Chad reached his first goal of the winter—he moved into his cabin by Christmas. Congratulations, Chad! Since then, he hasn't let any grass grow under his feet. I guess I should reword that. He hasn't let any snow pile up under his bunny boots. He's managed to clear trees off a 100' x 50' area for a future garage, finished up the electrical wiring for the cabin and tried out his new airless sprayer on the inside logs and pine board ceiling. Things are truly shaping up.

In his spare time, Chad built massive window frames and is eagerly laying out plans for upcoming projects.

He says he is glad Keith Rowland of Rowcon Services is now locally-based out of McCarthy. We can expect to see Keith's equipment busy laying a pad for the garage and putting in a septic system for Chad this summer.

He, along with several other

McCarthy area residents, expect Sourdough Drilling of Wasilla to put in a well for him. There are a lot of things on Chad's plate these days and in the future. In the meantime, Chad is looking forward to his 7th year of field research on Crosswinds Lake with the Gulkana Hatchery and then a return to his McCarthy cabin next winter.

Brooks, Diane and Ian Ludwig: The Ludwigs just returned from a trip to Anchorage (Diane and Ian) and Delta (Brooks). Diane and Ian visited Allen Showalter, Diane's father. Diane brought back the good news that her dad had successful back surgery and is recuperating just fine. She and Ian were glad to be on hand to help with chores and entertainment!

Brooks and Diane brought back building supplies to finish out their sauna so I know what Brooks will be doing in the next few weeks. (Unless Rick can talk him into an ice-fishing venture to Silver Lake, that is!)

Prior to their leaving, Ian celebrated his second birthday. He loves books and cars and is growing up into a fine young man!

Tim Mischel: Tim snowmachined down the mountain the other day and Rick and I saw him while he was in our neck of the woods. Because we are the local propane dealers, we can be assured of an occasional visit from Tim whenever conditions allow him to travel (and sometimes even when they don't!).

We asked him what was new "up the hill." He informed us there were a couple of mountain goats up his way which is always a sight to behold. Tim certainly has a good view from his home at the angle station.

The Rowland family: There is never a dull moment in the Rowland household. Besides homeschooling 4 of their 5 children, (this is Laurie's No. 1 full-time job but she manages to fit in a few others, too,) Keith and Laurie are busy planning and about to start a major housebuilding project. Keith is presently making a trip to Canada to pick up house logs to begin putting on a second story over their newly-constructed basement.

Now that McCarthy is "home" to them, the Rowlands are settling right into the community. That isn't hard to do as they've been making trips to this area for many years. One of those "settling-in" features is having Laurie play the new keyboard at the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church on Sunday mornings. Those of us in attendance are thoroughly enjoying her sampling of a variety of musical sounds that this new instrument generates. Thanks for practicing on us, Laurie; we love it!

Jim and Audrey Edwards: The Edwards' phone wasn't working properly so it was a good excuse for me to snowmachine down for a visit. Audrey is a bachelorette this week because Jim flew to Anchorage to have a cataract removed, she said. The tea kettle was hot so we took time for a cup of tea and one of those "catching up" chats – also a tour of her latest accomplishments.

Her sun room now includes a new hot tub. The kitchen/living room walls look fresh and clean. Chad Reymiller gave Audrey a hand at wallpapering and they did a great job.

Now we know who the experts are for hanging wall paper, ladies!

Lane Moffitt, Betty Adams

and Kaylin: According to Betty, son Kaylin has a "greener thumb than she does." Even though he was advised to wait just a bit longer to plant those sunflower seeds, Kaylin was sure summer wasn't THAT far off and did what any avid gardener would do—planted those seeds. And like any good seed...they came up speedily. Thank goodness they are the "dwarf variety," says a relieved mom. Of course, Betty is pushing the season some herself. At the time of this writing, there is 25 inches of snow on the ground, but Betty's inside garden is producing broccoli plants that are totally ignoring that mound of white stuff outside.

Betty tells me there is a moose cow and calf roaming her McCarthy neighborhood these days. Because Kaylin and the Rowland kids love playing outside, Betty phoned Laurie to give her and family a "heads up" on the new faces in town. I wonder if the moose got wind of all the greenery growing inside and thought they'd come for dinner!

Where is Lane while all this gardening is going on? On the road grader pushing snow and doing what he can to make winter transportation less hazardous for us McCarthyites. Our hats off to you, Lane, for a fine job on our roads.

The Jim Miller family: Jim answered the phone when I called for items of interest from Jeannie. I thought Jim said Jeannie was "in the dog house." I didn't ask why but requested Jeannie call me when she was free. After I laid down the phone, I couldn't help but wonder if Jim was kidding me along or if he was serious that Jeannie truly was where he said she was. Just so I am not the originator of a small-town rumor...Jeannie later

told me she was merely in the "dog yard." I'm glad she straightened me out!

Stacie came by the other day to pick up a propane tank and she eagerly shared she and her brother Matt and sister-in-law Julie recently brought in two new snowmachines. She was giving hers a workout.

This last mail day I thought it quite nice that Stacie allowed her mom to drive her machine to mail. Julie was driving her and Matt's new machine with Stacie on the back seat. The Miller ladies are traveling in style these days!

Normally this time of year, Jeannie and I compare gardening notes and sometimes seeds. I don't know what I would do without Jeannie's annual advice. This year she encouraged me to get a jumpstart on my parsley plants and get them sprouted along with the celery. I'll be sure now to have parsley the entire summer instead of later in the season. Thanks, Jeannie!

Sister Terry is coming back to give Jeannie an extra hand at her chores this summer. That always brings a smile to Jeannie's face and a happy ring to her voice and, of course, Terry is well checked out on all the Miller activities and well-known in the area.

Al and Fran Gagnon: All is well at May Creek, says Fran, even though they did experience some wind recently that stripped the nearby trees of their snow cover. Her special ward—a Junco—is still hanging on and she gladly shared that the little bird survived the -50 degree temperatures the McCarthy area saw this winter. She and I heartedly agreed we preferred the present warm temperatures and the sunny skies.

We compared notes on the opening session of the 2002 Winter Olympics this year. The Gagnons also enjoy satellite TV and even in their remote part of Alaska, they can feel a part of the world's activities.

Meg Hunt and Ed LaChapelle: Meg and Ed just recently returned from a trip Outside. I'll let Meg give you their item of interest in her own words: "I went down to Washington first to see friends and work with my teacher of classical dance of India (the stylistic details always need further refinement). Then Ed came down and we took off in a rental car—our aim was to go wherever the snow was good for downhill skiing and see friends along the way. I am grateful that my body still remembers how to ski downhill—by the end of the trip I could about keep up with Ed. By the way, he skis free at some areas because of his age, but others are only offering an over-70 discount. Free skiing begins at 80 now at a few areas. This is because there is an ever-increasing amount of gray hair showing up on the slopes!"

"In Missoula we visited Jim Berkey and Claire Emery, whose little Oliver (a few months old now) is cute as a button. We also saw Carly and Ken Kritchen in Baker City, Oregon, and met their new horse, their third. They have a beautiful place there, about 10 miles out of town near an elk range."

"We got lots of sunshine as well as snow. We hiked in the red rock country around Moab right when the Olympic torch entered Utah; it began by coming through one of the arches at Arches National Park, and continued in a parade down Moab's main street. Of course we watched the Olympics on TV every night as we went."

Doug Miller and Neil Darish: Doug and Neil, the new McCarthy Lodge owners, are busier than ever these days. When I attended the "McCarthy Sprint" activities this last Friday, Neil eagerly offered to give me a tour of the remodeling project taking place in Ma Johnson's Hotel. Once I stepped inside the building, the only familiar sights were the faces of local residents Matt Miller, Richard Villa, and, of course, Doug. The fellas were actively involved in either wall-papering, constructing new facilities or restoring old furnishings. Doug took over the "tour" and pointed out the embossed tin plate ceiling which has since been painted. The lobby is getting an office completely decked out in the 1930's style. Each room will have its own special theme. I could go into more detail here but you will enjoy seeing it for yourself when you pay a visit to McCarthy!

Taking me across the street to the new home of the Lancaster Hostel (this building used to be the McCarthy Gift Shop/Liquor Store). This building is also receiving a face lift and a new purpose. There will be approximately 10 rooms in the hostel as well as showers and bathroom facilities.

As we made our way back to the McCarthy Lodge, Doug showed me where the "deli" is going in. I'm sure our area visitors will be pleased to sample the baked goods, etc. from the McCarthy Lodge restaurant that will keep the deli well stocked.

Thanks for such an informative tour, Doug and Neil. I find it truly amazing what fine work one can do even in the midst of winter!

It's a Dog Race in McCarthy!

BY BONNIE KENYON

Downtown McCarthy was the scene of more than its usual share of activity. If it had been summer time, I wouldn't think much about it. But, March 1st? Definitely not the norm for a wintertime picture in our town.

Once the weekly mail plane left and residents collected their incoming parcels and mail, there was a steady stream towards town. Downtown McCarthy quickly came alive with locals arriving by snowmachines, vehicles, 4 wheelers, skis, by foot, and needless-to-say by dog team.

Draped across main street was a banner announcing, "McCarthy Sprint" which turned out to be our first community dog sled race.

The creators of this winter festivity were three young ladies—Bekah Ward and Frances and Maggie Bursch. The girls somehow found time in-between their home school

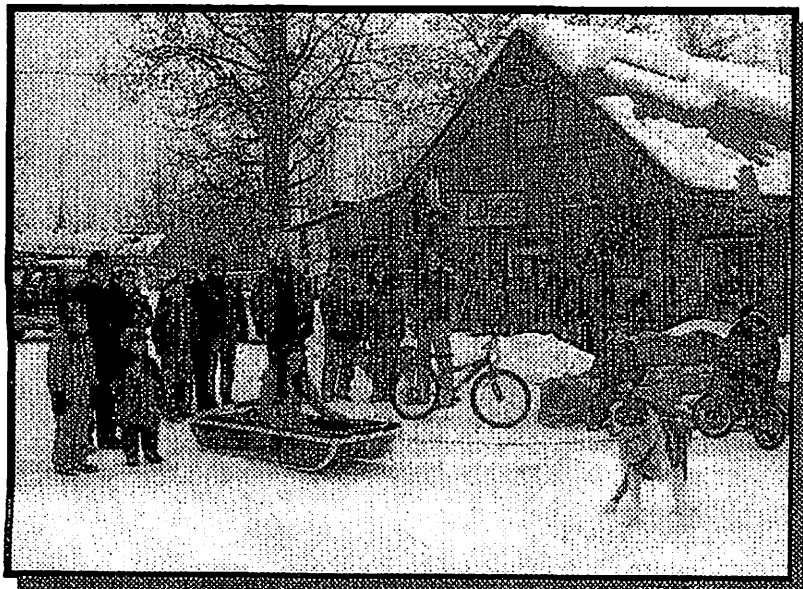


WSEN staff photo

SKIJORING 1ST PLACE WINNERS MAGGIE BURSCH AND SISSAL.

studies to put their heads together and plan a get-together

that drew approximately 32 people from as far away as May Creek and Long Lake. Nearly 22 dogs participated in the three races: dog sled race with 3 dogs max, skijoring with 2 dogs max and a dog weight pull. The weight pull was for 20 feet. Catie and Tom Bursch announced and introduced each racer and their dogs. The races were a two-mile course with racers leaving at staggered times. The time keepers were Dee Frady and Roni Ward. The starting and ending positions were in front of the McCarthy Lodge.



WSEN staff photo

BEKAH WARD IS "WEIGHT" FOR MARK VAIL'S DOG, BARNARD.



WSEN staff photo

TESSA BAY AND TAZZIE CAME IN 2ND IN THE SKIJORING CONTEST.

The Skijoring Race started the activities with the following



WBEN staff photo

**RONI WARD AND DEE FRADY
KEEP TIME.**



WBEN staff photo

DIANE LUDWIG AND FRANCES BURSCH; SAMPLE LOCAL FARE.

contenders and their dogs: Tessa Bay and Tazzie; Tom Bursch and Colors; Mark Vail and Dotty and Chakina; Bekah Ward and Rosie and Candle; Maggie Bursch and Sissal; Teal Lohse and Shaker; Trae Lohse and Captain.

Winners were: 1st place, Maggie Bursch and 2nd place, Tessa Bay.

The Dog Team race: Diane and Ian Ludwig with Nikoli and Fireweed; Maggie Bursch with Mas, Sissal and Castine; Frances Bursch with Sheba and Lacey; Mark Vail with Cracker, Hubbard and Fohlin; Bekah Ward with Cloudy, Rosie, and Candle; Trae Lohse with Shaker, Captain and Quake.

Winners: 1st place went to Mark Vail; 2nd to Frances Bursch.

Weight Pull: Adam Ward with Pitka; Tom Bursch with Sheba; Mark Vail with Barnard; Neil Darish with Zookie; Bekah Ward with Cloudy; Julie Miller with Dakota; Tyee Lohse with Quake; Trae Lohse with Captain.

Winners: 1st place was a tie between Mark Vail and Bekah Ward; 2nd place was a tie between Trae Lohse and Adam Ward.

At the end of the race, everyone crowded into the McCarthy Lodge where Tom Bursch announced the winners. Recognition was given to each participant and their placement in the race. A variety of prizes that were donated by local businesses filled a table. Each racer was asked to choose the prize of their choice. Thanks were also extended to the Trail Volunteers, Orion Brewster, Adam Ward, Natalie and Kelly Bay and the Rowland family. Jeannie Miller, Race Marshall, received appreciation for her assistance.

A potluck followed with plenty of food and appetites. Tailor Made Pizza (Jim and Jeannie Miller) provided freshly-baked pizzas for the crowd of onlookers and racers alike. Much thanks goes to McCarthy Lodge for their outpouring of support and a warm place to gather.

We would like to thank the following sponsors who made our Dog Race possible:

- McCarthy Lodge
- Rowcon Services/the Rowlands
- Wrangell Mountain Air
- Tailor Made Pizza
- Willow Herb Mountain Depot
- Ouray Sportswear
- McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church
- Wrangell St. Elias News
- Lohse Family
- Roni Ward

Also thanks to the Trail crew:

- Adam Ward
- Orion Brewster
- Natalie and Kelly Bay
- Rowland Family

Thanks,

Frances and Maggie Bursch and Bekah Ward

The Pilgrims come to McCarthy

BY NEIL DARISH

Local residents Gary Green and Jim Miller were the first in town to greet the Pilgrim family. Two pickups full of family members were making their way to Kennecott, only to be turned back near the airstrip turnoff by deep snow. Gary encouraged the visiting family to return to downtown McCarthy where the Pilgrims would be sure to find other community locals. Jim said, "The Lodge is always open so head into McCarthy and have a cup of coffee."

I was shoveling snow off the lodge roof when the group arrived. What adventurers, I thought, arriving as they did and when. After all, it was the last week of January!

They eventually made a phone call back home to let the rest of the family know they had truly arrived safely in McCarthy. Bonnie Kenyon said she had received a phone call from Cal Datta of the DOT maintenance station in Chitina requesting information concerning the whereabouts of a large family traveling into our area. At the time Bonnie talked to Cal, she was not aware that the Pilgrims were as nearby as they were. She did tell Cal that she would keep an eye out for the family in question. Upon learning of their arrival, she called the lodge to pass on the message.

Six more smaller siblings and mom had to stay home on the Kenai to take care of the dogs, goats, and rest of the homestead. Because they had not heard recently from the traveling members, DOT had been contacted for possible information of their whereabouts.



It seems this family has been on every road in Alaska, and when they arrived in our town and walked around, they said to themselves, "This is what we thought Fairbanks would be like." The patriarch of the family said that as they went through the rock at the start of the McCarthy Road, it felt like they just might have found the Alaska they've been looking for.

The Pilgrim family spoke of why they left their homestead high up in the Ozark Mountains: Too many hikers in the "wilderness" near their place of settlement made them feel "lost."

Later, as they brought out their guitars, mandolins, violins, and a banjo, they told me they have lived in Alaska for 4 years now. They have experienced a few hardships—mostly the disappointment of not finding the right piece of Alaska to call home. And like others who have come here, they sure find our town of McCarthy appealing.

Jim, Gary, Guy and I

listened to their first Blue Grass tune and smiled. Doug continued his remodeling efforts in the next room. I suspect he was hammering to the rhythm! Jim ran to the phone and called some neighbors, holding up the receiver in the direction of the music, letting the songs encourage a get-together. While we wait for more of the town to gather, we listened to more songs and stories. By 3 or 4 in the afternoon, Jeannie, Matt and Julie, JA, Larry, Dan, Stacie, Aaron, and others were listening and smiling with the guests.

Seems the Pilgrim Family (Yup, that's the family name!) played a bit in a recent Anchorage Blue Grass Festival, and got written up in the paper, too. "In our Lord Jesus, Music & Wilderness Livin'" is the family motto.

There is talk of a return trip with the rest of the family before too long, and even a look around the area for the right patch of land. Let's see now... That would about double the population of McCarthy!

NPS resource news

BY DEVI SHARP

I wish I could say that my workload decreases in the winter—it doesn't. As many rural Alaskans know, fall is subsistence season. First you do it, then you meet to manage it. Subsistence remains a very large portion of my work. We recognize that the opportunity to conduct subsistence activities in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is very important to the local rural residents within and surrounding the park and we are dedicated to preserving both the opportunities and resources.

The broad mission of the National Park Service is to... "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such and manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." In other words, in the context of subsistence resources, we manage for a healthy ecosystem that will provide for subsistence resources for the current and future generations. I think this is consistent with what most of us want to see.

We are also mandated by our policy to manage for all species and components of the ecosystem. All species means; moose, wolves, and spiders, lichens and everything in between. All of the pieces are important and it is our job to see that all species are present and in their natural balance.

Fall is the season for the Federal Subsistence Board to consider proposals to change

subsistence fishing regulations. This year the Board will consider 9 proposals specific to Southcentral Alaska. These proposals include expanding customary and traditional use determinations for salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Copper River and for freshwater fish in the Upper Copper River drainage. The Board will consider a proposal to establish a Federal season and bag limit for salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict. If the proposal is adopted, residents of the Resident Zone communities for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve (excluding Yakutat) will have the opportunity to subsistence fish for salmon in both the Glennallen Subdistrict and the Chitina Subdistrict in 2002. The board will also consider proposals tied to signing of fishwheels and whether or not to continue to require subsistence users to remove the tail fin from harvested salmon. (See story on page 12.)

Another very important part of my job this year is to give direction and support to the inventory and monitoring program. This year we conducted a fresh water fish inventory in selected lakes and rivers in the park. Although we have a good idea where salmon occur, we have very little information about other fish species. Often the presence or absence of some of the smaller, lesser known fish species, that don't migrate and whom are entirely dependent upon the local, freshwater environment, tell us a lot about how the aquatic ecosystem is functioning. While we were out sampling fish (not a culinary

sample), we also sampled water quality. The water quality samples will give us basic measurements for parameters such as pH, nitrogen, phosphorous, suspended solids and dissolved organic carbon. This baseline data may help us detect changes in the future and gives us a better perspective on how our current management decisions may affect the aquatic environment. There were three folks on the fish inventory crew and all were local hires and were assisted by a volunteer from Dartmouth College. We also conducted a small mammal inventory in the park which was contracted to the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

We are now starting to plan the Vital Signs monitoring program. We plan to monitor a few ecological parameters to detect change in the park. We would like to choose dozens of things to monitor, but given the financial constraints, we will have to keep the "vital signs" to a small list. An example of an important thing to monitor might be hare (rabbit) population density. We all know that many animals, from lynx to ptarmigan are affected by the hare cycle. We have been monitoring hares for the last 10 years and will continue to collect this valuable information. In the past the state has used our data to help them determine the lynx trapping season.

If you have questions about any of these programs or concerns about resources feel free to call or drop me a note.

What do you do with a rusty old shovel?

By VICKI ROOD

Imagine a 15,000 acre historic district full of old pots and pans, enamelware dishes, rusty picks and shovels, rotted leather boots, and a myriad of other historic artifacts scattered across the landscape, pretty much as the original owners left it. What do you do with all that "stuff?" To an archeologist it is a dream come true. It is an opportunity to study and understand the material culture of the original owners. It helps document the history associated with the events it represents. To a visitor it is an experience they are not likely to encounter anywhere else. It is an opportunity to discover a part of the past they've only read about in books.

There are several such historic districts scattered throughout Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Three of them have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Bremner, a lode mining operation located south of the Chitina River; Chisana-Gold Hill, site of one of the last great gold rushes in Alaska; and of course Kennecott National Historic Landmark, with its familiar red and white buildings. During the summer of 2001 the park invited a team of specialists to come to the park and develop recommendations for managing the "stuff" lying about on the landscape. Our goals were twofold: to preserve the artifacts and the information about the material culture and history they represent, and to provide the visitor with an educational and enriching experience they are not likely to encounter

elsewhere. The specialists on the team included Logan Hovis, Mining Historian for the NPS Alaska Support Office in Anchorage, George Teague, an industrial archeologist working for the NPS in Tucson, Arizona, Abby Sue Fisher, a curator and cultural resource manager at Keweenaw National Historic Park, an historic copper mine in upper Michigan, and Anne Worthington, Cultural Resource Manager for Wrangell-St. Elias. The team also visited Coal Creek in Yukon Charley National Preserve, and offered similar recommendations for management of the artifacts located on the historic landscape associated with a gold mining dredge there.

The team members from the lower 48 were most impressed with, and surprised by, the number and quality of the artifacts they encountered on the landscape. At sites in the lower 48 very few artifacts remain in their original location, much like they were when the owners left. The team felt this was a quality that should continue, at the same time trying to preserve the objects themselves and the information they can provide. The number and type of artifacts, ranging from domestic utensils, to hardware and tools, to large pieces of equipment such as trucks and wagons, is extensive. By prowling around these historic sites, visitors and archeologists alike can discover who the original occupants were, what they were doing, and how they did it.

Unfortunately, in the fifteen years archeologists and park staff have been visiting these

sites, they have noticed a decline in the quality and number of artifacts on the landscape. Over time the effects of moisture and ultraviolet radiation have caused deterioration in many of the artifacts, in particular the wooden ones, as well as some metal objects. Some are washed away by flood events, while others end up in a shoebox in someone's attic, collected as a souvenir of a wonderful experience. Occasionally an object is collected and sold on the open market. The loss of these artifacts is a loss to the visitor experience and from the historic record. In trying to balance visitor experience and historic preservation and stewardship the team made a series of recommendations that will hopefully meet these goals. As it will not be possible to implement these recommendations at every historic site in the park, the staff will determine which sites will receive attention.

The team recognizes that management of these resources in the park is in preliminary development stages and recommended a wide range of options for interpretation and stewardship in order to preserve other alternatives for the future. Initially a detailed inventory and description of artifacts at key sites will be completed before further work is implemented. This way, information about the historic sites and the material culture will be available when artifacts are lost through gradual deterioration or theft. In keeping with the approach that visitors be allowed the option to "discover" these areas on their own, interpretive

brochures, walking tours and/or on-site interpretive signs will be produced that inform the public without intruding on that experience. Following development of an overall collection strategy a representative sample of domestic and industrial assemblages will be collected and accessioned into the park's museum collection where they will be used for interpretive and research purposes. For those objects left in place that are particularly susceptible to weathering and other

deteriorating factors some preservation maintenance has been prescribed. This may be as simple as placing a wagon or truck up on blocks to get the wheels away from the damp ground, or employing more complex methods such as applying Bora-C are to wooden elements of a wagon in order to slow down the deterioration process.

Work this summer identified critical areas of concern within the park's three

National Register Districts. Using the team's recommendations, the park will identify other sites that over time will receive similar attention. By balancing interpretation and stewardship the park hopes to provide an environment in which the visitor and researcher alike can learn about our past. The team felt this was the last chance the National Park Service has to preserve this element of our heritage.

Changes in Federal Subsistence Fishing Regulations for the Upper Copper River District

BY ERIC VEACH
NPS FISHERIES BIOLOGIST

The Federal Subsistence Board met in December, 2001 and adopted several new regulations affecting the Federal subsistence fisheries in the Copper River. The Board revised its previous customary and traditional use determination for the Chitina Subdistrict, which extends from the Chitina Bridge downstream to Haley Creek. Residents of the following communities are now federally qualified to subsistence fish under Federal regulations in the Chitina Subdistrict:

Chisana
Chistochina
Gakona
Glennallen
Cantwell
Gulkana
Tazlina
Tonsina
Copper Center
Tok
Tetlin
McCarthy
Chitina
Dot Lake

Tanaocross
Northway
Gakona Junction
Healy Lake
Kenny Lake
Slana
Mentasta Lake
Nabesna
Lower Tonsina

Those individuals that live along the Tok Cutoff from Tok to Mentasta Pass and along the Nabesna Road

All residents of the Prince William Sound Area, plus those communities listed above which are outside the Prince William Sound Area are also eligible to fish in the Glennallen Subdistrict, which extends from the Chitina bridge upstream to the Slana River.

In the past regulations have limited all households to no more than one subsistence fishing permit per year for the Upper Copper River District, which includes both the Glennallen Subdistrict and the Chitina Subdistrict. Households fishing the Glennallen Subdistrict have also been limited to only one

gear type (fishwheel, dipnet or rod and reel) which they select when they request a subsistence fishing permit. In 2002, Federally-qualified households (residents of the communities listed above) will be able to harvest salmon under Federal subsistence regulations in both the Glennallen and Chitina Subdistricts. Participants fishing with Federal subsistence fishing permits will be able to switch between a fishwheel, dipnet, or rod and reel at any time during the season as long as they do not operate more than one type of gear at a time. Separate permits will be issued for the Glennallen and Chitina Subdistricts. If you have been issued permits for both subdistricts, both must be in your possession while fishing and transporting subsistence-taken fish in either subdistrict.

The harvest limit for Federally-qualified users did not change and will be a cumulative limit between the Glennallen and Chitina Subdistricts as follows:

(A) For a household with

1 person, 30 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be chinook salmon if taken by dip net;

(B) For a household with 2 persons, 60 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be chinook salmon if taken by dip net; plus 10 salmon for each additional person in a household over 2 persons, except that the household's limit for chinook salmon taken by dip net does not increase;

(C) Upon request, permits for additional salmon will be issued for no more than a total of 200 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 1 person, of which no more than 5 may be chinook salmon if taken by dip net; or no more than a total of 500 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 2 or more persons, of which no more than 5 may be chinook salmon if taken by dip net.

The Federal subsistence salmon fishing season in the Chitina Subdistrict will appear in regulation to coincide exactly with the Federal subsistence salmon fishing season in the Glennallen Subdistrict. However, the Federal Subsistence Board directed the National Park Service to administer the season in the Chitina Subdistrict

through periodic openings in concert with the openings of the State subsistence season in the Chitina Subdistrict for the 2002 season. The intent of these periodic openings is to allow fish to escape harvest in the Chitina Subdistrict to provide for subsistence harvest upstream and for spawning escapement.

The Federal Subsistence Board adopted new regulations regarding marking of subsistence caught salmon in the Upper Copper River District. In the past salmon harvested for subsistence use under Federal regulations were required to be marked by removing both lobes of the tail. In 2002, salmon harvested under Federal subsistence regulations must have the anal (ventral) fin removed immediately.

The Federal Subsistence Board adopted new regulations addressing rainbow/steelhead trout that are incidentally caught in fishwheels. In the past, regulations required rainbow/steelhead trout that were incidentally caught in fishwheels to be released but allowed rainbow/steelhead trout that were incidentally caught in dipnets to be kept. In 2002, Federal subsistence fishing regulations permit

rainbow/steelhead trout that are incidentally caught in fishwheels to be kept and require the release of rainbow/steelhead trout that are incidentally caught in dipnets.

Federal subsistence fishing permits will be available at National Park Service offices in Chitina, Copper Center, and Slana. There is no charge for the permits. Permits issued for the Chitina Subdistrict will not provide for access across any private lands. Anyone who wants to cross private lands to reach fishing sites will be responsible for seeking permission from the landowner. Please respect private lands. Although Federally qualified households are still eligible to obtain a ADF&G subsistence fishing permit and harvest under State of Alaska regulations the harvest limits are not additive and at this time Federal subsistence fishing regulations for the Copper River provide a greater opportunity to harvest salmon for Federally qualified households.

If you have questions regarding the new Federal subsistence fishing regulations for the Upper Copper River District please contact Eric Veach at (907) 822-7226.

Moose couple seen at church

BY KALEB ROWLAND, AGE 10

McCarthy – On February 16 about mid-morning, a bull and cow moose were seen between the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church and a neighboring runway. They were moving toward the church building, as observed by Gary Green, a resident bush pilot,

and Kaleb Rowland, a local backhoe operator.

The bull moose was sporting an approximately thirty-inch antler spread. The moose pair was chomping on twigs and blocking the road. At one point the moose delighted

their audience by rearing and momentarily resting their hooves on each other's backs.

It is unclear to which religious persuasion the moose belong. Perhaps they were attending church just to hear the "moose-ic."

A Visitor's Guide to Kennicott & McCarthy 2002

If you have a business in the Copper River Valley we invite you to join us in this year's Visitor's Guide. We believe it is the best value for your advertising dollar.

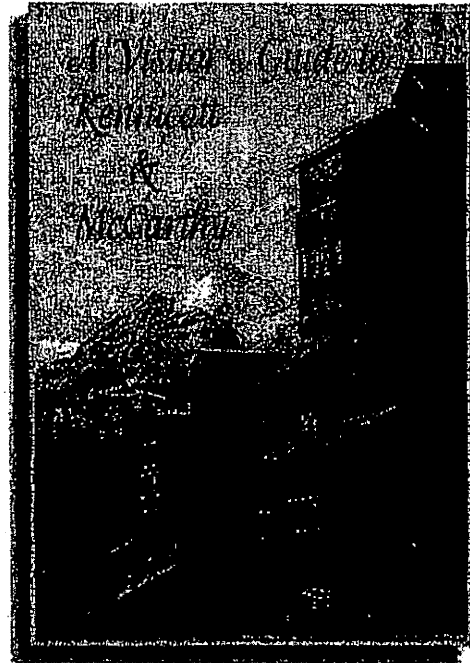
Last year we announced the ONLINE version of the Visitor's Guide and the response has been outstanding. *A Visitor's Guide to Kennicott & McCarthy* has been steadily working its way to the front on many search engines, and anyone, anywhere in the world, can now access the *Guide* if they have an Internet connection.

Bonnie and I work hard to make *A Visitor's Guide to Kennicott & McCarthy* absolutely the best advertising value for businesses in the Copper River Basin. We are focused on those visitors who are most likely to actually come to the Copper Valley Basin, rather than blanketing the whole state with unused *Guides*. In this way we are able to keep the costs far below other advertising medium.

At the same time we also work hard to make the *Guide* something the visitors will value highly. And they do. It is always a blessing to see someone get out of their car or airplane with a *Guide* in their hand!

Here's the best news of all. When you place your advertisement in the print version of the *Guide*, you get a FREE LISTING in the on-line version!

Here's the bottom line: Your advertising dollar in *A Visitor's Guide to Kennicott & McCarthy* will now work twice as hard for you. Don't delay Email at WSEN@starband.net or call us at 554-4454 to reserve your space in this year's *Guide*.



Call: 554-4454



Christopher Ray Richards

April 3, 1953 – December 19, 2001

Chris Richards, 48, died in a fire at his home in Kennicott, Alaska on Wednesday, December 19, 2001. He was born in Chicago, IL in 1953 and spent his early years in Toledo, Ohio. After graduating from high school, he and his wife Laura Curtiss moved to rural Homer in 1974, spending their first year there in a replica of a Sioux tipi on the Northern side of Lookout Mountain. They purchased a historic house in Kennicott in 1976, but they separated and Chris subsequently moved to Kennicott. He seasonally worked for the Alaska Department of Transportation for a number of years. He then went on to try several ventures in the abandoned mining town, including a convenience store with his best friend, Jim Miller, at the tram west of McCarthy and then later, a guiding business in the historic downtown district which had since become a National Park.

In his early years in Kennicott, he was often the only one who stayed through the winter. Chris said this made him the only resident qualified to vote in "town elections" and therefore eligible to nominate and elect himself "Mayor." He also once wrote on a credit card application, under the heading of Assets: "a million dollar

view." It remains unknown how the bank calculated that in their financial analysis. Chris was fiercely independent and loved the freedom of the wild Alaska he adopted. When asked how he survived the short days and long nights of the Alaskan winter, he replied, "Where else can you stand in your back yard and look down on two glaciers and where else are the stars any brighter or the aurora borealis any more beautiful?" He also loved to cross country ski, spending an hour or more snowshoeing up the hill behind the Mill Building in Kennicott so he could telemark back down again. Other pastimes were harassing slow-moving moose in the deep winter snows. His nearest neighbors were a mile and a half down the road to McCarthy where about twelve people wintered through in those early years.

In 1983, he survived being hit by three bullets fired by Lou Hastings who went on to murder six people at the McCarthy air strip. Although critically wounded, his heroic efforts at alerting others to the impending danger was a hallmark of his care for fellow frontiersmen. His right eye was damaged by one of the bullets, occasionally resulting in double vision. He vowed to never again let anyone hurt his friends and neighbors and this led to many

of his eccentricities. His love of Kennicott and his friends was only equaled by his love for his faithful dog, Rudy.

Chris established the Kennicott McCarthy Wilderness Guides in the early '90's and led backcountry trips and historical tours of the old Kennicott Mining Complex. He often flew a pirate flag on a pole in his front yard, a reminder to himself and his friends that he was an individual, a lover of the wild Alaska he adopted and a stalwart individual. The communities of Homer, McCarthy and Kennicott mourn his passing and will miss his stories, laughter and strongly-stated opinions.

Chris is survived by his mother Judy Richards, Marina Del Rey, CA; his father Ray Richards, Toledo, Ohio; and his brothers Duston Richards, Berkeley, CA; and Mark Richards, Sacramento, CA; and ex-wife Laura Curtiss Inglima, Homer, AK.

The road into Kennicott from Chitina is closed for the winter and an open memorial service will be held in Kennicott in the afternoon of June 15th. The family may be contacted at: DRichBank@AOL.com, JDustRich@MSN.com, Rays.Richards@sev.org, and Duston22@sac.sticare.com.

In Memorium

Chris Richards

Owner: Kennicott McCarthy Wilderness Guides

4/3/53 — 12/19/01

The "Mayor" of Kennicott



Memorial Service to be held in the afternoon of June 15th. Friends and community are invited to spend an afternoon at his property with Chris' family to share memories, stories and photographs.

Traditional Kennicott potluck barbeque to follow.

A memorial fund is being organized through the Friends of Kennicott, to the attention of Sally Gibert.

Condolences can be sent to:

Duston Richards, DrichBank@AOL.com

Judy Richards, JDustRich@MSN.com

Mark Richards, Duston22@sac.Sticare.com

Ray Richards, Rays.Richards@sev.org

OUR TOWN

March 1927 April

ELIZABETH UNDERWOOD WEDS EDGAR WATKINS Anchorage Times

The home of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Keeley was the scene of a pretty wedding on Saturday evening when Mrs. Elizabeth Underwood and William Edgar Watkins were joined in marriage by Rev. E. Youel, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. The simple ring ceremony was used. Mr. and Mrs. Grant Reed, oldtime friends, attended the couple.

The wedding was followed by an elaborate wedding supper, for which covers were laid for fourteen, those present being: Mr. and Mrs. Watkins, Mr. and Mrs. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Keeley, Mr. and Mrs. Krueger, Mr. and Mrs. Climie, Rev. John E. Youel, Mrs. Wills, Mr. Copeland, Mrs. Frank Wills.

Mrs. Watkins resided many years in the McCarthy district from which section she went to the states, returning to Alaska about a month ago. Mr. Watkins is a pioneer of the north, having been identified

with a number of mining communities of Alaska before locating in the Anchorage district. For some time past he has been connected with the mechanical department of the Alaska Railroad. The newlyweds have a host of friends throughout the territory. They will make their home in Anchorage.

March 5.

McCARTHY HAS FIRE

Last evening the Seltenreich boys discovered a fire in Bill Graham's cabin. They sounded the alarm and due to the efficient aid of the McCarthy bucket brigade the blaze was extinguished before much damage had been done. The fire was started from lighting the stove with oil.

BRIEF LOCALS

Roy Snyder recently sold his wood saw interests to Bill Berry.

Harry Mudge, "the Village Smith," left for Dan Creek Friday where he will have charge of the steam engine while the saw mill is in operation.

March 12.

SELFISH ASPIRATIONS

And along comes Anchorage with a bill before the House at Juneau, for a wagon road from the terminal city to Matanuska, to parallel the railroad, asking for \$50,000 from the Territorial funds and \$100,000 from the Road Commission, where they already have a railroad, working the full twelve months of the year.

It seems to us that this money could be spent to a much better advantage in building roads where they are really needed, many parts of Alaska have no roads at all. In our own "Neck O The Woods" for instance, where we have not so much as a trail to the mining districts, but then our neighbor just wants it all. The Pioneers Home and the Capital, as well as the Judicial Headquarters for the Third Division, some people want the world, but we can not believe that our Legislature will grant any such selfish appeals.

BRIEF LOCALS

Charlie Lubbe and Clarence "Fat" Ulrich left on today's train for Seward, where they plan on going into business.

Dud McKinney and Stewart Nuckols have taken a three months lease on the Pastime Pool Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Schultz will leave next Saturday for the Outside.

The Dan Creek mill began operations the first part of the week, they are cutting between 5000 and 7000 feet of lumber daily. There is a crew of ten men at work, and expect to be finished sawing in about seven days.

March 19.

EASTER SERVICE

The Rev. R. L. Kent will hold Easter Services Sunday evening at 7:30 at the School House.

April 2.

ALASKA GAME COMMISSION AFTER LIVE GOATS

In carrying out the provisions of the stocking plan adopted by the last legislature, the Alaska Game Commission desires to obtain a number of live mountain goats.

They request that parties who are interested in supplying either young or adult goats communicate with them and state the

lowest price at which they will deliver live, uninjured goats, properly crated, at a shipping point in southeastern Alaska. They state, however, that they will not accept animals from persons who have not first made arrangements with the commission for permission to engage in such capture.

BRIEF LOCALS

Mrs. Nels Tjosevig and little daughter Eleanor, came in from the Green Butte visiting friends in town this week

April 9.

NEW DISCOVERY TO AID AIRMEN FLYING IN FOG

New York: The New York American, in a copy righted story, says that a new discovery in the action of electrons when thrown with terrific force against a mirror of caesium, a rare and costly metal, is to be enlisted to aid aviators flying in thick weather or in fog at night.

Raymond R. Machlett, scientist and Cornell alumnist, the paper says, has devised, after several years of research, an ionic discharge tube twenty seven feet long filled with neon gas, which emits and widely diffuses "rainbow light." It will hurl a brilliant orange red glow through the atmosphere which will penetrate haze and ordinary thick weather, permitting a lost aviator

to make a safe landing. It will not permeate the thickest fog.

BRIEF LOCALS

Ed Hammer, Otto Bloom and Enoch Carlson left on yesterday's train for Strelina. They will spend the summer working at the Simonstead property.

Pete Brenwick had the misfortune to lose a horse in the Nizina River this week.

April 16

DR. WHITING TO WRITE MEMOIRS

Dr. Whiting, a widely known pioneer physician of Alaska, now a practitioner in Seattle, is composing a book of memoirs, in which he will tell of the building of the White Pass & Yukon Railroad and the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad under that great railroad builder Michal J. Heney, long since passed to his reward. Dr. Whiting was the chief physician and surgeon on both of these projects. He was the intimate associate of those who were in authority on the White Pass and Copper River roads and his memoirs will contain first-hand information of those stirring pioneer days.

April 23.

BRIEF LOCALS

Mr. F. A. Iverson, wishes to announce that he will not serve on the McCarthy School Board

any longer.

Supt. Hansen and Mr. Standard arrived at Kennecott by speeder early Friday evening.

Walter Q. Eng sold his restaurant to Sam Seltenreich this week. Walter left for Chitina on Thursday's train. Mr. Seltenreich will run The Owl while his own place is being renovated.

Joe Sommers was a McCarthy visitor this week.

Mrs. Charles O'Neill entertained with whist last Saturday evening. After awardition of prizes to Mrs. Olsen and Johnnie Nickols, high, and Mrs. Malehorn and Bill Lubbe, low, dainty refreshments were served by the hostess.

Jack O'Hara, returned to McCarthy on Tuesday's train having spent the winter in Fairbanks, attending the School of Mines. Mrs. O'Hara will leave within a few days for the White River, where she is interested with Mr. Sultzter, in large copper properties.

Among the boys who left for the summer's work at Chititu were: George Madden, Martin Hanson, Warren Nelson, John Wilson, Frank Carrol and Pete Penoff. The rest of the crew will leave tomorrow.

April 23.

BRIEF LOCALS

THE Road Commission crew arrived on Wednesday's train and have started their summer's work. Mr. Cameron will have charge of the work again this summer. Mr. Harry Hoyt of Chitina is overhauling the truck and tractors. Mr. Shepard spent Wednesday in town getting the work lined up.

Mrs. J. P. Hubrick was a Kennecott visitor Wednesday.

George Anderson, piano tuner from Juneau, is a visitor in McCarthy and Kennecott.

Howard Foster left on today's train for a short business trip outside.

Charlie Anderson and Axel Wahlstrom returned to the Westover Mines this week to start their summer's work.

Dr. Gillespie returned last evening from an extended trip outside and will take up his duties again at the Kennecott Hospital. Dr. Blakemore, now in charge will move to Cordova and be in charge of the hospital there.

Mrs. James Murie arrived on today's train from a trip outside.

April 30

Of Moose, Ravens, and Memories of Sharp Teeth

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

BY NED ROZELL

Moose in the Lower 48 have it made. Take, for example, the moose that live in Grand Tetons National Park, a place with its headquarters in Moose, Wyoming. As in Alaska, moose there have plenty of lakes and rivers to hang in and around, and plenty of willows to munch. Unlike their Alaska cousins, moose in Grand Tetons don't worry much about grizzly bears and wolves eating their babies—until they came trickling back in the last few years, those beasts had disappeared from the Tetons.

A scientist recently wondered how life had changed for moose when their main predators were gone. Would a moose a few generations removed from the last wolf still be afraid of a wolf?

Joel Berger of the University of Nevada, Reno, found in Alaska a good comparison to the Lower 48 moose. Here, wolves and grizzly bears are still a major part of a moose's life. Berger compared calf survival from five moose ranges in Alaska to two in Wyoming. In the Susitna River drainage, four out of ten moose calves lived to their first birthday. At the worst site in Wyoming, nine out of ten calves survived the first year.

Berger used recordings of animal noises to notice the different reactions of Alaska and Wyoming moose. He and assistants, including Kevin White of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage, carried into the field a car stereo, a 12-volt marine battery, and a set of JBL speakers. When they set up in a good moose area, they played recordings of animal noises ranging from wolf howls to the roars of lions and “dummy” noises, such as the sound of water flowing.

As they played the tapes, Berger, White and others watched the reactions of adult cow moose. Recordings of raven talk grabbed the attention of the Alaska moose. Moose in Wyoming, while hearing the same raven squawks and shouts, rarely lifted their heads. Moose in Alaska, particularly those at a study site in Denali, popped their heads up and perked their ears when hearing ravens. Berger pointed out a possible association between ravens and predators—Athabaskan hunters have reported following ravens to game animals, and predators may do the same. Biologist Bernd Heinrich suggests ravens evolved with wolves in his book *Mind of the Raven*. Ravens may

have led wolves to animals, Heinrich wrote. After wolves killed caribou or moose, ravens feasted on the open carcasses.

Not all Alaska moose reacted the same way to the sound of ravens. Berger played his recordings on Kalgin Island, and the moose were not impressed. But then, the moose on Kalgin Island have a lot in common with the moose in Grand Tetons National Park. The 15-mile-long island, in Cook Inlet between the town of Kasilof and Mt. Redoubt, has a good number of moose, but no grizzly bears or wolves, possibly because tidal currents make a swim to the island too risky.

People stocked Kalgin Island with moose 40 years ago. The moose in Grand Tetons have been free of grizzlies and wolves for 50-to-75 years. Berger wondered why moose would respond less strongly to predator cues after 40 years, which is about eight-to-ten generations of moose. He thought moose might have remained “hard-wired” to the cues of ravens for a long time after the elimination of predators, but his study shows that changes in the web of life that include bears, wolves, ravens and wolves may not take very long.

“It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor.” —George Washington

Book Review – Caribou: Wanderer of the Tundra

BY BONNIE KENYON

Winter months in the north provide extra time for catching up on your stack of reading materials. This winter is turning out to be such a season for me.

One of those books that was just waiting to be read was *Caribou: Wanderer of the Tundra* by long-time Alaskan author, Tom Walker.

Tom lives in a log cabin that he built himself near the entrance to Denali National Park and has lived in Alaska since 1966. He has worked as a technician for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, a volunteer for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a game warden. He broke from the traditional nine-to-five routine

in 1970, working as a wilderness guide, freelance writer and photographer and log home builder. Tom has published in over a dozen books, magazines and anthologies.

Out of all the species of wildlife that he has had the opportunity to study and photograph in his 30+ years in Alaska, it is the caribou that truly inspires him. *Caribou* includes examples of his personal brushes with these nomads of the north, fascinating little-known natural history facts, the animal's relationships with man and a large selection of breathtaking color photographs.

One particular fact, according to Walker, is that

there are nearly 1 million Caribou in Alaska in about 25 herds. On page 4 and 5, a map shows the location of the various herds.

Did you know newborn calves walk within minutes of birth and within hours are strong enough to follow their mother? I didn't, that is, until I read *Caribou: Wanderer of the Tundra*.

Graphic Arts Center is the publisher. The book is softbound and sells for \$16.95. There are 80 pages, 80 color photos and 1 full color map.

If you cannot find a copy in your favorite bookstore, you may call 1-800-452-3032.

Book Review - Storm Run

BY BONNIE KENYON

“The arctic blizzard ripped across the tundra. Native Alaskans probably have a word for such a storm. Something that means ‘wind-driven snow that cuts and freezes bare skin.’ It was a cold that could kill.” Libby Riddles challenged this wind in 1985, raced in the Iditarod Sled Dog Race...and won!

Storm Run is Libby's incredible story. As the first woman ever to win the Iditarod, Libby writes her thrilling adventure in a beautifully illustrated new children's book. Many of you who are avid readers of Alaskan books will recognize the name of the

illustrator, Shannon Cartwright, who has 19 other children's books to her credit. In *Storm Run*, Shannon sketched and labeled the colorful, and essential Iditarod sled gear and clothing that Libby carefully chose for her trip. My favorite illustration is found on page 28. It depicts the northern and southern route of the famous sled dog race. I referred to it frequently as I followed Libby through all her checkpoints and finally into Nome.

Color photographs of Libby's loyal sled dogs, some of the various friends and scenery she encountered on the 1,100-mile trail are interspersed throughout the 48-page book.

I know this is described as a “children's book” but I must agree with the publisher, Sasquatch Books, *Storm Run* “brings to life Riddles' adventurous race through Alaska's wilderness, for children of all ages.”

Just in time for the 30th anniversary of the Iditarod, you can purchase the book in paperback for \$8.95 or hardcover for \$16.95.

The book was released January 2002 and should be found in your favorite bookstore. If not, you may place a phone order with Sasquatch Books at 1-800-775-0817.

“We can do no great things; only small things with great love.” --Mother Teresa

Book Review - Northern Lights: The Science, Myth, and Wonder of Aurora Borealis

BY BONNIE KENYON

Did you know that 2002 marks the peak viewing time of the northern lights in an eleven-year cycle? This means in northern latitudes people are being treated to brighter shows with rarer colors and in more southerly latitudes people are having a better chance to see the aurora.

In October when *Northern Lights* arrived at our office for review, my motivation to read this informative book was heightened by a phone call from our neighbor down the road, John Adams. His first sentence was really a question: Are you watching the northern lights? They are right over my house and the sky is lit up in red!

Rick and I stopped whatever we were doing and dashed outside to find the polar phenomenon just as John had described it. A vivid-red sky gave our community quite a stunning show. Before long, other neighbors began passing the word of the evening performance happening right outside our cabin doors. Northern lights seem to bring out the "neighborliness" in us McCarthyites! You just want to share the majesty of the moment, I guess. It is too good to keep to

yourself.

That's why I want to "share" the book *Northern Lights* with you. Within the 128 pages you will experience 100 color pictures taken by photographers Calvin Hall and Daryl Pederson who make chasing the aurora borealis with their camera their life-long passion. Calvin lives in Anchorage and has published his work in a variety of well-known magazines; Daryl lives in Girdwood and owns a photography studio in Anchorage. The author, George Bryson, writes for the *Anchorage Daily News* and teaches at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Northern Lights gives readers viewing tips. Bryson reveals, "The best time of day to view auroras is between nine in the evening and three in the morning. The best time of year is between September and April. It doesn't need to be cold, but it does need to be clear and relatively dark." He also writes that one good night in February is likely to be followed by another good night twenty-seven days later. (I decided I would need to keep good records in the future so I can hopefully catch another good showing at a later date.)

Another interesting aspect of this book is the many different views of what the aurora is. Many different cultures – both ancient and modern day – undoubtedly gazed in wonder while others were seized by fear or dread. Bryson gives us quite a variety of views.

Pederson grew up in northern Minnesota and spent much of his time exploring the woods. When he moved to Alaska in 1983, he started carrying a camera. Photography enabled him to show people what he was experiencing. He best sums up the purpose for this book: "The time spent in the field and the traveling I've done have given me the opportunity to experience many things. Yet of all the beautiful and amazing things I have seen, the aurora borealis is the most awe inspiring of all! The movement, the power, the patterns, the nuance of colors—I believe they give a glimpse of what heaven will be like."

Northern Lights is published by Sasquatch Books and is available wherever fine books are sold. Or you can purchase it by calling 1-800-775-0817.

Classifieds

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Stampede to Nizina—1902

Editor's Note: One of our readers sent us this diary, but unfortunately we have not yet been able to ascertain the author. We thought it was quite interesting, especially from such an early date. Can anyone help with more information?

Monday, June 9, 1902. John L. Steele had word of a placer strike in the Nizina district. We decided to hurry in before the anticipated rush started.

Steele, Vic Marion and I left Valdez at midnight, on foot, carrying small packs.

June 10. Arrived at C.C. Roberts at 5 a.m. and reached Wortman's at 11 a.m. Slept there in afternoon and went on to stop that night at Hogg's.

June 11. Have dinner at Marston's and slept that night 1 mile from Teikel.

June 12. Breakfast and dinner at Tiekel, go onto Ernestine to sleep.

June 13. Make Tonsina at 5 p.m. Stop at Loomis's. Met Millard pack train there, delayed, hunting lost horse.

June 14. Laid off. Kid Brown, Schlosser, Guy Banta, Tibbets, Archie Parks and Rowland arrive from Valdez. We leave with Millard pack train at 9, traveled 10 miles, camp at 12.

June 15. Reached Copper River at 3 p.m. and camped. Lots of salmon.

June 16. The horses were put across river. Kid Brown and others arrived while we were crossing. Made 8 miles to trail crossing and cache.

June 17. Travel 5 hours to Kotsina. Try to cross with horse, but swimming water everywhere and river rising, so lay over.

June 18. River still high. Remain in camp.

June 19. Crossed river, stopped a while at Strelna, killed some

grouse. Crossed river and on to first little creek, 1 mile, for fine dinner. In p.m. make the Kuskalana at 10 p.m.

June 20. Start at noon, cross divide to a creek 3 ½ hours, to McNaughton camp on Kuskalana. Lay off till midnight, kill ptarmigans.

June 21. Reached Lakina at 5 p.m. Sleep 'till midnight, not. Make the crossing 2 ½ hours to camp in Meadows.

June 22. Reach the Pot Hole of Kennecott Glacier in 3 hours and to Nicolai that night.

June 23. Visit the mine and lay off. Deliver letter sent to mine manager. Rain in evening.

June 24. Charles and Morris start back to Valdez with 5 horses. Sam and Ray joined us and we started for Nizina in a.m., cloudy. Crossed hill and cut trail downriver through tough stretch. Camped on bank of Nizina.

June 25. I try to ford stream on saddle horse, but river rising and decide to wait.

June 26. Cross the river. My horse mired in quicksand, but was close to solid bar and finally got him out. Went to Dan Creek to camp. See Montgomery, McNeer, Hoffman and Carvey.

June 27. Cross the mountain to Rex Gulch and camp at 10 above on Chititu. Rowland gets in, reports Archie went up Kotsina with Krumpitts and Tibbets.

June 28. Located Bench claims on Rex.

June 29. Was going to Dan

Creek for grub, but it rained. Panned and sniped along creek, caught trout.

June 30. Bill and I crossed to Dan Creek in rain. In p.m. stake bench claims on Dan Creek.

July 1. Take 50 lbs. back to Chititu, kill some grouse. McNeer goes to Young Creek.

July 2. Go to Smith and Brown camp on Young Creek. See Jack Smith and Sweeny.

July 3. Rain so lay off.

July 4. Go down Young Creek, but find it all staked by the Smiths.

July 5. Arrangements have been made to go to Alganik camp on east side of Chitina, where he has some lumber, and build a boat for trip out. Kid Brown is to go as a paid passenger, fare \$40. Vic Marion goes to get Kid and we go to clear stream 3 miles below Young Creek.

July 6. Lay over waiting for Vic and Kid. They arrive at 3 p.m. in rain.

July 7. Clear, make it to Chitina over bad trail.

July 8. Build raft to cross river to Bill's camp. Current carried us 3 miles down stream before we got ashore, through swells and rocky bars. Walk back upstream to his camp.

July 9. Put logs on skids, trim, line and prepare for cutting. Vic and I whipsaw, Steele and Bill work on boat, Kid Brown cook.

July 10 and 11. Whipsaw and work on boats.

July 12 and 13. Work on boats, gather pitch for caulking.

July 14. Complete boat, launch it and rode to Taral Indian village at junction Chitina and Copper rivers. Natives were catching fish and drying them for winter.

July 15. Left Taral, through canyon and down Copper to mouth of Taznuna by 3 p.m.

July 16 and 17. Crossed delta of Taznuna to where river hits base of mountain. Here we abandoned boat and the party of five men and 4 dogs started up the Taznuna. Bill's dogs were each loaded with a pack of such provisions as we had, consisting of flour, coffee, salt, and some rice. Each of the men started with a pack of only a blanket and our coats. Hot on the hillside. The mountain sloped steeply to river edge and slopes covered with dense growth of alder, all leaning downward. We tried crawling through the alders but soon tired of that and started wading up the stream. Found places where the water was too deep, so alternated in the creek

bottom and among the alders. Were two days getting beyond the alder tangle. At our first night's camp we found our provisions practically all destroyed. Dogs had to swim in many places and the salt was all dissolved. Coffee and flour soaked beyond recall and only some rice, which had started to swell and was strongly flavored by dog smell. We were all used to trail travel except Kid. He went only a short distance before discarding his blanket and later threw away his coat. While Kid was a confirmed stutterer, he could swear a blue streak with nary a stutter and the air about him was full of profanity gushing forth at every step. We finally struck a trail of sorts up the mountain side and found a tent and cache left there by a mining outfit for transportation to Chitina next winter. Had a big feed on the camp supplies and rested there only one day and night.

July 18. Made several miles along good trail train to near

the summit. There met a pack train carrying more supplies for the cache. We waited for their return and rode with them over the divide to Lowe River and on into Valdez, arriving there Saturday, July 19.

Memos in diary show following expenditures on the trip.

Workmans	\$4.50
Roberts	\$5.50
Loomis	\$15.00
Roberts	\$2.25
Drop Rdhr	\$3.00
Teikell	\$7.50
Ernestine	\$9.00
Loomis	\$24.90

\$71.65 divided

3 ways between Steele, Marion and me.

Claims staked: Carl Bench, adj #4 Rex. Will Bench, adj #5 Rex. Print Bench adj. #6 Rex. Five others adj. Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 4. in names Holmes, Koppus, Vic, Steele and Will.

Sun outages may disrupt phones and Internet service

According to a news release from GCI, customers of telephone companies using satellite communication (all phones in the McCarthy area) as well as satellite-based Internet service (Starband) could experience brief disruptions in service in late February and early March. The outages are due to a seasonal solar occurrence known as "sun

outage."

Sun outage interference may occur between 11:17am and 1:30 pm February 21 to March 12. Each outage could last for up to 15 minutes, although the actual window of time the outage occurs will vary depending on specific satellite and earth station locations.

These semi-annual interruptions

affect all satellite-based communications and occur when the sun is located directly behind the satellite and in-line with the antenna on the ground. At that point, the noise energy from the sun is often greater than the communication signal level and may result in loss of signal.

"Under democracy, one party always devotes its chief efforts to trying to prove that the other is unfit to rule — and both commonly succeed and are right." —H.L. Mencken

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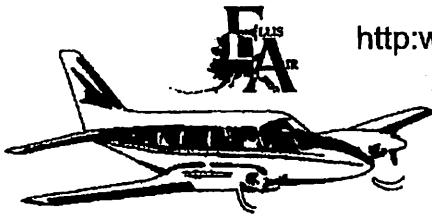
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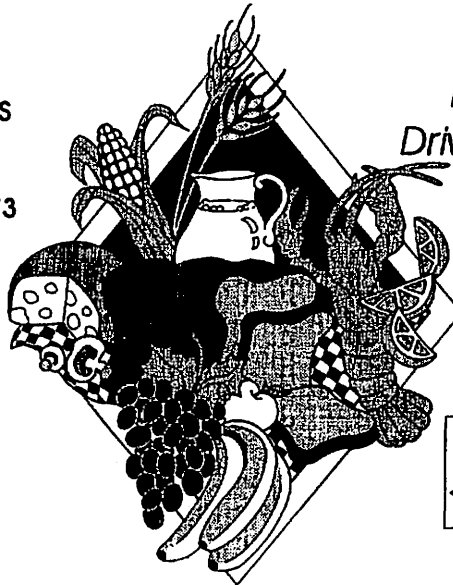
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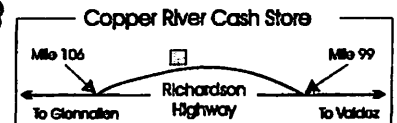
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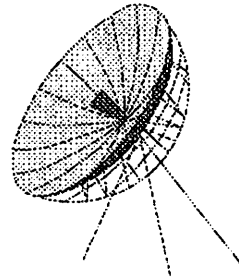
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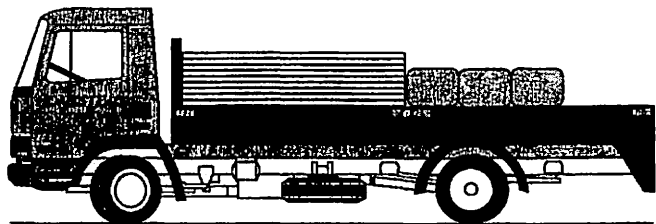
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Cooking with Troy

BY TROY HVASS

Hello all. Well, here we are again, on the down hill side of another winter season. In a couple of months McCarthy will be coming back to life with tourist and summer residents. This is my first winter in Alaska, and I love it. The McCarthy Road has been in pretty good condition this winter, (thanks in large part to our local Chamber of Commerce!) so I've been able to make three trips in to visit from mile 170 of the Richardson Highway, at Meier's Lake, where I've been working since mid-December.

Looking forward to summer and the BBQ season reminds me of one of my favorite burger condiments. The day before your BBQ, slice onion for burgers as usual, then put them in a container with a ratio of 1

cup balsamic vinegar and one tablespoon liquid smoke. Mix up enough to cover the onions. Marinate at least 8 hours. These have been a big hit every time I've made them. A little something different for that ordinary burger.

This next recipe is one I got from the lady that gave me my first cooking job.

Marjoram Chicken

Take one whole chicken split in half, and put it in a covered baking dish or cooking bag with 1 lb. of butter, 4 Tablespoons of Marjoram, some cut up veggies, such as celery, carrots, onion and red potatoes. Then add 1 or 2 cans of chicken broth. Bake at 350 degrees for 2-3 hours. I like to bake mine until the chicken falls off the bone. This dish is very rich due

to the butter, but very good.

The next recipe is one from my mom. I'm not sure of the name of this one, but it is another good chicken dish.

Take one chicken split or in pieces. Put in a covered baking dish or oven bag with 1 bottle of Russian salad dressing and 1/2 to 3/4 cup of orange marmalade. Bake at 350 degrees for 2-3 hours or until the chicken is done to your liking. Again, I like to bake mine 'till the meat falls off the bone. I like to serve this dish with a bowl of rice and stir fry vegetables. The sauce is very good over the rice and veggies.

Well, it's time for me to get out of the cabin and go for a snowmachine ride, so that's all for now. I look forward to seeing you all this summer.

Attention Subscribers!

BY BONNIE KENYON

WSEN needs you. I have an idea that I want to share with you. The cooking column began in the second issue of the WSEN—November/December 1992. Carly Kritchén, well-known in the McCarthy area for her culinary skills, started the "rolling pin" moving with cookie and candy recipes. Rick and I still love the Sesame Seed Cookies which were a part of that very first column. It gave us all an opportunity to meet and get to know Carly, her husband, Ken, their grand array of animals and their unique lifestyle.

Since the Krichens decided

to relocate for the winters, JoAnne Woolever jumped on board to share her favorite tips and recipes. Then, in this issue and the previous one, subscriber and a familiar face in the McCarthy/Kennicott area, Troy Hvass, provided us with his hints and recipes.

I greatly appreciate the enthusiasm and the willingness to give of themselves that Carly, JoAnne and Troy have shown towards us all. Because of this, you and I have become better acquainted with them. This is what led me to think of the other 400 odd subscribers in the WSEN family.

Do you have a favorite recipe

or recipes, maybe a tip or two that you would be willing to share? Also, to include a short introduction to you, your family, your connection to the McCarthy or Kennicott area and what you do work-wise. This is a good opportunity to meet each other and share something about our lives.

Please know you don't have to be a professional cook or chef, just an interested subscriber to WSEN. You may handwrite us at: WSEN, McCarthy #42, PO Box MXY, Glennallen, AK. 99588. Our fax no. is: 907-554-4494 or Email us at: WSEN@starband.net.

I look forward to hearing from you!

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

After a couple years of warm Decembers at McCarthy, December 2001 saw a return to average winter temperatures. All data for December is based on only 24 days, as the station was closed from December 25 thru January 22. After comparing the data from Silver Lake for December it appears that the missing data from McCarthy would have little effect on the averages for the month.

The average December temperature was -12.7 (5.7 in Dec. '00 and 4.7 in Dec. '99). The high was 35 on December 22 (42 on Dec. 5, '00 and 56 on Dec. 21, '99) and the low was -50 on December 18 and 19 (-26 on Dec. 15, '00 and -31 on Dec 26, '99). Six days had low temperatures of zero or above and fourteen days below a minus twenty. Five days had high temperatures of twenty or above and fifteen days zero or below. *Silver Lake had an average temperature of -9.7 (7.2 in Dec. '00 and 2.3 in Dec. '99). The high temperature was 43 on December 26 and 27 (39 on Dec. 6, '00 and 55 on Dec. 23, '99) and the low was -51 on December 18 and 19 (-18 on Dec. 17, '00 and -36 on Dec. 16, '99). Silver Lake had six days with a high of thirty or above and twenty days with a low of minus ten or colder.*

December precipitation was about average with 1.70 inches of liquid precipitation (0.44 in Dec. '00 and 3.44 in Dec. '99). Total snowfall was 23.5 inches (5.6 in Dec. '00 and 18.3 in Dec. '99). The snow depth was 9 inches at the beginning of the month, increasing to 25 inches on December 24. *By comparison Silver Lake had 1.19 inches of liquid precipitation (0.12 in Dec. '00 and 4.96 in Dec. '99). All precipitation fell as snow and total snowfall was 15.0 inches (2.0 in Dec. '00 and 29.0 in Dec. '99). The snow depth was 7 inches at the beginning of the month, increasing to 22 inches at*

the end of the month.

January data for McCarthy is very limited and based on only 9 days. After looking at the Silver Lake data, it appears the McCarthy average temperature is at least 10 degrees on the cold side and the precipitation is about right.

The average January temperature at McCarthy was -3.1 (17.7 in Jan. '01 and 0.6 in Jan. '00). The high was 25 on January 29 (42 on Jan. 15, '01 and 38 on Jan. 31, '00) and the low temperature was -41 on January 26 (-16 on Jan. 30, '01 and -42 on Jan. 13, '00). *Silver Lake had an average temperature of 10.4 (19.7 in Jan. '01 and 0.4 in Jan. '00). The high was 43 on January 10 (43 on Jan. 15, '01 and 36 on Jan. 25, '00) and the low was -41 on January 27 (-11 on Jan. 31, '01 and -42 on Jan. 14, '00). Silver Lake had 12 days with a high of 30 or higher and 5 days with a low of -20 or lower.*

January precipitation was about average with four days of measurable amounts. The total liquid precipitation was 0.76 inches (2.34 in Jan. '01 and 1.50 inches in Jan. '00). Snowfall was 11.2 inches (9.2 in Jan. '01 and 18.3 in Jan. '00). Snow cover was 20 inches on January 23, and increased to 30 inches on January 31. *Silver Lake had 0.96 inches of liquid (0.65 in Jan. '01 and 1.38 in Jan. '00) and 7.5 inches of snow (2.0 in Jan. '01 and 18.0 in Jan. '00). Silver lake started 2002 with 22 inches of snow on the ground, decreased to 16 inches on the January 10, and ended the month the same as it began with 22 inches.*

After nine weeks on the road including two Alaska Ferry trips, Sophie (my dear dog) and I are back in Alaska. I'm looking forward to sharing our adventures with you in the next issue.

Wilderness tips

- Take this simple test to see if you qualify for solo camping: Shine a flashlight into one ear. If the beam shines out the other ear, do not go into the woods alone.
- Bear bells provide an element of safety for hikers in grizzly country. The tricky part is getting them on the bears.
- In emergency situations, you can survive in the wilderness by shooting small game with a slingshot made from the elastic waistband of your underwear.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

“The Founders believed that there was a God who brings down the mighty and lifts up the poor. They relied upon this belief.... As you might expect, this belief shaped their understanding of morality and character, as well. They did not make the distinction between private and public conduct that we do. ...If this seems hard to understand, the problem lies with us, not our Founders. Our culture has forgotten what the Founders knew...: The American experiment is a moral, not just a political, exercise. And as such, it assumes certain things to be true about human nature and ... about the authority of the God of the Bible. But these beliefs run contrary to our culture’s worldviews. And that’s why the ordered liberty envisioned by the Founders has degenerated into a demand for personal autonomy that asks nothing of its citizens, not even their virtue. ...[P]rivate virtue, rooted in biblical faith, is essential for the American experiment to work as the Founders intended. And, it’s vital that Christians understand this often-ignored ‘wing’ on which our way of life depends. The wing that teaches us that, without virtue, there can be no greatness.” —Charles Colson

“The immigration ‘problem’ in America today is not a question of numbers, but of our failure effectively to welcome those who do come by educating them in American principles, and evoking their real commitment of heart to the unique American way of life that represents a hope for the destiny of the world. We have

largely abandoned the process of educating newcomers in the special principles of the American way of life. This failure, of course, is the natural result of the even deeper problem of our own retreat from these principles — for how can we demand of newcomers what we scarcely acknowledge in ourselves? Our own schools have retreated from our commitment to that special understanding of principle, of human dignity, of human justice and of free enterprise that constitute our unique identity and represent a universal appeal for the world.” —Alan Keyes

“It would be cultural condescension, or worse, to say that any people prefer dictatorship to democracy. Who would voluntarily choose not to have the right to vote, decide to purchase government propaganda handouts instead of independent newspapers, prefer government- to worker-controlled unions, opt for land to be owned by the state instead of those who till it, want government repression of religious liberty, a single political party instead of a free choice, a rigid cultural orthodoxy instead of democratic tolerance and diversity?” —Ronald Reagan

“America’s founders realized that land is the source of wealth and drafted the Constitution to ensure that the land would remain in the hands of the people. The poorest people on the planet are landless, and most live where government owns the land or controls its use. There is no justification for the federal government to own land beyond

that authorized by the Constitution. The private sector, and locally elected officials, can provide all the protection and prosperity the people desire. This gluttonous acquisition of land by government is clear evidence of the growing influence of socialist philosophy in America. Without the land, the people become no more than tenants, subject to the whims of the ruling party. The vision of a pristine, pre-Columbian America is trumping the vision of our founders, of a nation where free people could be free forever, assured of the right to prosper from the use of their own property.” —Henry Lamb

“I now make it my earnest prayer that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in his holy protection; that he would incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow-citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for brethren who have served in the field; and finally that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation.” —George Washington

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

12/21/01

Dear Rick and Bonnie,

I really appreciated and enjoyed Kenny Smith's article about Jack Wilson. I believe Jack was the best bushpilot in Alaska at the time he was active. Hardly anyone out of this valley knew about Jack because he never "tooted his own horn" and didn't have a good PR outfit touting his exploits.

I suspect that Jack made as many glacial landings as any other pilot in Alaska. Anyone who has been around the Wrangells knows that it is pretty tough country to fly in.

I flew (back seat) with Jack for over twenty years. Most of it was doing salmon counts. Flying at an altitude of 200' and trying to follow all the bends in the

rivers makes for pretty hairy conditions. We got into some tough situations at times but I was never concerned about our safety.

Jack always flew with an unlit pipe in his mouth. I was always concerned that when we got into a tough situation he would bite the stem in two! But, it never happened.

I only had two complaints about Jack, and these apply to all bush pilots who flew the Supercub. They seemed to delight in landing in soft, deep snow. In order to take off the passenger often had to get out and push. Then, when the plane started moving, the passenger had to run as hard as he could and somehow dive into the back seat. I ate a lot of snow.

Supercub pilots seem to delight in making the back seat as uncomfortable as possible. Especially when they know the flight might last 3 or 4 hours.

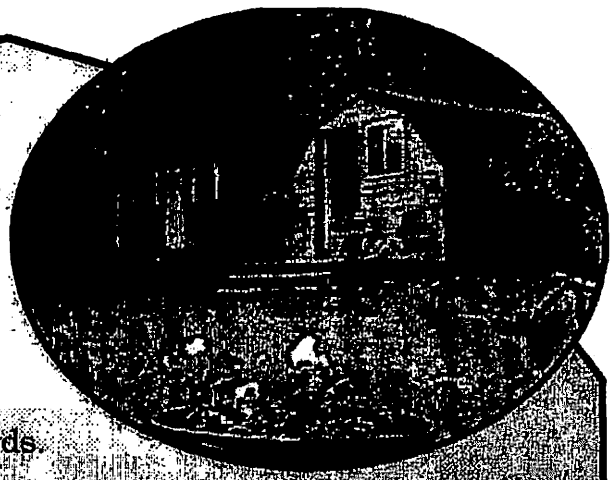
Also, Jack could land almost anywhere—unless you had to relieve yourself of several cups of morning coffee. Then, for some reason "there just wasn't any place to sit down."

I cherish the flying I did with Jack and realize that I flew many hours with one of the best.

Sincerely,
Fred Williams

ps—If you have never flown in the "third" seat of a Supercub with a buffalo head (bloody) in your lap you haven't lived.

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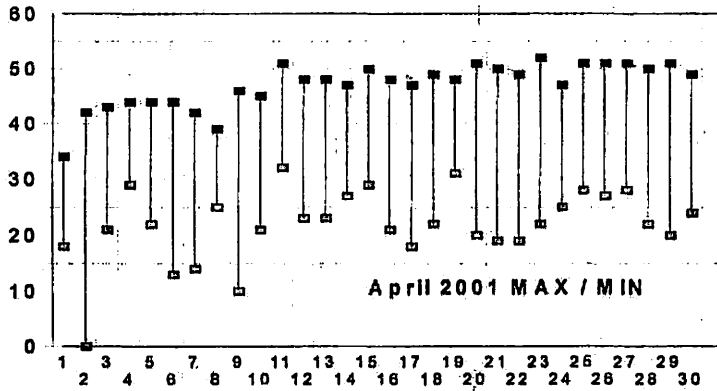
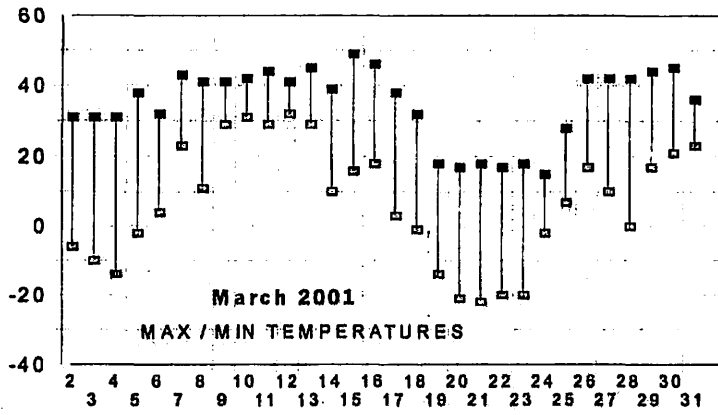
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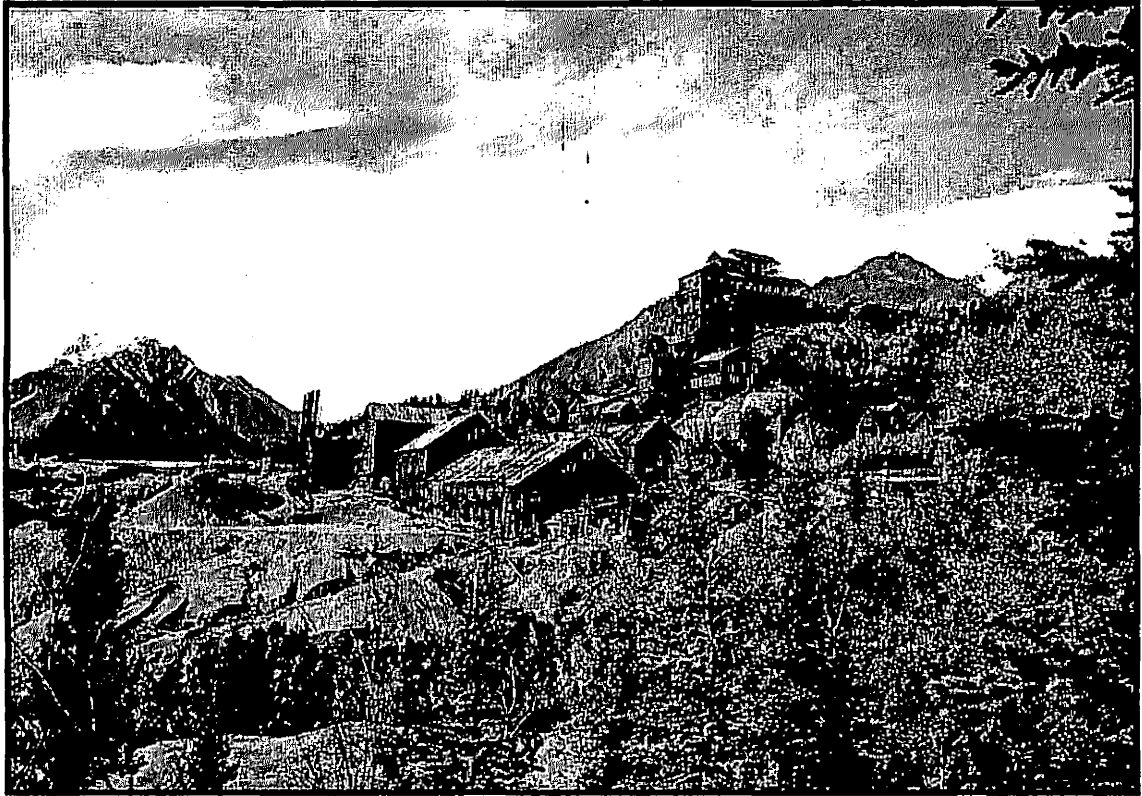
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