

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" -- Thomas Jefferson

VOL. FOUR ISSUE THREE

MAY & JUNE 1995

ONE DOLLAR



Displaying the latest in men's fashion wear of the day, four men pose outside the J.B. O'Neill store in downtown McCarthy in this photo, taken sometime in the early history of the town. The McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum would like to identify these men. If you can help, please contact Betty Hickling, PO Box MXY, Glennallen AK 99588.

"Going to Kennicott"

The
Margaret Anderson
story

The Nelson Mountain Landslide

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Spring has sprung here at the WSEN headquarters--which is the Kenyon's cabin! This afternoon as I was trying to decide what to include in "notes" this issue, I saw a familiar bird for this time of year--and my favorite--a robin. Favorite, perhaps, because it signals a new and warmer season is here and things like gardening are just around the corner. Even mowing the grass is a welcome thought! It is April 26th as I write this column and a delightful 63 degrees outside. The snow is almost all gone in our yard even though there are patches of it elsewhere.

Besides this issue of the paper, Rick and I are working on another major project--7,500 copies of *A Visitor's Guide to Kennicott & McCarthy 1995*. We hope to have them ready for distribution by mid May. This is our 4th year to publish and distribute the guide, and it is one of the most fulfilling projects we do. Thanks to those of you who responded to our request for advertisers in the last issue of WSEN.

Our new greenhouse is doing wonders for my lack of cabin space during this time of the year. My seedlings have much more room to spread their leaves. It's amazing how much publishing equipment and supplies one can stuff into an 18' x 24' log cabin, however, and still live in it. With the 2 paper folding machines and a new electric stapler, my workload is much easier. What a difference a few pieces of time-saving equipment can make. I failed to mention in the last issue we picked up a new ink drum for our Gestetner CopyPrinter while we were on vacation. For each color we have to purchase a separate ink drum--a bit costly. The new color is blue. Hopefully, we'll be using it in the next issue. Rick just informed me we now have 371,444 copies on the Gestetner and it's only about 1 1/2 years old!

Rick and I appreciate your notes and letters. We heard from a few of you whose March/April issue was late in arriving. We don't know why, but we are very sorry you had to wait. Thank you for being

concerned, too, about our physical welfare! One subscriber, Jim McGavock, called long distance to let us know his issue finally arrived. If any of you haven't yet received your March/April WSEN, please let us know ASAP. We care about you!

To those of you who use "Electronic mail," or Email, we can be reached at Wsenews@aol.com. Send us your letters to the editor, possible articles, or just a friendly note!

Thanks to all our contributors for this May/June issue. A special thanks to Kim Northrup who contributed a cartoon sketch which she did herself. Her dog mushing experiences this winter inspired her greatly! My *Items of Interest* column has a different format this time. I want to say to the "locals" who didn't get a picture in, if you have a building project going and you weren't included, please know we are not slighting you. Space restrictions limited us to two pages of *Items* this time. Let us know you'd like to be mentioned in a future issue--better yet, give us a picture of your project!

Our subscribers' list has now reached 348. Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following: Evan Swensen, AK; Janet Weaver, AK; Kristen Janssen, AK; Douglas Bowman, CA; Rick Jurick, AK; Richard & Lillian Goodman, CA; Frank Moore, WA; Thelma Schrank, AK; Marion Brown, FL; Rick & Carolyn Rios, AK; J.C. Scott, OK; Thomas Nee, AK; Kenneth Willardt, NY; Virgil Timmerman, AK; Gerrie Ivy, AK; Mr. & Mrs. C.H. Renshaw, PA; Scott Rohr, NJ; James & Kathy Baalke, WI; Linda Monroe, AK.

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Contributors to this issue: George Cebula, Carly Kritchen, Kenny Kritchen, Betty Hickling, Kim Northrup, Danny Rosenkrans, Lynn Yehle, Margie Steigerwald and Mary Schrage. Subscription price is \$8.50 for one year in the USA. Canada and Mexico \$10.00. Other countries \$18.50. Advertising rates upon request. Deadline for publication in next issue is June 15.

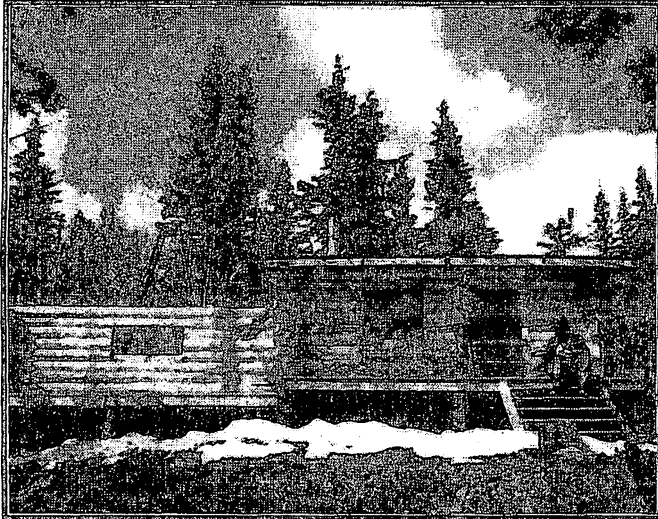
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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

In this issue we are going to depart a bit from our normal *Items of Interest* format in order to feature a few of the building projects that have been going on in the area.



Willow Herb Mountain Depot

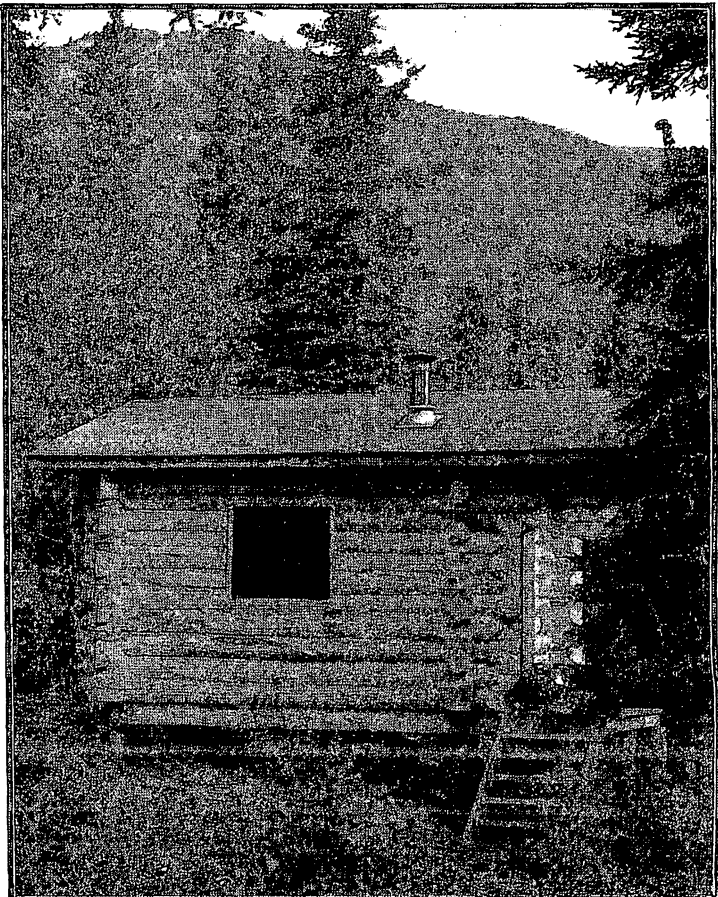
Terry and Dee Frady are up to their old "tricks of their trade"—building with logs. The gift shop is getting a new look this summer and, if all goes as scheduled, the Fradys can add to their variety Alaskan-made crafts. If you have any questions about log building, this couple can answer them.

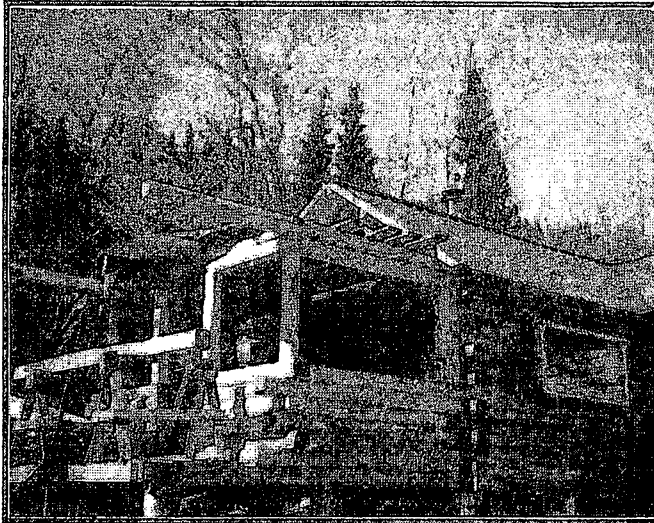
I'm looking forward to visiting them more often this summer and sampling a cup of the "Depot's" complimentary coffee, tea or cocoa.

Moose in the Spruce

According to Dee, their 12' x 12' log rental cabin is the nicest thing they've done to date. It's located on the opposite side of the McCarthy Road from the gift shop and has a privacy of its own.

It's not surprising Terry and Dee are not always at mail. If they aren't harvesting building logs, they're probably peeling them and getting them ready for construction. Don't let those suntans fool you! They haven't been relaxing on a sandy beach in Hawaii. (I'm wondering if I should delete that last line. Terry just might take the notion he needs a luxurious vacation before the busy season starts and not a camping trip afterwards. Sorry Dee!)





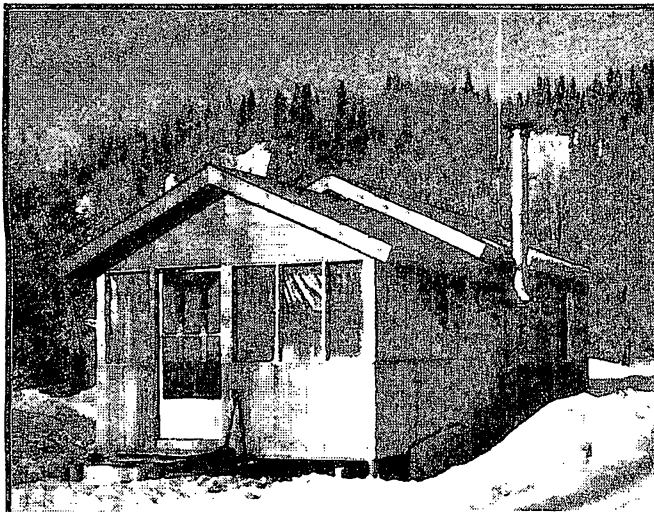
Ken and Carly Kritchén

Yesterday Rick and I took advantage of the blue skies to get a good polaroid picture of Ken and Carly's soon-to-be sun porch. Ken had flown to Cordova that morning but Carly was busy raking up leaves. She gave us the grand tour—inside and out. I was amazed at all the work the Kritchens have accomplished since my last visit. Once completed her new sun porch will be a perfect place for her seedlings which were growing in nearly every window of her cabin.

Kritchén workshop and woodshed

Kenny finally has a place for his tools and all the other things a man finds to put in a workshop. The overhang offers plenty of room to house the winter's firewood supply. Off the rear of the shop, a classy chicken coop is home to a variety of Carly's hens and roosters.

The Kritchén homestead is a "fun" place to visit. It was a bit quieter than usual yesterday. The 3 dogs were taking their afternoon naps so they weren't available to give Rick and I their usual friendly welcome. However, Smokey the cat, and the chickens paid us a warm hello.



George Cebula

George's latest addition, also known as Phase 2, is a 12' x 12' front porch, which he intends to screen in this summer. Phase 3 will be an "L" shaped addition off the back of the cabin for bedrooms and bath.

John Adams has been in charge of the building project and George cannot say enough good things about John's expertise.

George is spending more and more time at his cabin and has informed us and the community he is now a notary public.

Outdoors in the Wrangells

Just a warm-up for the big one!

BY BONNIE KENYON

Cabin fever? What about a spring skiing trip in the Wrangells then? It could be a "warm-up trip for the big one" agreed Art Ward and his Norwegian friend, Audun Endestad. The "big one" referred to a ski trip to the Brooks Range. The "warm-up"—Nabesna to the west side of the Kennicott River— or to be more exact, the Kenyon's homestead.

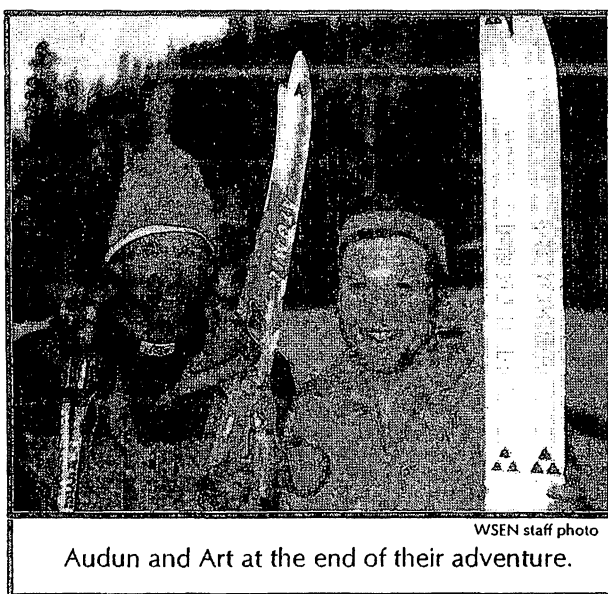
Art and Audun busily stuffed their individual backpacks, each taking a 4 lb. one-man tent and 15-18 lbs. of food and, of course, their skis. Art told his wife Ann, "I'll only be gone 3 or 4 days."

Both men are experienced skiers. Art probably skied before he walked. The son of Cal and Pat Ward, Art was raised along with his 2 brothers to love and appreciate the outdoors. If you can't find Art at his home in Salsha, you probably can find him at his folks' homestead at the base of Fireweed Mountain about 7 miles from McCarthy.

Audun is from Norway but lives in Fairbanks. He recently completed a ski trip with another friend. They went from Arctic Village to the Haul Road. Art says of Audun, "He takes ski trips into the Wrangells when he's not doing anything else."

The first segment of Art and Audun's present adventure in the Wrangells began on April 7th from Nabesna. Snow conditions were wind blown so their skis didn't sink. That was encouraging. They

skied towards Chisana where they decided to stop at a friend's cabin. Over lunch they were warned the trail out of Chisana only went about 3 miles up to Bryan Creek. After that they would be breaking trail. The information proved true so they didn't get far that day.



Audun and Art at the end of their adventure.

Briefly heading north to Geohenda Creek, called Trail Creek by the locals, they skied up the creek where they eventually picked up a trail that went over to the White River. "We basically followed it through the passes, down to the White River and then skied up the rest of the glacier to Skolai Pass in one day," said Art.

The most challenging part of their trip was about to begin. "Skolai Creek is the most interesting part," recalled Art. "We kind of wondered if we were ever going to get out. The Skolai Creek goes through a bunch of waterfalls and canyons so you have to climb up and around them. I counted 6 times we had to leave the creek. Imagine you're skiing down a creek and all

of a sudden you're skiing down a waterfall. The waterfall might be frozen but that doesn't do you a lot of good. It's an ice cliff! With a cliff on both sides, you have to backtrack up the creek and go through the brush to avoid the waterfall. Then go back down to the creek. Also, there were some open water spots, too." Skiing down Skolai Creek from Skolai Lake took 8 hours to go 10 miles. "I think it was worse than that for awhile," laughed Art. It didn't help that strong winds were blowing that day, interjected Audun.

They were already into the 4th day of their "warm-up" when they finally got off Skolai Creek and onto the Nizina Glacier. Hoping to cross and camp on the other side that night, they were disappointed to find skiing conditions on the glacier less than perfect. In fact, says Art, "It was a mess! There was no snow on it. So we wound up there in the dark and camped on the icefall."

Finding their way off the glacier the next morning and a tail wind encouraging them on, Art and Audun skied down the Nizini River as far as the Nizini Bridge. Areas of open water didn't prove too hazardous, said Art. "It was only knee deep this time of year. I was surprised. We did wade it a half dozen times." The improved skiing conditions enabled them to make good time. Especially when they found a snowmachine trail!

"This is great, having a packed trail plus being almost to the end.

We got our second wind. It was nice being back on a snowmachine trail instead of picking our way," chuckled Art. It took them 1 hour and 12 minutes from the Nizina Bridge to McCarthy.

From there they followed the packed trail to the Kenyon's cabin—5 miles west of town. It was 8:00 p.m. on April 11th when they arrived at our door. Hot tea and homemade bread was in quick order for the two tired skiers. A CB call to Mark Vail at Fireweed subdivision asking him to relay a message to the Wards, who we figured

were eagerly waiting the return of their son and his friend, met with success. Mark quickly made his way up to the Wards' cabin letting Cal and Pat know of Art's return and his request for an airplane pick-up at the gravel strip near the Kenyons.

Next on Art's priority list was to phone Ann and let her know he was just fine. Of course, Rick recognized an "outdoor" adventure for Wrangell St. Elias News and out came the tape recorder and tablet. Art and Audun didn't seem to mind recapping their adventures for

us—and you—while they waited for the red, white and blue Supercub that would take them the rest of the way.

I couldn't help but ask, "What prompted this trip?"

"Cabin fever! Thought we'd go for a spring trip," answered Art.

Audun added, "It was supposed to be a warm-up trip for going to the Brooks Range."

Art looked thoughtful. "If this is the warm-up trip, I'm not sure I want to do the BIG trip!"

Climbing party rescued near Mt. Wrangell

BY MARGIE STEIGERWALD - NPS

A party of five skiers attempting a ski-traverse of Mt. Wrangell in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park were rescued by pilot Harley McMahan after a full day aerial search by McMahan and the National Park Service. The group was found ten miles west of the Long Glacier. The leader of the party, Dave Cramer of Tok, had dislocated his shoulder after falling into a crevasse on the Nabesna Glacier. After rescuing the 46-year old Cramer from the crevasse, the group decided to take a "shortcut" down the Long Glacier, across the Copper River and out to the Edgerton Highway instead of their planned route over the top of Mt. Wrangell and down the Sanford Glacier to Gakona.

The other members of the party included Cramer's 19-year old son Eric Cramer, his 16-year old daughter Mara Cramer, both of Tok, Robert Rourke and Bob Groseclose of Fairbanks. Rourke, Groseclose and the older Cramer had all participated in the Alaska Wilderness Classic race when it traversed the Wrangell Mountains in 1988, 1989 and 1990. The three were experienced in ski-mountaineering and

had completed previous trips in the area.

Kathy Cramer, a teacher at Slana School, asked McMahan to begin the search on Monday morning, April 10, one day after her husband, two children and their companions planned to ski out to Gakona. McMahan flew the planned route twice on Monday but did not see the party because they had taken a different route. On Tuesday, Kathy called the Alaska State Troopers who in turn called Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. After a full day of flying by McMahan in his Supercub and National Park Service pilot Jim Hummel in the Park Service's Arctic Tern, the agencies were preparing for a major search. During the initial search planning meeting, a telephone call came in from McMahan stating that he had found the group and picked up two of the members.

During an evening flight on Tuesday, April 11, McMahan spotted some ski tracks heading in a southwesterly direction away from the planned route. He flew a compass course in that direction and eventually saw more ski tracks and, finally, the party. McMahan felt that it was the evening sunlight that

made it possible to see the tracks. It had been cloudy much of the day.

McMahan landed on a frozen lake near "Ricky" point, approximately six miles northeast of the Edgerton Highway, and flew out the injured Cramer and his 16-year old daughter. The rest of the party flew out the next morning.

Museum News

BY BETTY HICKLING

The design for the new McCarthy Room will be completed by Memorial weekend. Included in the room will be a new photo layout and written history of McCarthy as well as the model of the town. Represented in the model will be 57 buildings that still stand or once stood here.

The museum wishes to thank all who wrote in response to identify people in the last picture published in the paper and those who donated items to the project, in particular Eleanor Eidemiller (1930 school award) and Otto Seiz (donation of photo's).

National Park Service comes calling

BY BONNIE KENYON

In the March/April '95 issue of WSEN we covered a portion of an interview we had on February 22nd with Jonathan Jarvis, the new superintendent of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve and Ranger Jim Hummel. The following is a continuation of that interview.

Nizina Bridge access

Jarvis: I had a meeting with the Dept. of Transportation about 6 weeks ago. Sort of a get together and to get to know each other and talk about issues relating to transportation. DOT is coming out with an environmental assessment in about 30 days or so—fairly soon—on the bridge. I've not seen the draft but I've talked to them and I know where they were 30 days ago. As I understand it, there's not going to be an alternative that has vehicular access. They'll all be footbridge access. One of their alternatives is to move the Nizina Bridge—the two trusses that are over there—and deck it in such a manner that they would be footbridge only... What the DOT would propose to do on the Nizina is to deck it only 5' wide so it would meet the ADA accessibility standards. You couldn't drive a vehicle across it but the bridge is certainly beefy enough that it could be modified—but it would take a certain amount of expense to redeck it for a vehicle crossing.

WSEN: Would you be opposed to the Nizina Bridge because of the fact that there is a potential later to convert?

Jarvis: I don't know where I'm going to come out on the decision. I haven't seen the EA proposals. I think the Nizina Bridge is the most appropriate from the appearance standpoint; it fits. It's part of the area. It's historic. It's an appropriate use of an historical facility and I

think it could be decked in such a way to prevent vehicles... It's also structurally sound that you could put a pipeline under it... Theoretically, you could rig it so that ATV's could go across hauling garbage...

Overflights of parks

WSEN: There's been national talk about limiting overflights of parks. Do you foresee that's going to affect this park?

Jarvis: I don't think so. The focus is primarily on the Grand Canyon... I'm new so I haven't seen the list of parks where there's a concern.

WSEN: About a year ago there was a blanket proposal to cover all the parks in Alaska with some sort of restrictions, whether it be limiting the number of air taxis or putting them on a concession.

Jarvis: That's different than managing the airspace. Managing the airspace is a Federal Aviation Administration question. The Park Service has an advisory of 2,000 feet over parks, particularly wilderness areas. It's not regulatory, purely voluntary... In a park like this where air access is so historically important, I don't see that as coming anytime soon.

A commercial use license is an unlimited kind of thing because the actual money transaction takes place outside the park. That's generally how air taxis are covered. Again, here, as far as I know we are not experiencing a problem but they are at Brooks Camp.

One of the things we are beginning to do up here is that park superintendents and management in Anchorage are beginning to look at some of these kinds of issues. Like what's going on in Katmai (National Park) today basically could be a problem with the Wrangells...the subsistence parks or the

parks that have mining. The parks that have a lot of commercial use licenses will start to talk together which, frankly, has not happened much in the past...That's really good...And that's not saying that we would come out with a blanket thing that would apply to everybody but we can at least all talk.

Visitor use survey

Jarvis: The Park Service, a number of years ago, designed this visitor's survey and got it approved. Any time a federal agency wants to ask the public's opinion, they have to go to OMB to get approval. We did that. What it does is survey the user public about where they came from, how many people are in the party, their home, zip code, age, and then you sort of map out what they do in the park. First of all, how did they find out about the park? Did they find out from Milepost magazine or National Geographic articles or a friend? You find out what their intent was, why they came here, what they did. There's usually a map and it shows how they accessed the park and what they did while they were here. Then there's a total of about 10 or 15 questions. A lot of it is a check box kind of thing. Then that information comes back. We will set up a station with trained people, non uniform, a station on the McCarthy Road and one on the Nabesna Road this summer. It is purely voluntary. Every 5th vehicle that comes by is asked if they would like to participate. The survey is only given to those who want to. They show the people how to fill out and mail in the surveys. A University in Moscow, Idaho does the analysis and it comes back with a report. Age, demographics, state of origin, how long they spent in the park, how many hours, where they went, and what they did while they were here. ☘

NPS news

BY BONNIE KENYON

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve Update Issue Number 1, April 1995: In an ongoing effort to provide information to all users, the *Update* will be provided on a periodic basis on key items of interest at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST).

The first issue provides information on the WRST FY95 budget. It begins: "In fiscal year 1995 (Oct. 1, 1994-Sept. 30, 1995), WRST received \$1,798,000 in annual recurring and \$674,900 in one-year project funds. Based on past years, approximately 42% of this amount goes directly into the local Copper Basin economy. WRST employs 26 permanent and approximately 30 seasonal employees."

If you have questions on the above *Update*, please feel free to write Supt. Jon Jarvis, PO Box 29, Glennallen, AK 99588. Or be on the lookout for a detailed breakdown of the WRST budget in an upcoming issue of Wrangell St. Elias News.

DARE program: Drug awareness resistance education (DARE) is a nationwide program being used in the Copper Basin schools this year to teach "self-esteem and basically the ability to say no and walk away from temptation," says Ranger Jim Hummel. According to the WRST FY95 budget, \$87,200 is allocated for this "one-year project." Although not a program developed by the Park Service, it is being used by them as "a tool." A law enforcement officer is put in the classroom and works with the teacher in presenting the program's curriculum. Because the troopers do not have the manpower to do it, Park Service people are taking up the slack. Tim

Saskowsky, Criminal Investigator for NPS, is this year's teacher.

Parks as classrooms: A teachers' workshop is being offered through Prince William Sound Community College June 5-8 in McCarthy. This 2 credit course is being funded with a challenge cost share grant shared between WRST (\$3,000) and Wrangell Mountain Center. There are 14 slots available and is open to teachers within the Basin. The subject matter is the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Margie Steigerwald, NPS, is in charge of this workshop. According to her, a flyer is being prepared to further describe the course. She may be contacted at: 822-7258.

Visitor Center & Chitina Ranger Station: Both the WRST Visitor Center at Copper Center and the Chitina Ranger Station will be open over the Memorial Day weekend. Jim Hummel informs us the Chitina Ranger Station will be open 5 days a week starting June 2 with the hours from 9-5:30 pm. Starting June 17, he hopes to go to 7 days a week. A volunteer is expected to help out this year.

NG feature article: According to Supt. Jon Jarvis, a travel writer from the National Geographic Traveler magazine is coming to the McCarthy-Kennicott area this summer to do a feature article on the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve and Kennicott.

Geological articles: NPS Geologist, Danny Rosenkrans is being recognized for two geological articles that he co-authored. *Guide to the volcanoes of the western Wrangell Mountains, Alaska--Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve* is a 31 page book published this year by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Interspersed throughout the publication are colored pictures and

maps showing locations of volcanoes. Along with Danny this article was co-authored by Donald H. Richter and Margaret J. Steigerwald and is referred to as USGS Bulletin 2072.

Danny is joined by Lynn A. Yehle in the second article entitled *The 1993 Nelson Mountain Landslide, Chitina Valley, Southern Alaska, an Aerial View*. USGS Bulletin 2107 is the reference no. On page 19 of this issue of Wrangell St. Elias News you can read the text portion of this article.

You may order USGS publications by mail from: USGS, Information Services, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225 or contact Danny at 822-5235.

Kennicott River Hydrologic Hazards project: According to Danny, the NPS and USGS will continue the Kennicott River Hydrologic Hazards project this year. They are seeking information on hydrologic conditions (floods and outburst lake events). If you have information or know of anyone who could assist them in reconstructing pre-1990 events, please inform Danny.

Meeting of air taxi operators: Seven air taxi operators who hold commercial use licenses for the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve met with NPS on April 24 at the Caribou Cafe in Glennallen. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how they can work together more effectively. Another item on the agenda was "Backcountry use." Areas such as the Skolai Pass is receiving high level use. According to Supt. Jarvis, identifying and providing new areas of use was discussed.

Thanks to Jim Hummel for meeting with us especially to provide news for our readers.

New NPS regs outlaw dumps and incinerators within Park boundaries

BY RICK KENYON

"The NPS believes that solid waste disposal sites are not an appropriate use of lands within the National Park System unit boundaries. The long-term intent of the National Park Service is to eliminate, to the extent possible, such sites from within the unit boundaries." Having said this, regulations issued by the National Park Service last December go on to detail how they hope to accomplish that goal.

The new regulations (36CFR Part 6) prohibit the operation of any solid waste disposal site within the boundaries of any unit of the National Park System, except under certain, very specific conditions. Included in the prohibition are incinerators and "transfer stations," or places where solid waste is deposited, albeit temporarily.

The Park Service received a number of comments on the proposed rule, mainly pointing out that the rules violate the terms of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which states:

"Only those lands within the boundaries of any conservation system which are public lands... shall be deemed to be included as a portion of such unit. No lands which, before, on, or after the date of enactment of this act, are conveyed to the State, or any Native Corporation, or any private party shall be subject to the regulations applicable solely to public lands within such units."

In the preamble to the rules, the authors state that "The comments from Alaska cite this language to

raise the significant issue of whether nonfederal lands within National Park System units in Alaska are part of the units at all, and thus subject to any NPS regulations, including [this one]." They go on to say, "It is the Service's opinion that the language of [this] section does not render the final rule... inapplicable to nonfederal lands in units of the National Park System in Alaska because of the presence of the word 'solely.'" It goes on (in language that sounds more like something from KING FLOYD than anything else) with gems like this one: "The common understanding of the words 'within the boundary' is that something be within the outer limits. It does not mean the same thing as 'a portion of.'"

If these regulations are allowed to stand unchallenged, the supposed protection of private property that Congress wrote into ANILCA will be history.

Residents may be exempted from the rules if they can show that they meet 5 different criteria, including residency within the boundaries of the unit and content of the waste (plastic or metal, among other things, is not allowed).

As for lodges, motels and hunting guides, there are two different sets of rules for them, depending upon whether they have a solid waste disposal site that has been in "continuous operation" since September 1, 1984. Operators who wish to continue using pre-1984 sites have until July 1995 to submit a permit request and an environmental report for review by the Regional Director.

Any person who wishes to operate a solid waste disposal site that was not in operation September 1, 1984, may apply for a permit by demonstrating that the proposal meets 12 criteria, and by supplying maps, documentation of legal ownership of the land, detailed plans of operation of the site, and an environmental report that includes 6 additional assessments. Some of the 12 criteria that must be met include:

1. There is no reasonable alternative site outside the boundaries of the unit suitable for solid waste disposal.
2. The site will not degrade any of the natural or cultural resources of the unit.
3. The site is not located within one mile of a National Park Service visitor center, campground, ranger station, entrance station, or similar public use facility, or a residential area.
4. The site will not be detectable by the public by sight, sound or odor from a scenic vista, a public use facility, a designated or proposed site listed on, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or a road designated as open to public travel.

If the plan is approved, the operator must post a bond "equal to the estimated cost to accomplish all closure and post-closure care requirements... but in no case less than \$25,000."

As we go to press there is still a chance that the Republican proposal to put a moratorium on all federal regulations will stop 36 CFR Part 6 before the summer season arrives.

Going to Kennicott

BY JO ANNE WOLD

When Margaret Anderson, 22 and a graduate nurse of Virginia Mason Hospital, went to the Kennecott copper mine in 1928, the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad had already been built at a cost of \$20 million (and blood spilled in the Keystone Canyon by opposing factions); Rex Beach's book, "The Iron Trail," had been written and the movie filmed; the Guggenheims and Morgans had controlling interest in the mine which they purchased for \$3 million and would, before it was all said and done, mine \$175 million in copper, ship it out on their railroad, on their steamship line, and smelt it at their mills in Tacoma before putting it on the market.

Fifty years ago such statistics did not concern Anderson. It was with great anticipation that she took the steamer from her home port in Seattle, docked in Cordova and boarded the train for Kennecott, a 200-mile trip which took two days with lunch at a siding station and overnight at a Chitina hotel. She had accepted a job as surgical nurse at the Kennecott hospital. "I couldn't get there fast enough," she said.

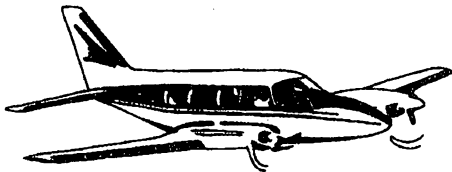
As the train took its own sweet time across the rugged terrain on this mid-November day, Marge held her Victrola in her lap and amused herself by playing records. En route, the train conductor asked Anderson and another female passenger (there were only two women among men) if they would like to ride up front with the engineer. Eagerly they both donned overalls and rode in the cab and tooted the whistle. "I was a big city girl," Marge said, "nothing like that had ever happened to me before."

After leaving Chitina the train stopped every mile. The conductor and the other train crew jumped off and ran into the bushes. Being a nurse Marge thought the men had very weak bladders. As these stops were made mile after mile Marge finally asked the conductor, "Why do the men have to go to the bathroom all the time?" He said, "Oh, no, it isn't that. They are checking their phone lines."

The train crew, making the best of a new girl in town, told Marge they would have a dance for her at the Arctic Brotherhood Hall in McCarthy that night. A

Scheduled Air Service from Anchorage to McCarthy with stopover in Gulkana!

Now you can leave Anchorage at 8:30 on Wednesday or Friday morning and arrive in Gulkana at 9:45, McCarthy at 11:00. Or, you can leave McCarthy at 11:15 and be back in Anchorage by 2:00pm the same day! (Leaves Gulkana at 12:45)
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Rates:

Gulkana/McCarthy	\$56*
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man with a dogteam would pick her up at the staff house.

The staff house, a three-story frame building painted white, was a short distance from the train station. Anderson, along with the two other unmarried nurses and school teachers, lived on the top floor in private rooms outfitted simply with a bed, desk, chair and lamp. On the second floor lived the bachelors. The parlor downstairs, with its leather furniture, fringed lamps, dark wood wainscoting and piano, was for entertaining. Meals were taken at the company mess hall in another building. Nearby was the hospital, a two-story structure of imported wood, with the wards and operating room downstairs and a private apartment upstairs for the doctor.

On the sharp bluff rising to the right of the station was the mill, a large frame building of multi-levels and many windows. Near at hand was the power plant with its tall stacks, warehouse, offices and homes.

Overhead was the aerial tramway (strictly off limits to women) to the mines which were four miles beyond at an elevation of 4,000 feet higher than the mill. There were more than 40 miles of underground workings connecting Bonanza, Jumbo, Mother Lode and Erie mines through which the ore was trammed to shafts and sent over the aerial tramway to the mill.

The miners' wives and children lived in the lower camp while the men slept in the bunkhouses at the mine. In those days the mine at Kennecott employed about 800 men with an auxiliary staff and families numbering an additional 300.

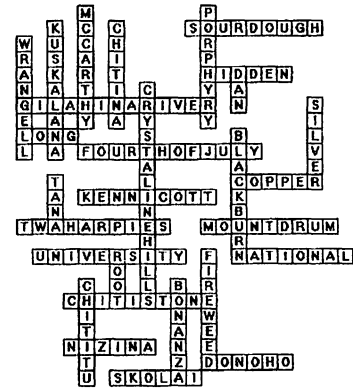
Anderson's impression of Kennecott was one of amazement at this modern town in the middle of the wilderness with the great glacial moraine on one side and the snowy peak of Mount Blackburn in the distance. Contrasting with the covering of white snow was the barn-red color of the building--the office, the train station, the bunkhouse, the mess hall, and the numerous houses and cottages for families pleasantly situated on the hilly terrain. All the comforts were there--electric lights, hot water, steam heat, and in the homes there were electric stoves and washing machines and small appliances and radios. Certainly life could be good in this place.

There was a dance that first Saturday night and the new nurse, wrapped in furs, rode to McCarthy in the dogsled of Sig Wold, a man of many business interests. It was not long before they were courting and Marge became Sig's steady; he wouldn't have it any other way. Every third weekend Marge had off and at those times she and Sig would dogsled off to the Nizina roadhouse operated by Tess and Jim Murie. Jim brewed what many people considered was the best

prohibition whiskey in the country, and a keg of that stuff was smuggled under the fur robes at Anderson's feet unbeknown to her on the return trip to McCarthy.

Work at the hospital was demanding, but there were rewards as well. The hospital was well equipped and the surgeon had been trained at John Hopkins. Marge's patients were not only Kennecott miners, but the gamblers, the business men and the girls from the line at McCarthy. They were generous in tipping the nurses for telephone calls made, cigarette purchased, and trips to the company store.

"I didn't even need to cash my pay check," Marge said. Her salary was \$100 per month. There were gifts of chocolates, too, until Anderson had in her room, two three-foot-high tiers of candy boxes with a new box of her favorite Augustine and Keyers black chocolates arriving every week from her boyfriend in Seattle. ♣

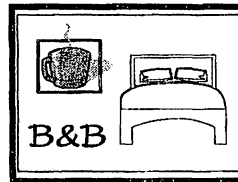


answers to last issue's puzzle

(to be continued)

McCarthy Trail Rides Bed and Breakfast

While visiting the park you are invited to stay at our home style bed & breakfast. We'll tell you some of the history of this ghost town and show you some points of interest.



We will accommodate you in one of our private guest cabins. In the morning, you can join us for breakfast.

If you want to see a glacier up close, and even walk on it, we will take you up to the Root Glacier.

On the way, we will tour the historic ghost town of Kennicott, then we proceed on to the ice where

you'll learn to use crampons and see a river of ice up close.

If you're not into walking on ice, we can take you up

to Kennicott (where the CR & NW railway terminated) for a tour, then on up the Bonanza Ridge to where the copper was discovered that led to the building of the towns of Kennicott and McCarthy.

John Adams P.O. Box MX
Glennallen, AK 99588
(907) 554-4433

McCarthy Area Council making progress

BY BETTY HICKLING

Two very ambitious projects are underway.

At the last M.A.C. meeting Mark Vail introduced a motion to form a planning committee to address the long-term, comprehensive planning process for the McCarthy area as a gateway community into this park.

The objectives of this committee will be to approach community health and well being, environmental protection, infrastructure needs, historical and cultural preservation, and to establish working relationships with outside government agencies.

The committee has planned a brainstorming session for May 6 at the McCarthy Lodge. It will be an all day event with a pot luck lunch in between. The mission of this moderated meeting will be to share our views and concerns and to define the top issues that the community wishes to have the committee

address first. Everyone is invited to come share with us. If you cannot attend, please send your comments by mail to Mark Vail or Betty Hickling, P.O. Box MXY, via Glennallen, AK. 99588.

The other project that is just in its beginning stages is the Water Aquifer Study. This project is being spearheaded by Ed LaChapelle and Patty Yould. It was felt that this study will provide valuable information to better understand where our water comes from and how best to protect that source. The objectives of the study are: to develop an improved understanding of the shallow drinking water that is currently McCarthy's water supply, to map the area, to identify the topography, measure hydrologic gradients, identify contaminant sources and land ownership, to identify potential well sites, to develop community consensus for aquifer protection and to prepare an educational program to show visitors.

The Department of Environmental Conservation has selected the McCarthy proposal for funding and Patty Yould, our project coordinator is currently negotiating the details of the funding. M.A.C. appointed a task force of three people who are consulting with Patty.

I am the chairperson of the task force and can be reached any time you may have questions. I strongly urge everyone with comments or concerns regarding this study to call me. We will be addressing some very critical issues such as contaminants (example: outhouses and fuel storage).

We have not actually received the grant yet. Until the negotiating is done and M.A.C. has completed its formation with elections of officers and a board of directors there is still time for you to express your views. The study will be ongoing throughout the summer, and community participation in the project is encouraged.

Chamber board passes bridge resolution despite member objections

BY RICK KENYON

At the March 24 meeting of the Kennicott-McCarthy Chamber of Commerce the board of directors passed Resolution 95-01 asking the Alaska Department of Transportation "not to consider any option for a footbridge which has any capability of allowing vehicular access, now or in the future." There were several members present who asked that the issue be tabled until answers to important questions dealing with access, trash, fuel, and sewer could be answered. Chamber President Kelly Bay insisted that the

board vote on the resolution, and stated that the general membership would be asked to ratify the resolution at the next meeting. Proxy forms were prepared and distributed to members shortly after the March meeting.

At least 7 business members showed up at the April 21 meeting (either in person or by proxy) determined to defeat the resolution. They were not given that opportunity. President Bay told the general membership "I found out that I don't have to allow a vote of ratification by the general membership."

A heated discussion followed, and a motion was made to ask the board to "reconsider, or rescind, the resolution." After some discussion the wording was changed and the word "rescind" was dropped from the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 8 to 4.

The board met following the general meeting. Secretary Jeannie Miller later reported that the board unanimously agreed to uphold the resolution, which will be sent to Governor Knowles and DOT Commissioner Perkins, among others.

Springtime in Alaska

BY KEN KRITCHEN

Across

1 Alaska spring lottery based on ice movement on the Tanana River. (three words)

7 The McCarthy Road often becomes impassable in the spring due to the melting _____.

8 When the snow melts it's time to park the snow machine and get out the _____. (two words)

9 It's almost time to put away the snow shovel and bring out the yard _____.

10 Mid-length footwear for spring conditions. (two words)

11 The arrival of schools of these small fish start the fishing season for many commercial fishermen.

12 In some parts of Alaska, April _____ bring May flowers.

13 Highway motorists could become airborne if they don't watch out for these road hazards. (two words)

14 When roads and trails dry out it's time to retire the skis and start riding your _____.

15 Spring ahead, fall back time. (two words)

17 When spring comes many Alaskan men shave off their _____.

19 Johnny Horton tune "when it's _____ in Alaska it's 40 below."

22 Hazardous pits that occur in streets that cars may fall into. (two words)

23 These furry Alaskans are just waking up from a long winter's sleep.

24 Slang term for soft snow that won't support your weight.

25 This flying pest comes out with the warmer spring temperatures.

3 Spring hazard that may cause flooding on Alaska rivers. (two words)

4 Alaskans welcome spring because of the increased hours of _____.

5 One of the first birds of spring. (two words)

6 A fuzzy willow growth that heralds spring. (two words)

16 The Alaskan gardener's window is full of these until it warms up enough to plant. (two words)

17 A common expression for "spring" in Alaska.

18 Spring has definitely arrived when this bird sings.

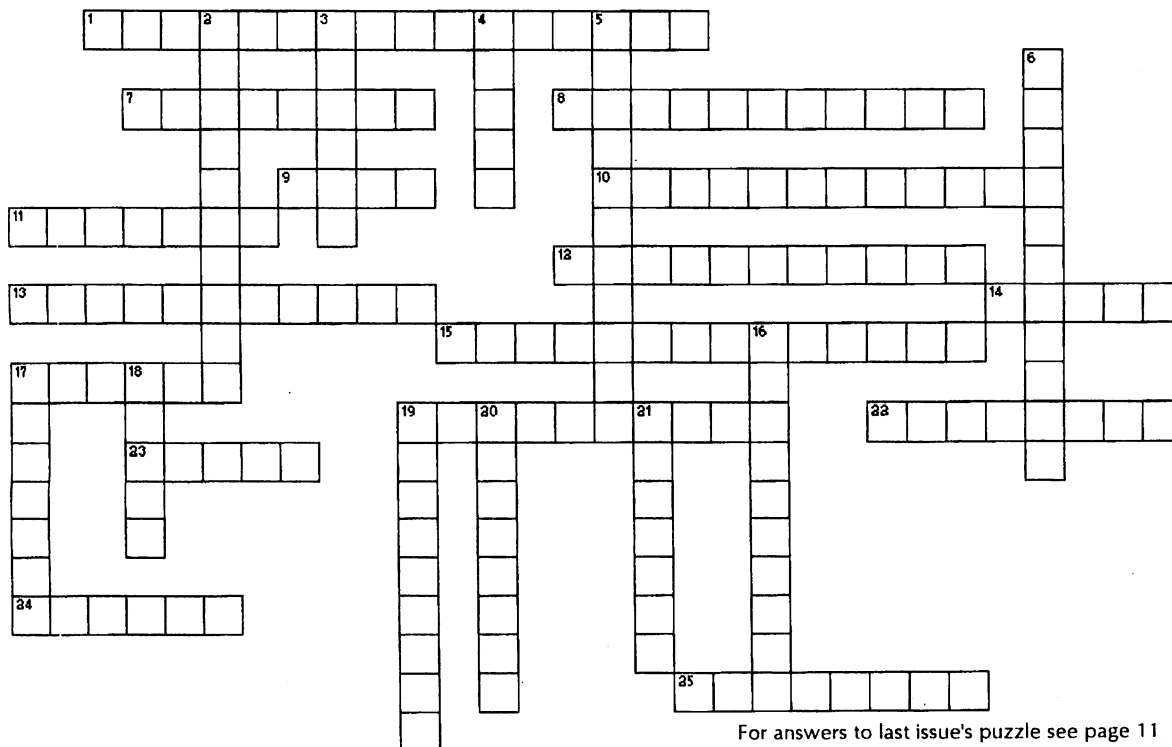
19 These "birds" go south in the winter in their motorhomes and return in the spring.

20 Spring freighting to McCarthy must be done before the _____ goes out.

21 April 15th spring deadline. (two words)

Down

2 These pose a hazard to back-country skiers.



For answers to last issue's puzzle see page 11

McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church update

BY MARY SCHRAGE

As president of the board of directors of the newly founded McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church, Inc., I would like to provide to WSEN readers an update on recent developments. The church is developing slowly, but on course thanks to the footwork of the Kenyons, Andrew Linton, Margaret Stock, and others.

We have been communicating regularly with Bonnie and Rick, Anchorage attorney Margaret Stock (a great deal of whose services have been donated), and various other churches in refining and finalizing our bylaws. The document is now complete to the satisfaction of each of the directors. Without going into too much detail on the specifics, we have chosen a nondenominational, Christian organization with a focus on community outreach.

The building project is coming along, albeit slowly. Arrangements have been made to begin excavation for the foundation as soon as conditions permit. John Adams is in charge of the building project and has drawn up a set of plans for a 24' x 30' frame structure with a base-

ment underneath and a bell tower. John Adams estimates the cost of the materials at \$10,000. Gene Brooks, of Aurora Construction, has offered his services during the middle of May for the necessary dirt work. Anyone desiring to volunteer time or labor may contact John at 554-4433 or write him at: McCarthy, PO Box MXY, Glennallen, AK 99588.

The church has also procured 47 bags of cement, donated by Greg Windsor of Alaska Concrete Services. Doug and I will be providing much of the lumber for the forms. Lastly, Jo King has announced that she intends to dedicate a large bell as a tribute to her late husband, Harley King, and all the others who lost their lives in the 1983 McCarthy tragedy. A memorial plaque will be on display in the church.

At the Sunday morning church service on April 23rd at the Kenyons, the first offering was received for the project. From the 10 in attendance, a total of \$3,600 was given. A generous amount for such a small group! An earlier \$300 had been given prior to this meeting--giving the church a total of \$3,900 for this historical building project.

We thank all those who have so generously given, and pray that others may be moved to contribute. We obviously have a long way to go to completion. Those interested in helping with a donation of cash, building supplies, or services can contact the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church at McCarthy #42, PO Box MXY, Glennallen, AK. 99588.

We thank God for all that He has done and for the doors that He has opened for us in this project. We are excited about getting started on the building this summer and it's starting to look like we'll have lots of help. We encourage anybody with some time and skill to contribute to come out and participate. Doug and I will be providing the use of our cabin and outhouse for the workers as needed, in addition to supplying some of the labor ourselves. We hope to see you out there, too!

Board of Directors:
Mary Schrage 344-8989
Phyllis Sperry
Andrew Linton 276-4229
The Kenyons 554-4454

UAA Justice Center to offer minority students summer program

Minority students interested in pursuing careers in the justice system will have an extra opportunity to study this summer when the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center will offer an intensive program June 1-30.

The "Minorities and Justice Careers" program will expose students to traditional and non-traditional career opportunities in law, policing, corrections, courts, tribal justice systems and the processes and techniques used in selecting people for positions in the justice field. The program is particularly designed for

minorities seeking a practically-oriented perspective of the justice field with an emphasis on Alaska.

It involves an academic seminar with prominent guest lecturers, including minority members of justice professions and UAA Justice Center faculty, combined with internships in justice agencies.

To qualify, applicants must have completed some college-level study or possess work experience in justice or related fields. Enrollment will be limited to 20 students. Applications will be reviewed as they

are received and must be submitted no later than May 5. Contact Kimberly Martus or Shawn Seetomona at the Justice Center for more information at 786-1810.

All faiths welcome

We would like to invite you to join us every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. for an informal Bible study, singing, sharing and a time of prayer at Rick and Bonnie Kenyon's cabin which is located 1.8 miles off the McCarthy Road at Mile 59.

Espresso ~ Coffee



Books ~ Museum ~ Sundries
in McCarthy



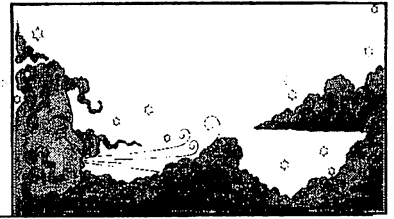
~ *Coming this summer* ~

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OUR TOWN

May 1920 June



MINING NEWS

L.H. Carvey and Fred Hotchkiss were arrivals on Monday's train enroute to the Nizina placer workings. Mining will be conducted on a large scale this season. One camp will be on Rex & the other on Chititu. Three extra teams will be used for at least a month, hauling pipe, etc.

Mr. Carvey is confining his operations to mining the creek beds out before resuming work on the benches. He will be in charge of the upper camp with George Nichols as foreman.

Mr. Carvey has accepted the position as General Manager of the Nizina Mines Co. representing Mr. Andrus of New York, for a term of five years.

LOCAL NEWS

Harry B. Brown is taking a vacation visiting old friends in McCarthy, after nearly a year spent at the Jumbo.

Harry Brown, who is always interested in gold specimens picked up a fine one the other day, from a miner who was leaving the country. It is a massive nugget watch chain of about fifty nuggets, none smaller than a thimble and the pendant almost as large as an egg. He also purchased a massive gold Hampden watch, diamond set, from the same party.

PERSONAL

The Seltenreich family left to spend the summer at their ranch this week. The calf, cow, pigs and human freight all landed in fine shape. They have sold their town real estate to Mrs. B. V. Erickson.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Palmer passed through here yesterday on their way to Nizina where Mr. Palmer will be employed by the Andrus people.

Dick Woodman has just finished putting a new roof on John Underwood's blacksmith shop.

May 1

FEDERAL ROAD OFFICIAL ON TOUR OF INSPECTION

Now that Col. J. C. Gotwals is on a tour of inspection in Alaska and is now at Chitina, his attention has been drawn to the bad condition of Sourdough Hill trail, which is in need of immediate attention. We are aware of the fact that the appropriation this year is not large, at the same time we would like to get our bite, and considering the large territory which this road leads to, it is only our just due.

A letter has been written by the Commercial Club to Col. Gotwals on the matter, asking for an appropriation of ten thousand dollars which is a very small sum, for what has to be done. (May 8)

STRELNA LIVELY

The trains on the north end are making Strelna their over night stopping place instead of Chitina for the present.

Just now the steam shovel crew makes Strelna its headquarters, and the Dwyer Inn is a very busy place these days.

Several of the properties in the vicinity are expected to open up as the season advances, and many prospectors are returning.

Joe Craig, who prospected the head waters of Dan Creek in 1910, is in town for the first time for several years. He is now blacksmith for the telephone gang and says he prefers it to mining, at the present price of bacon and beans.

Joe was the hero of one of the good Nizina bear stories, which leading part he took in the summer of 1912, most of one day of which he spent in a tall tree waiting for the bear to move.

Ben Evans, who came to town last week with the telephone crew, left for the interior mining camps on Wednesday.

LOCAL NEWS

Several bents of the Chitina bridge went out early this week.

It will take about a week or ten days before the work of driving the new piling is begun. The passengers, mail and express all cross by

means of a ferry during that time.

Baseball enthusiasts are requested to meet at the ball park tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock.

Several horse deals have been made this week. Al Fagerberg sold a buckskin to George Andersen, who sold a black to Doze.

Mr. Woodin and family are moving to Blackburn next week.

We have been setting type this week to the musical accompaniment of Marshall's which denotes that the warmer weather is here.

Some large size mosquitoes have been seen this week.

Handsome brochures of the new spring styles have been received through the mail by our local residents from the Royal Tailors of New York. The McCarthy Mercantile are local dealers.

A man called at our office today and paid a small account we had forgotten which he had owed for seven years, and also insisted on paying interest.

This comes in mighty handy, for on today's mail we received advice that all magazine and news print had raised again in price.

May 15

LOCAL NEWS

Bill Henry, who sowed his wheat while the snow was still on the ground, tells us that the grain is now several inches high and coming

strong at his ranch on Sourdough Hill.

Fish is now abundant in the streams nearby; a fine mess was caught by one of the lady anglers this week.

With the aid of a pair of huskies, John Barrett made a fine job of grading the school hill & the approach to his garden to make it easy driving for the truck

A number of men from the telephone gang have become interested in mining and left this week for the creeks to roll boulders for the summer.

Cliff Cayouette came into town last evening from the head of Dan Creek, where he is doing assessment work. He is considerable handicapped by the late season.

All the 1920 iced drinks and specials are being served now at Archie's and the Golden.

May 22

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Bill Mackay and his friend have returned from their month's vacation, which they spent on the Young Creek flats and lakes. They were fortunate enough to secure all the ducks and geese they wanted. Their bag also included two porcupine, four squirrel and six camp robbers.

Automobile enthusiasts are many now the roads are good. Jack O'Neill and Chris Radovich have graduated out of the beginner's class. It is said some automobile sales are pending.

After several weeks enjoyable trip to the hills and to the head of the Chitina, Joe Prout and his son Bill Prout and Bill Berry returned on yesterday's train. They had good hunting and secured a

black bear. Then they built a boat and rowed to Long Lake.

Fine maps of Alaska, Kroll's pocket map and traveler's guide, showing all the latest information just received at the Post Office Store. Price one dollar.

May 29

GUN CLUB NOTES

From our Special Correspondent.

The Gun Club which was recently organized at Kennecott is giving a great amount of enjoyment to its members.

This weeks shoot included a close match between Dr. Gillespie and Bill Douglas. Douglas breaking 38 birds out of 50 and the doctor, who was a little out of form 35.

Carl Stattel is improving fast but he will have to learn that you can't fire a gun without using the safety catch.

Mr. Osborne did fine for the first time, even if he did forget to feed his gun once in a while.

Mr. McGavock fooled everyone with his quick snap shooting from the hip, breaking 80 percent of his birds.

Hemie Edler generally gets his bird, but he would rather have the straight ones.

A big prize shoot will be held on the Fourth, when handsome prizes will be given.

June 12

SOURDOUGH TRAIL

The good news has been received in town that there is a good chance that some

work may be done on the Sourdough Trail after all this summer.

During Mr. Waller's stay in McCarthy, he stated that it was Col. Gotwals intention to have the work done as some additional funds had been secured.

The question of naming the road foreman also came up. It is generally considered that as Gus Johnson made such a good job of the first part of the road he is the logical man to finish it.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

With cash donations in hand of \$175, the Committee for the 4th of July celebration announces that a program of attractions will be provided, which will afford amusement for old and young.

Posters are being prepared with the list of events, the prize for each one will be cash.

The crowning attraction will be the dance in the evening, with the special music of the Kennecott Jazz Band.

June 19

TOWN TOPICS

Everyone is well pleased at the prospect of a finished road over Sourdough Hill to

the Nizina River. Gus Johnson will be in charge of the work which will be accomplished as soon as possible.

Deputy Marshal Kavanaugh dug up another cache of booze somewhere in the vicinity of the ball park this week. Nobody knows the name of the owner, but we hear it was such "bad medicine" they gave it a decent burial to get rid of it.

J. A. Fagerburg will arrive next week with a car load of horses for local buyers.

Jim Morres came down from Kennecott this week and will spend the rest of the summer on Dan Creek with Bill Meyers doing assessment work on their property. They will leave right after the Fourth.

Bill Lang is in town this week. He is leaving tomorrow for Nizina River, where from now on he will conduct the ferry, making regular trips daily till the freeze up.

Muries pack-train left for the Creeks this morning with passengers, mail and freight.

OVERHEARD

At the Bonanza- Foreman to new miner going on shift, 7 a.m. "Here, young fellow, where's your lamp? New arrival - "I don't need a lamp. I'm on day shift."

June 26

"THE GOLDEN"

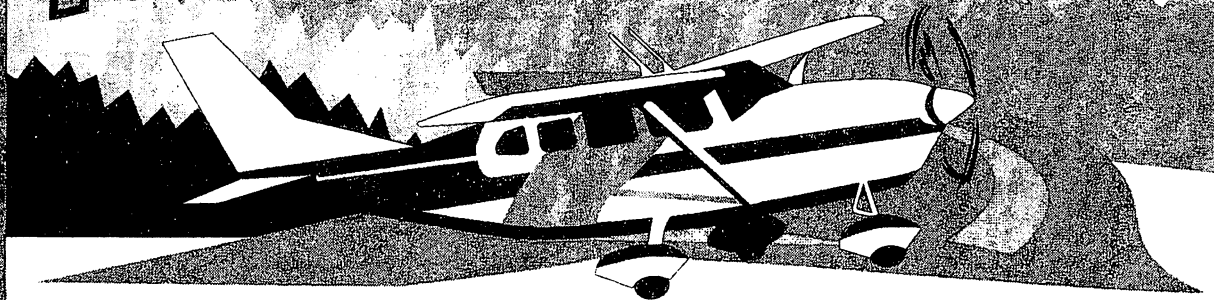
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Daily flights from Chitina to McCarthy

Avoid 60 miles of one lane dirt road. Park your car and fly in!

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Kelly & Natalie Bay, proprietors

NPS reports on landslide

The 1993 Nelson Mountain Landslide, Chitina Valley, Southern Alaska, an Aerial View

BY LYNN A. YEHLE AND DANNY ROSENKRANS

INTRODUCTION

A very large landslide, 4.5 km long and 1.1 km wide at its toe, coursed down the steep northeast flank of Nelson Mountain (61.33° N. latitude 143.75° W. longitude) and slid about one-third of the way (0.6 km) across the flood plain of the Chitina River (fig. 1). The event apparently occurred at 12:10 p.m., January 4, 1993, when several seismological stations of the U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Earthquake Information Center, recorded signals centered in this region that were uncharacteristic of earthquakes of the region (W.R. Hammond, oral commun., November 2, 1993). No eye witnesses are known and the following observations are based upon air reconnaissance on March 30 and July 11, 1993.

The purpose of this note is to provide a preliminary description of this landslide. We believe it is one of the more spectacular, far reaching, and dynamic geologic events to have occurred in this region in the last several years.

GEOLOGIC SETTING

Nelson Mountain is underlain by bedrock of the Pennsylvanian and Lower Permian Skolai Group (MacKeve 1978). The Skolai consists predominantly of schistose, metasedimentary rocks including thin-to-thick discontinuous beds of marble, one of which underlies much of the northwest part of Nelson Mountain. Surficial deposits (Yehle, unpub. map, 1964) on the middle and lower slopes of the mountain form a series of Pleistocene glacial deposits and Holocene alluvial and landslide deposits. Upper slopes seem to host several

types of colluvial deposits situated between angular to smooth bedrock outcroppings.

DESCRIPTION OF SLIDE

The landslide has the form of an irregular cone or narrow fan that includes a breakaway scarp zone heading at the rim of the saddle along the crestline of Nelson Mountain, and an accumulation zone heading at 870 m, extending about 3 km northeastward, and crossing about one-third of the Chitina River flood plain. Total relief of the slide is 1,300 m. The central part of the accumulation zone is dominated by lumpy cobble- and boulder-strewn ground. Near the margins of the central part, some elongate, concentrically lobed (nested) sectors are marked by different rock types. The slide's lower, outer rim is marked by a berm of broken tree trunks that give the appearance of being plowed up. On the Chitina River flood plain most of the slide debris consists of lumpy piles of material. Longitudinal grooving is evident in the middle lowermost part of the slide. Some sectors of slope-parallel cracks (not evident during observations in March) cut across part of the slide, especially in the central part of the accumulation zone.

The total area affected by the slide (accumulation zone and breakaway headscarp zone) is estimated at 3.8 km². Thickness of the slide in the middle reach of the central deposition area is roughly estimated at about 6 m, along the lower, distal margins at about 1.5 m. We conservatively estimate that the original volume of the slide was 3.1x10⁶ m³, using 1.5 m as the average thickness of the deposition zone. No water was seen issuing from the surface of the slide,

although a few short dendritic paths exist, possibly from snow-melt concentrations.

SEQUENCE OF SLIDE ACTIVITY

The landslide probably started as a massive fall of jointed, weathered bedrock along part of the saddle rim heading the minor valley bearing the present slide. Comparing pre-slide, 1962 ground photographs and 1957 vertical aerial photographs of the valley head with post-slide, July 11, 1993, oblique aerial photographs strongly suggests that the breakaway zone involved (1) valley headwall enlargement due to a massive rock fall, (2) removal of some of the more angular outcroppings of bedrock, and (3) stripping of colluvium that overlay some of the bedrock, especially marble. Fall-induced fragmentation of bedrock apparently evolved into a debris slide that entrained trees and other vegetation, snow, ice, and unfrozen subsurface pockets of water. The above noted events, whose deposits now rest in the middle of the accumulation zone, seem to have been followed by much smaller debris flows near the topographically lower, outer margins of the slide, possibly where more moisture was available. The nested segregation of different rock types comprising parts of some of these flows cannot be explained at present.

Speed of the landslide in its latter phase is categorized as being in the slow-to-moderate category, not in the fast (debris) avalanche category. We feel that a low-speed flow is required to maintain the observed segregation of different rock types. In addition, there is no apparent evidence of the airblast effects that

characterize some debris avalanches. Trees that stood directly in the apparent line of airblast at outermost, land-based parts of the slide were not uniformly downed but had the irregularly downed appearance noted previously. Additionally, shore features such as uprooted brush along the opposing Chitina River flood plain margin show no obvious airblast effects.

ORIGIN OF THE SLIDE

We feel that the cause of the slide probably is related to (1) above-average precipitation and an above average number of extreme freeze-thaw cycles in November and December 1992 (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1993), (2) steep, upper-mountain slopes, and (3) bedrock that is oriented subparallel to

slopes, and bedrock dips of as much as 70° measured nearby (MacKevett, 1978 .

FUTURE ACTIVITY OF THE SLIDE

Landslide activity at the Nelson Mountain locality probably will recur because the headwall break-away zone of the slide still contains bedrock that has a favorable orientation for additional slope failures. Small landslide deposits mapped in this locality (Yehle, unpub. map, 1964) indicate that slides occurred prior to the 1993 landslide event. The January 4, 1993 slide mass will continue to differentially settle and crack as it did between March and July, as the deposit further adjusts to the pre-existing ground surface. The outermost part of the slide (that is, the part lying

on the floor of Chitina River channels) is being eroded and cut through by river channels. Most of the slide probably will be eroded down below summer-time river level within about 20 years, judging from the erosion rate of other slides along the edge of active channels of the Chitina River in the area.

REFERENCES CITED

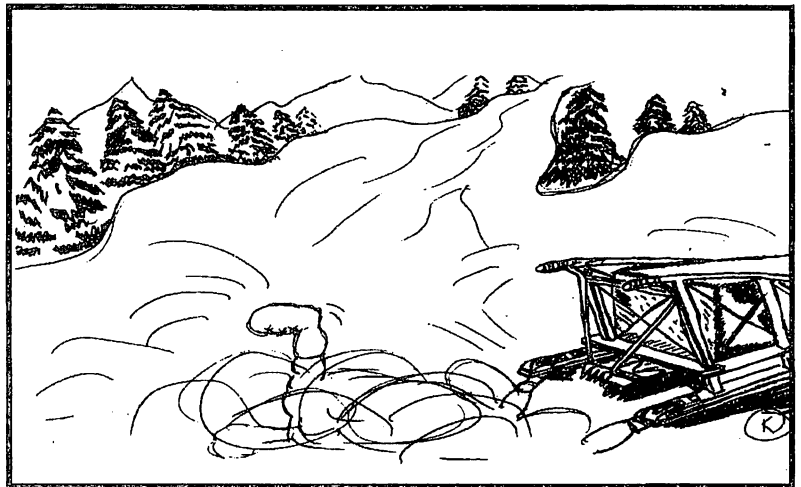
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Reviewers: Rex L. Baum and Richard Van Horn




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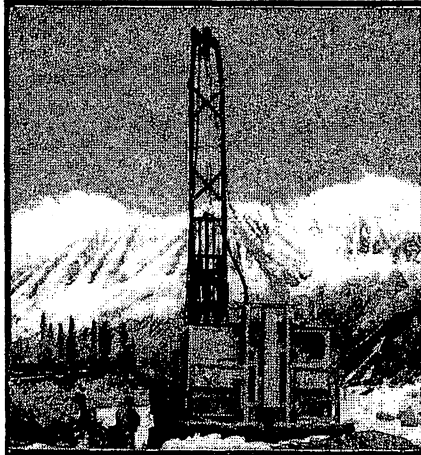
Footbridge project moves forward, downward

BY RICK KENYON

Several items in the planning process for the Kennicott River Bridge project (also called the McCarthy Footbridge) were completed this spring. The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) published their Environmental Assessment, held public meetings, and completed the test drilling at the bridge site.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) includes a fourth option that had not previously been considered. According to the EA, "Upon further thought, and in consideration of all the public comments, the FHWA [Federal Highway Administration] and the ADOT&PF have decided to include an alternative for a vehicle bridge; closed to vehicles during the summer allowing exclusive pedestrian use, and opened to vehicles

during the winter months." It also includes a no build option.



Christine Storey and Stephen Jochens of ADOT&PF were in McCarthy for a public meeting on April 11. Approximately 32 people attended the meeting, including a reporter for the Anchorage Daily News who is following the bridge

project. Storey and Jochens also held meetings in Glennallen and Anchorage.

ADOT&PF brought a drilling machine to the Kennicott River in early March to drill test holes to determine the size and types of pilings that will be required. Ken Hemenway is the engineering geologist in charge of the drilling project. Shortly after they arrived the drill rig blew a transmission seal and had to be taken out to Tazlina for repairs.

The crew returned and were able to do about 13 test holes before they left in late April. Hemenway said they found about 30 feet or less of large boulders, then an adhesive clay layer all the way down to 160 feet. He also reported that they did not hit any layers of water, which is causing some concern to residents in McCarthy who plan to have wells put in this summer.



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Business Announcement

To the townspeople and visitors of the McCarthy Kennicott area:

As you all are aware, Steven Syren has decided to develop his property immediately west of the Kennicott river. This has occasioned some hysteria concerning access and related questions due to the lack of public parking and sanitation facilities at the end of the road.

We recognize that the need for coherent development is paramount for the preservation of the quality of our visitors first and last impression of this area and for the quality of our own lives here in the area. Consequently we have begun a program of improvements centered around the camping and parking areas.

This program should address the parking needs of tourists as well as accommodating local parking in and around the tram and eventually the bridge. The current parking lot holds 80 cars and will be enlarged to hold 110 before June 15 of 1995. More parking in a separate lot to the south of the tram will be added as needed.

The tourist demand for more and improved sanitation can only be met with a well and potable

water system which is being pursued at this time. Given the paucity of cleared land available this system necessarily will occupy the area currently dedicated to local parking and some camping. We will require any vehicles left near the green wall or toilets to be moved by May 1, 1995.

Business employees for the 1995 season will not be allowed to park free as was the case this year. Business owners should contact me before the arrival of your staff to arrange for parking if it is needed. We will be offering dedicated local parking at long term rates on first come basis this spring. Residents on the west side of the Kennicott will be provided with an area to park on for mail purposes free of charge.

ALL OTHER PARKING WILL BE AT TOURIST RATES.

We further request that local parking take place next to the tram until May 1 to allow for the timely construction and improvements to the tram station building and the parking lot proper.

Please address questions to Randy Elliott, P.O. Box MXY, Glennallen, AK 99588 or see me in person at the industrial site in the spring.

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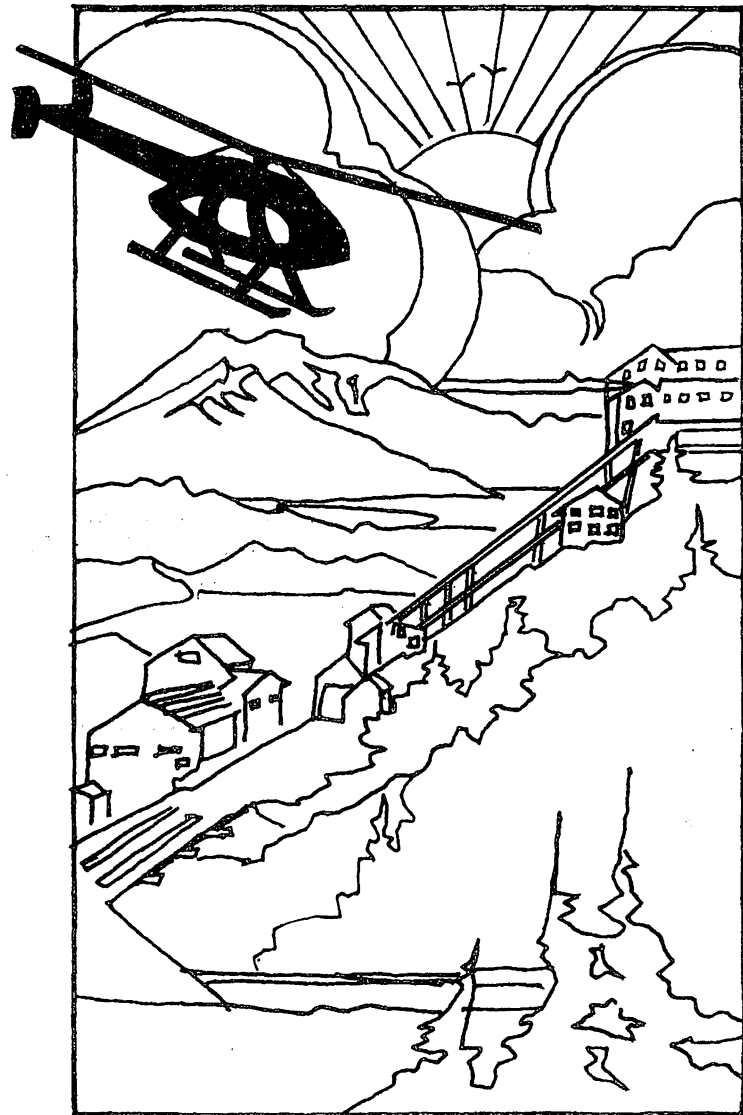
Silver Lake Campground offers motorboat, rowboat and canoe rental on beautiful *Silver Lake*.

Gene and Edith have spaces for your RV or tent. Many people prefer to park their RV's while they visit McCarthy and Kennicott. If you have your own boat, you can launch it here.

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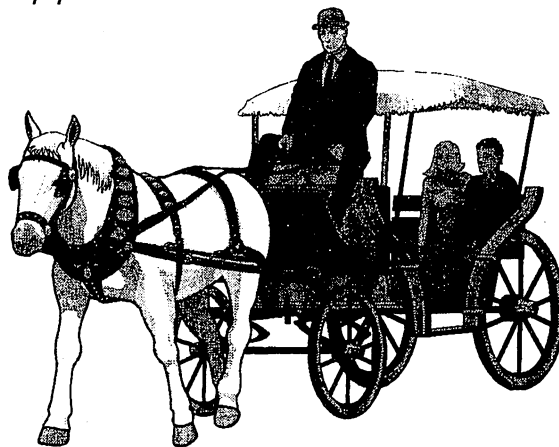


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Cooking with Carly

BY CARLY KRITCHEN

One of the things I really get a craving for during the winter is a fresh green salad. I like to start a big box with several kinds of lettuce, some spinach, and maybe a few radishes early in the spring, and start harvesting from the box by the end of April. I got this idea a few years ago when I was visiting Pat Edwards and saw her "salad box" right outside her back door. I just drag my box in at night until the weather warms up enough to leave it out on the deck, and continue to re-seed and harvest from it all summer long.

I got a request for some easy salad dressing recipes. The following recipes are almost as easy as opening a bottle of prepared dressing!

This dressing recipe is adapted from a clipping I cut out of the "Shepherds Garden Seed" catalog. This company has a great gardener's "wish book" with some really elegant recipes included.

SESAME SEED SALAD DRESSING

- 1 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. rice vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. orange juice
- 1/4 tsp. paprika
- 1/4 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 tsp. brown sugar
- 1 tsp. soy sauce
- 1 finely chopped green onion
- 1/2 tsp. sesame oil
- 6 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 Tbsp. toasted sesame seeds

Combine first eight ingredients, then whisk in the oils in a steady stream until well blended. Add salt and pepper to taste. Just before serving, mix in the sesame seeds.

I love Caesar salads, and although this recipe is not quite as good as traditional Caesar salad dressing, it's a lot faster to make!

NOT-QUITE-CAESAR SALAD DRESSING

- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. anchovy paste
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- salt and pepper to taste
- parmesan cheese (optional)

Combine first four ingredients in a jar with a tight-fitting lid, and shake until well blended. Pour over mixed green salad and toss. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese, if desired. Makes enough dressing for about six salads.

Although we both like regular vinaigrette dressing, this recipe is "vinaigrette-with-a-twist"!

ORIENTAL VINAIGRETTE

- 1/3 cup rice wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp. minced ginger root
- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. sesame oil
- 2 Tbsp. hot chili oil

Combine all ingredients in a jar with a tight-fitting lid, shake briskly until blended. Use immediately or let stand at room temperature for as long as overnight.

I save all my odds and ends of bread to make croutons for salad. Although most recipes specify French bread, I really prefer whole wheat bread.

SALAD CROUTONS

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 4 cups day-old bread, cut into 3/4 inch cubes
- 1 Tbsp. dried herbs (optional)

In a large skillet, combine butter and oil, and stir until butter is melted. Add the garlic and bread and toss until the bread cubes are well coated. Transfer to a 350 degree oven and turn frequently until all sides are golden brown, about 20 minutes. Transfer to a paper towel to drain and cool. Use immediately, or store after cool in an airtight container.

This is one of our favorite salads to serve when we have company. It's also really good on spinach.

WILTED LETTUCE SALAD

- 2 heads leaf or butter lettuce
- 8 slices bacon, chopped
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 2 tsp. water
- 2 tsp. sugar
- dash salt and pepper
- 1 egg, beaten

Shred the lettuce into a large bowl. Fry the bacon until crisp, and drain all but about two tablespoons bacon drippings. Add the vinegar, water, sugar, salt and pepper and the beaten egg to the pan. Cook, stirring just until the mixture has thickened. Pour the warm dressing over the lettuce and toss until the salad is wilted. Serve immediately.

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A look at the weather



BY GEORGE CEBULA

February at McCarthy was on the mild side the first half of the month, and then returned to near normal temperatures for the last half. The high temperature for February was 38 on the 6th (32 on Feb. 2, '94 and 47 on Feb. 26, '93). The lowest temperature at McCarthy in February was -31 on the 25th (-41 on Feb. 24, 25, and 26, '94 and -47 on Feb. 3, '93). The high was 30 or above on 8 days and the low was zero or below on 18 days. The average temperature at McCarthy for February was 9.5, well above the 3.9 in '94 and just below the 10.6 in '93. *By comparison Silver Lake had a high of 41 on February 6th '41 on Feb. 2, '94), and a low of -30 on February 19th (-39 on Feb. 27, '94). The average February temperature at Silver lake was 8.9 (-2.9 in '94).*

The February precipitation was just about normal with 0.86 inches of liquid (0.49 in Feb. '94 and 0.99 in Feb. '93) and 5.5 inches of snow (5.2 in Feb. '94 and 7.4 in Feb. '93). 0.34 inches of rain was recorded on February 8th. *Silver Lake had only 0.49 inches of liquid (0.29 in Feb. '94) and 6.0 inches of snow (5.0 in*

Feb. '94). There was 23 inches of snow on the ground on the 1st and 24 on the 28th. The greatest was 26 on the 13th and 14th. This was about average for the past four February's with 21 as the low and 27 as the high. *Silver Lake started the month with 20 inches had a low of 18" on the 7th and high of 24" on the 13th, and ended the month with 24 inches.*

March brought an end to the cold temperatures, but not until one last blast of cold Arctic air on the 22-25. The state had the road plowed to the river by March 7th and the temperature climbed to 53 on the 28th (56 on Mar. 29, '94 and 52 on Mar. 31, '93). The low temperature for March was -33 on the 24th and 25th (-5 on Mar. 22, '94 and -19 on Mar. 16, '93). The average March temperature was a cool 10.9 compared to 23.6 in Mar. '94 and 20.1 in Mar. '93. *Silver Lake had a high of 49 on March 30 (54 on Mar. 30, '94), a low of -26 on Mar. 25 (-34 on Mar. 1, '94) and a March average temperature 8.9 (20.2 in Mar. '94).*

March precipitation was just about average with 0.57 inches of liquid and 4.1 inches of snow (0.69

liquid and 3.8 of snow in Mar. '94 and only a trace of both in Mar. '93). All of the precipitation occurred between March 12 - 18. *Silver Lake had just a little more precipitation than McCarthy with 0.65 inches of liquid and 8.5 inches of snow (0.37"liquid and 2.0 of snow in Mar. '94). By the end of March the snow cover was 22 inches at McCarthy and 18 inches at Silver Lake.*

The total snowfall for '94-'95 was 48.3 inches and the greatest snow depth was 27 inches, this compares with an average ('80-'95) of 64.3 total inches and snow depth of 27 inches. The greatest snow fall was 99.9 inches in '90-'91 and the lowest 27.3 inches in '86-'87. The greatest snow depth was 39 inches in '90-'91 and the lowest 16 inches in '86-'87.

May should see a rapid increase in temperatures with highs in the 60's by mid month. Precipitation is usually on the light side with an average amount of less than an inch. Summer arrives in June and this should be the warmest month at McCarthy with an average temperature in the mid 50's, highs in the 70's and about 2 inches of rain.

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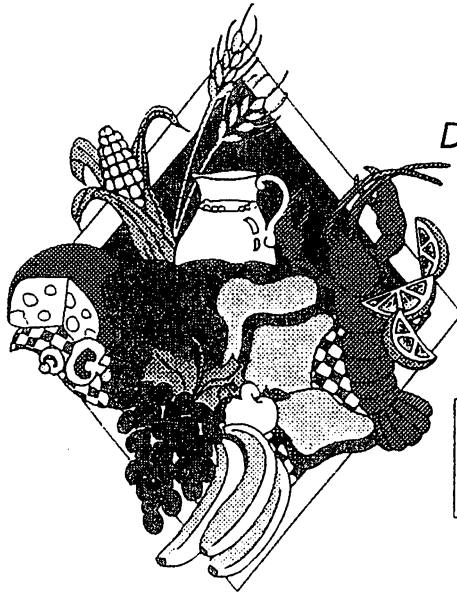
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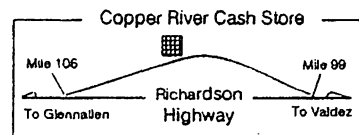
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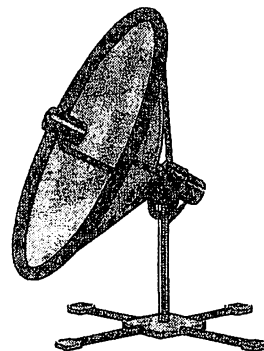
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FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

An open letter to the Chamber of Commerce

BY BETTY HICKLING
GENERAL MANAGER
MCCARTHY H. AND A. INC.

Dear Members,

Article 11, Section One, Purpose, of the bylaws of the Kennicott-McCarthy Chamber of Commerce spell out the purposes of this organization:

To encourage, foster, and stimulate commerce, trade, business, finance, and professional interest: to eliminate and reform abuses in such areas: to obtain and distribute reliable information on business matters to merchants: to stimulate, encourage and promote cooperation and friendly exchange among business persons: to promote, advance, and stimulate civic, business commercial, industrial, tourism and agricultural interest and general welfare in the territory, etc.

At the March 29, 1995 meeting, several people brought up the fact that line 14 of the March 11th minutes were incorrect as they did not cover nearly all that was said.

The minutes did, however, state that **the issue of the footbridge resolution was tabled while members consider solutions for transportation of waste, sewage and fuel into and out of the community.**

Footbridge only access to McCarthy is not, at this time, in the best interest of my business. It is the responsibility of this organization, under its by-laws, to provide adequate and correct information regarding our ability to deal with sewage, garbage, and fuel transportation and storage on the east side of the Kennicott River prior to approval of this resolution. By not doing so, this organization will be in violation of its own bylaws.

Currently the McCarthy Lodge and Tailor Made Pizza have the only two Department of Environmental Conservation (D.E.C.) approved rest rooms in McCarthy. All other businesses who are making out-houses available to the public are in violation of D.E.C. regulations and may be placing my water source in danger.

There is a task force under M.A.C. that is overseeing the Water Aquifer study being done this summer which will provide invaluable information as to long term protection of our water supply. Also under M.A.C. there is a Planning Committee that is just now looking into long term comprehensive planning for this community. Resources for information are available to this organization.

As a member of this organization, I strongly feel that at this time it is inappropriate for an organization formed to promote the economic development of this area to vote on an issue that might be detrimental to the ability of its members to continue to stay in business in the future. I insist this organization stop this resolution until such time as we can be properly informed by the Civic Committee of our Chamber as to the findings of the M.A.C. committees who are collecting data essential to making an informed decision.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (cont.)

expenses of living through the winter as an active High School student. In order to decrease my work load when I return to Cordova, I am interested in finding a job of some sort while I'm there. I will be 16 and enjoy working with

people, and ideally would love to be able to work outdoors. But, I'm willing to try almost anything. I will be there in June, and the amount of time I spend will be dependent on what I am doing. I would love to be able to spend more time there, rather than working (?cannery?) back in Cordova. If you have any

ideas, opportunities, offers or information regarding work, please don't hesitate to let me know!!
Thank you for your time,
Lynnette Lohse
Box 14
Cordova, AK. 99574
(907) 424-7170

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

March 6, 1995

Wasilla, AK

Dear Rick & Bonnie,

My family and I enjoy reading the Wrangell St. Elias News publication very much and would like to become regular subscribers.

I'm not sure you remember me; I'm Lester and Flo Hegland's daughter, Janet. Even though my parents' lives were tragically taken in McCarthy, I still have happy memories of growing up there and will always consider that small town my home.

I find myself spending more time in McCarthy each summer, and your newspaper helps keep me posted on the many rapid changes taking place there. Please keep up the good work!

Janet E. Hegland Weaver

Copper Center, AK

Dear Bonnie and Rick,

Enclosed is my check for \$20.25 to cover cost of my subscription renewal and a copy of "McCarthy Weekly 1918." I'm not sure when my subscription runs out. If I'm early, good for me, if I'm late, sorry! I don't want to miss an issue.

I am recuperating from the accident I was in last September slowly but surely. Although my injuries were serious and losses were great, I'm able to keep a positive attitude because of all the help and encouragement I have received from my wonderful friends and neighbors. How lucky I am to be alive and living in Alaska!

My doctors have allowed me to return to work on a part time basis now. I hope to be back in full steam by this spring's construction season. I'm due to work on Tatitlek Airport this summer, but I plan to visit McCarthy before I go.

As I gaze out my window at Mt. Blackburn, I think of all my friends in McCarthy and Kennicott. I hope you are all wintering well.

Sincerely,
Mark (Robitaille)

February 20, 1995

Atlanta, GA

Dear Rick and Bonnie,

Thanks for the super job you do in producing the WSEN. You guys are great! And a belated thanks for the Kennicott Kids reunion. Barbara and I have never had such an enjoyable vacation.

For sure, I plan to attend the next reunion. I know that both Jeanne and Nan are excited about getting back soon. Maybe I can arrange to bring my son and grandson to the area in the summer of 1996. If so I'll let you know. I'd love for them to experience the area and the amazing scenery.

Please renew my subscription for another year. Best of luck, and keep up the good work.
Sincerely,
Jim Moore (McCarthy 1934)

Espergaerde 27.3.'95

Denmark

Hi Friends,

I like to give my son, Kenneth Willardt, a one year subscription of WSEN.

I am very glad to read the news from your region, especially the Kennicott River bridge project. I expect to spend my holiday in Alaska next autumn, with my son.

Last year we enjoy our exciting holiday in beautiful Alaska.

Payment enclose \$15, and keep the change for coffee or cake.
Regards to Randy Elliott.
Yours,

Peter Willardt ZaWillis

March 12, 1995

Anchorage, AK

W. St. Elias News-

Enclosed is a check in amount of \$8.50 for '95 sub.

Also enclosing a paper you might be interested in. Thanks for a good publication.

My mother married Myles Jones some three years after my father's (Art Powell) death from a mining accident on Rex Creek in 1925.
George A. Powell
One of the Kennicott Kids

Don't believe in spirits? Try this one on for size. During the fur rendezvous, on Feb. 19, 1995, while browsing through an antique show at University Center I was walking along rows of old furniture, dishes and other things. As I passed by one particular table, I had an odd feeling. Having gone some fifteen or twenty feet beyond it I stopped and then went on a few feet more, when something told me to go back to that table. On reaching it I saw a small pile of receipts. Looking through them I came across a receipt to my mother from the Bank of Cordova, made out in October of 1929.

If that isn't enough, when my mother died in 1978, she was wearing a windup style watch. It stopped at the time she passed away, 6:05 a.m.

George A. Powell
2/25/95

Cordova, Alaska

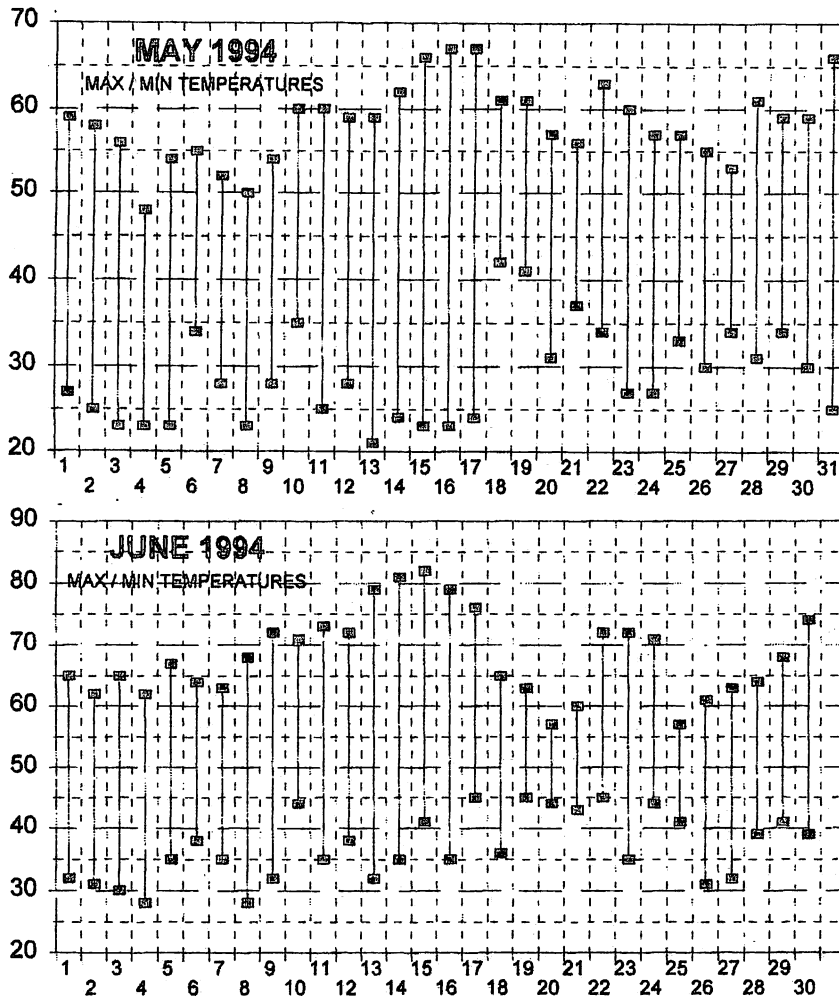
Dear Editor,

I am looking forward to spending part of my summer revisiting my home in the McCarthy area. Normally, my summer is not spent vacationing, but working to earn money toward college and the

(continued pg. 30)

Weather - What can we expect?

Wrangell St. Elias News
McCarthy
PO Box MXY
Glennallen, AK 99588



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