

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Fifteen Issue Three

May & June 2006

Two Dollars

A truly Alaskan Wedding!

Hands down, the wedding of Tischaria Buckingham and Joshua Hale was the most beautiful and meaningful I have ever witnessed. It was held on March 11th, an outdoor wedding, on a glorious, brilliant Alaskan day, everything clean and white from a recent snowfall, surrounded by the Talkeetna and Chugach Mountains, and everyone bundled in their arctic gear against the 5 degree cold. Everyone but the Buckinghams and Hales. . .

The wedding took place on the Buckingham's porch with Tischaria's father Jim presiding. His wife Martha later quipped that they shouldn't have let him wear a sweater as he warmed to the subject of grace and had quite a lot to say about it. Meanwhile, the rest of the family was dressed in matching burgundy and black outfits and the effect would have been spoiled by additional outer wear.

(continued on page 6)



STORY BY LEE ANN GERHART

PHOTOS COURTESY RAY KREIG

Bride and groom depart on white horse following festivities.



Backrow: Maryanna*, Elishaba, Lolly*, Jerusalem, Christina*, Hosanna, Rose, Jim* with little Joshua*, Tischaria* & Joshua, Israel, James*, Moses (David's forehead behind Moses), Jonathan*, Joseph.

Front row: Psalms, Bethlehem, Lydia*, Lamb, Jonathan, Daniel*, Abraham, Noah, Job.

Missing: Martha* and David.

* signifies Buckingham, otherwise Hale.

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

I couldn't help but wonder how I started *A note from the publisher* a year ago.

Curiosity got the best of me. Opening up the hard-bound book of *WSEN's* for 2005 (a yearly gift from subscriber and friend, Ted Cebula) to the May/June issue, I read: Spring break-up in McCarthy was short and (fairly) sweet, meaning the slush, water holes, and mud did not last long. Rick even managed to till our garden end of April—a sure sign break-up has run its course.

Today, April 25th, we still have nearly 15 inches of snow. As I look out my office window, Rick cannot even see the dirt that makes up our garden plot, let alone till it. The slush and water holes are still here. As for the mud... it hasn't even really begun to show. Amazing! Oh, well, this is where hope comes in. Springtime always arrives; it's just a bit on the late side this year.

Rick and I love to publish good news. Our cover story, as seen through the eyes of Lee Ann Gerhart, is truly a beautiful story. Many of you have asked us to keep you in touch with the Hale (Pilgrim) family. This family has and is still undergoing many changes in their lives. Most of those changes are good for all concerned. Lee Ann shares with us one of those changes.

I want to thank Keith and Laurie Rowland for loaning me a copy of their "Spring Break" notes so that I could use their information to write an item on their family. Last year you may recall that Laurie wrote an adventure packed story on their spring break 2005. She had hoped to have another such story but her schedule just didn't allow that to happen in time for this issue. If you want to hear more details of their excursions, you will have to "catch up" with the Rowlands. I warn you; it may not be that easy to do!

Long-time subscriber and local land owner, Trig Trigliano, submitted a joke which we included on page 23. Trig is always ready for a good laugh and loves to share the wealth of his merriment. Thanks, Trig, for reminding us of the scripture, "A merry heart does good, like medicine..."

More thanks to Jay Bitely who most McCarthyites remember well for writing us such an interesting letter of his travels to East Africa. (Page 35) It is always interesting to see where folks travel when they aren't in McCarthy!

On a sad note, you will learn (page 16) of the passing away of Jed Davis, superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, who many of us came to appreciate greatly. On March 22 Rick and I had the honor of attending a meeting with Jed

shortly before his death on April 3rd. He sounded optimistic about his physical condition and seemed very pleased to see those of us who were able to meet with him in his home at Copper Center. I know I can speak for the others as well as myself, that we all felt the same way. Of all the subjects we touched on that day, one thing stands out in my mind that I treasure now more than ever. He stressed the fact that we as residents within the park boundaries were welcome and very much needed. Needless to say, that came as such a healing balm. I feel quite sure Jed would want me to pass that on to all of you who call this nation's largest national park "home."

I was just informed that the postal service has made some further changes in the manner in which we package and mail periodicals such as *WSEN*. With the tremendous help of Postmaster Terry Kaiser of Glennallen, I hope your May/June *WSEN* will find its way to your homes without a hitch. I am fixin' to learn something new once again! Thank you, readers, for your patience.

WSEN welcomes aboard the following subscribers: James Barnes, AK; Roger Schnittjer, IA; Dona Pfaff, AK; Ted Winters, MN; William Buck, AK; Lars and Susan Iversen, AE; Jerry Baxter, IN.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Dave Hollis: Dave must be a great first name because our town has more than a few Daves. Perhaps that is why Dave H. picked up the nickname "Hollis." He just recently returned from his Winter 2005-2006 adventures and is getting settled back into his summer quarters just down the road from Rick and me. I'll let Hollis tell you what he's been up to in his own words:

"I spent three months on the big island of Hawaii. I was having fun and harvesting Kona coffee. Then I spent about 2 months in Anchorage hanging out with friends. I returned home to McCarthy in early March. I'm living on my land, doing chores, and getting ready for work to start up in Kennecott mid-May. I'm looking forward to "summer camp 2006" —my eleventh here. I'll be busy biking and hiking this wonderful wilderness area...Happy Trails!"

Don, Lynn, René and Sarah Welty: Hawaii must be THE state this year for winter travel. At least it has proved popular among local McCarthyites. Don and Lynn just returned from a 10-day excursion to the island of Kauai. As a surprise and in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary, members of their family presented them with the April trip. They both are sporting sun tans and say they had "a wonderful time and enjoyed being together." Kayaking, hiking, snorkeling and taking in the sites of the island provided them with lasting memories. Even a bona fide luau was on the list of those fun things they did "together."

Sarah and René may have wanted to tag along but I had the feeling they weren't invited. Actually, to be fair to all concerned, Sarah, 21, will be finishing her studies and acquiring her associate degree at Fairbanks around May 9th. She will soon be winging her way south to Colorado where she will work at Camp Red Cloud as a wrangler.

René, who just recently turned 18, is eagerly (I think!) working on graduating from high school. Lynn says the tentative date for her graduation ceremony is June 10. Lynn's folks, John and Nancy Burtch of Xenia, Ohio, are hoping to make the trip up for this grand occasion.

While her folks were gone, René participated in a Chugach School District spring celebration held in Whittier. She, along with two other students, were part of a leadership group in charge of providing fun activities for the 89 kids in attendance. According to Lynn, it was a great time for students in the Prince William Sound and Chugach's extension schools to get together, have fun and attend special classes. Other McCarthy kids who attended the festivities were Tessa Bay, Matthew and Robert Shidner.

The McCarthy (and beyond) Rowland family: The majority of the Rowlands have serious roots in McCarthy but, for the most part, I lean towards writing about the Keith Rowland family. After all, they are the ones I see on a regular basis. However, come spring break, the local population of Rowlands more than doubles in size. Keith's brother, Roger, and his family from Dutch

Harbor arrived on schedule. The ladies in town enjoy seeing Roger's wife, Tammy, show up because she always brings a fun supply of Mary Kay products with her. Let's see... the local Rowlands add up to 7, the Dutch Harbor Rowlands increase that total to 14. Then there is Keith's sister's son, Keithy from Oregon, who joins his Alaskan cousins for what Laurie describes as "Mega-Holiday."

With all their grandkids in town, the elder Rowlands, Ken and Nancy of Palmer, were right on time for the March festivities, too.

The Rowland clan swelled when Laurie's brother, Dave Persson, and his family arrived from Fairbanks. Close friends of the Persons and Rowlands, Jay and Kim Williams and two children, followed suit and arrived with snowmachines in tow. Another family of four, the Randby's, joined the entourage. Keith puts it this way, "With nearly a dozen Tundra snowmachines and their rotating staff of young operators diligently attempting to pack down every square inch of snow in the valley, McCarthy was no longer a sleepy, idyllic winter wilderness town."

Prior to his family's arrival, Keith began preparing for an overnigher "big guys" trip to the Bremner Country. A week earlier Keith, and neighbor Don Welty, scouted the desired route from the air in Don's Super Cub. With everyone accounted for, the Big Guys' trip was on. The day dawned bright and clear. It was only -20 F., says Keith! Eight guys headed out on their snowmachines with their destination a

Park Service cabin (once an old mining bunkhouse) at the abandoned Bremner Mines in the Chugach Mountains south of McCarthy. They arrived safely with time to spare —time for doing what they came to do — snowmachining up every valley they could find.

Some of the younger boys (14 and younger) did their own overnight trip to the May creek park service cabin. The word is they had a grand old time without their parent's oversight.

A Rowland family overnight trip took them to the Peavine cabin up Chitistone River. Although I have never been there, Rowlands say the large cabin comes outfitted with a stove that easily heats it, and that it sleeps large crowds comfortably.

Keith, Roger, Tammy, Kaleb and Carl Gressel snowmachined up to the head of Chitistone Glacier at the base of the Grand Parapet (12,000 ft.). Ken and grandson, David, snowmachined to the Glacier Creek strip and reminced about the good days when Ken used to guide big game hunters there on horseback. In fact, it was Ken's employment as a guide in the Chitistone valley that introduced the Rowland family to McCarthy and the surrounding Wrangell St. Elias Mountains. "We've been intrigued with the area ever since," said Laurie.

Eventually, spring break came to an end for the Rowland family. It was time to return to the school books and the business at hand.

Tim Mischel: The phone rang yesterday and it was "Angle Station Tim." He was giving us folks down here in the valley a "heads-up." He said to be on the lookout for the usual spring bears who

were obviously awake from their long winter sleep. Tim has seen the bear tracks to back up his yearly warning.

With the snow cover still with us, Tim is taking advantage of the conditions by stocking up on his winter firewood supply. He is giving himself another 2 or 3 weeks of good traveling. Thanks for the news from up your way, Tim, but for some reason I'm not that excited with it!

Jim Kreblin: Another neighbor, 15 miles down the road, is Jim Kreblin who lives on the banks of Long Lake. I talked to him the other day to see what else was new besides his fishing excursions with Rick. He says time is running out for such things. With his summer work just 4 weeks away, he is busy hauling in that firewood ("top of the to-do list") while it is still easy (and safe) to get around on the ice. In the meantime, he says he is still "waiting for spring" to spring forth. We're waiting, too, Jim! I don't have to tell you that it is April 21st and we still have 18 inches of snow on the ground!

Anna Wallin: Anna is staying plenty busy with her winter job at the Rowland's home school. With all 5 Rowland young folks in school now, Laurie needs all the help she can get. This is where Anna comes in. Her winter vehicle —the Arctic Cat BearCat snowmachine that she purchased from Ed LaChapelle —manages to transport her quite well to the top of the steep hill where the Rowland home is located.

This summer is going to be an exciting one that Anna is already looking forward to. Her folks, Salley and Scott Wallin of Tucson, AZ. and her brother Joey, are making plans to head this

way mid-June. Anna tells me they will spend some time in McCarthy, but several out-of-town excursions are being planned. This is a very special occasion for the Wallins, being together as a family and further exploring our fine state. Scott and Salley are not newcomers to our area but we are looking forward to meeting Joey for the first time.

George Cebula: This month has been a busy one for George and dog Sophie (who manages to supervise George's activities quite well). Since our last issue, George and John Adams, owner of McCarthy Building Services, have constructed a new 12' x 16' storage building. I'm sure Sophie would like to think it was built for her own private quarters, but George has other thoughts in mind. It will house his snowmachine and 4 wheeler and, I imagine anything else that will fit nicely in the new building. A job well done and a great addition to George's homestead.

Welcome to Matt Mawson: A new neighbor to the west side is Matt Mawson. He is not really a new face to the area but has visited McCarthy off and on for the last several years. Matt purchased property down the driveway from George.

Since his arrival this month, Matt has acquired winter construction work with Jeremy Keller and Andy Shidner. He is planning to call McCarthy home and eventually build a cabin on his property.

We want to say, "Welcome, Matt to the neighborhood and our town!"

Dorothy Adler, Kim Young and Stefanie Kerr: These three adventuresome young ladies are up to something good. They are

eagerly preparing for a mountain climbing expedition to happen any day now. Their goal is Mt. Blackburn—to be exact, the NW ridge, says Dorothy. The ladies expect to be gone 2-3 weeks. I'm sure they have spent a great deal more time just getting ready for the climb. Stefanie purchased a food dehydrator, and because she was in Anchorage this winter, she took advantage of the time and accessibility of fruits and vegetables to freeze-dry and package them for the long haul.

Dorothy drove into town from her cabin in McCarthy to give Kim and Stefanie a hand and bring the young ladies back to our area. They plan on flying out with Gary Green of McCarthy Air any time now (today is April 24). Gary plans on flying them to the 7,000 ft. elevation of the Nabesna Glacier.

When I talked to Dorothy, Kim and Stefanie yesterday, I quizzed them about the food portion of their gear and discovered that "chocolate" was one of the major items. Now I could handle that part of the adventure, I thought. I asked Stefanie if she has ever tired of chocolate seeing that it is a large part of her diet, especially during these times of her life. Actually, she commented that she has overdone it and thought she would never eat it again. However, she assured me that the condition did not last long. That was comforting to hear.

The other part I wasn't so sure about is the 70 lb. packs each girl will be wearing! I guess I'll stay home for this one but, just maybe they will have some of that chocolate left over and be more-than-ready to unload it on someone.

We pray for a safe ascent, descent and return home for these courageous young ladies. By the way, Dorothy says to be on the lookout for a story when they return.

McCarthy area students take tests: The Chugach and Galena school districts teamed up again this year to provide their McCarthy area students with a testing site—the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church—and proctor (Bonnie Kenyon) and, of course, those yearly tests in Reading, Writing and Math. Cynthia Shidner, Chugach's certified teacher, was called to Valdez to administer tests so I was on my own this year. I consider it quite an honor and found each of the local students a joy to be around. I'm sure their parents will be glad to hear how well behaved each and every one was!

The students came by snow-machines or 4-wheelers. Kelsey Smith and Tessa Bay came from the Nizina area and represented the 7th grade. This was Kaylin Moffit's first year to be a part of the testing program. He is in the 3rd grade and was an immense help to me, always arriving early and helping me pass out the freshly-sharpened pencils and erasers. David Rowland and Matthew Shidner both participated in the 6th grade tests. Hannah and Daniel Rowland made a grand showing for 5th grade and Kaleb Rowland was our oldest student, testing for the 8th grade.

The testing dates were April 4-6 this year. The weather cooperated and travel conditions were excellent.

I want to thank Cynthia and the Chugach School District for the wonderful snacks they provided. Both students and proctor

thoroughly enjoyed our daily break! Much appreciation to the fine young folks who so graciously worked hard to complete each test. I must admit I was glad they were the students and I was the proctor!

Fran Gagnon update: For those of our readers who desire an update on Fran, I include a letter written by her daughter Linda, written March 29th.

Dear Friends and Family, — Here comes Fran! Yes, she is up and walking around a little. I think the most steps she has taken have been around 100. She tires quickly but "keeps on truckin'!" Yesterday the respiratory therapist installed a device in her trach' that allows her to speak. The first words she said were to thank him for his kind care of her. She is breathing 100% on her own now and they will probably remove the tracheotomy some time this weekend. She will then be tested for her swallowing reflex to see if she can start eating some soft foods. When that happens, they will remove the stomach feeding tube that she has had for the past three months. I am filled with hope that she will return home to us soon. We took her for a spin around the block in her wheelchair yesterday afternoon. That was her first time out in the fresh air since she got sick. She enjoyed it greatly.

Kudos to all of you who have kept in touch with cards and letters, prayers and hopes, get well wishes and such. You have the power and she is living proof! Thank you for your kind compassion. Perhaps the next letter to you will be composed by Fran.

A truly Alaskan wedding!

(continued from page 1)

The thirteen Buckingham/ Hale women and girls were on the left side of the porch, along with the youngest boys in their mothers' laps, and the eleven men and boys stood on the right. During the first half hour, while Jim spoke to us clearly, plainly, beautifully about God's grace, the bride and groom were absent.

Then suddenly, a trumpet blast and Joshua came galloping out of the woods on horseback towards the cabin, looking dashing in an ivory shirt and sheepskin vest. The bride, dressed in a beautiful ivory gown, rushed out of the house towards him and all joined her to meet the bridegroom. The couple was escorted to the center of the porch under a beautiful rose-bedecked archway and all resumed their places. Jim continued the ceremony.

Jim emphasized the holiness of this union, their hearts knit together by God for a purpose. Jim told Joshua that as husband, he was to love Tischaria as Christ loved the church, giving everyday examples like keeping wood in the fireplace, tenderly caring for his bride. Then he spoke to Tischaria about her role as wife, that she was to obey her husband in all circumstances except two—if asked to do something that

God forbids or if told to forebear from doing something that God commands. In all other things, she is to obey. In that way, Joshua

Grandmother's Chicken Salad

Grandmother Mary Sweatte

2 cans chicken, chopped
6 eggs, boiled and finely grated
1 cup cracker barrel white cheese, finely grated
green onion scallions, finely chopped
1—2 stalks celery, finely chopped
½ cup sweet pickle relish, drained
pecans, toasted and finely chopped
curry, just a sprinkle
onion powder
garlic powder
pepper
½ cup mayonnaise
salt

Mix together. This is not an exact recipe, so you will just have to do it to taste and consistency. It is supposed to have a light taste... not real spicy. You can eat it as a dip with crackers, chips, or vegetables, or on bread as a sandwich. To make it pretty when you serve it, you can garnish it with a little paprika.

(courtesy Martha Buckingham)

would become the leader that God would have him to be. Their roles did not include conforming the other to Christ's image—God would take care of that himself.

Jim shared with us that Joshua and Tischaria's relationships started on the clear understanding that this was God's will, and that He had put

His love in each of their hearts for the other. They are purposed to be clean and pure before God and man, and desired that this be expressed as clearly as possible before marriage through no physical contact. He then placed Tischaria's hand in Joshua's, their first touch witnessed by us all. We all joined in singing Amazing Grace. There was not a dry eye in the great out of doors.

The porch was quickly transformed into a wedding banquet, tables filled with all sorts of homemade delicacies—moose stew, freshly baked rolls and buns, Grandma Sweatte's Chicken Salad, and the Hale's famous fudge. After a couple of hours of feasting and merriment, the bride and groom were ready to depart.

About three hundred guests lined either side of the lane and gathered snowballs to throw at the new couple. Joshua mounted his trusty steed, Reuben, and Tischaria hopped on with him and away they rode into the sunset. It was awesome! A truly Alaskan wedding that Joshua and Tischaria's grandchildren will be telling their grandchildren about.

The McCarthy Centennial Project

MCCARTHY, ALASKA

The McCarthy Centennial Project is a series of events and exhibits celebrating McCarthy's first 100 years of history; it is sponsored by the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum (MKHM), a non-profit organization

located in McCarthy, Alaska. In 2005 the Museum completed restoration of the roof and foundation of the Railway Depot Building (McCarthy Station), where the Museum houses its collections of historic artifacts and ephemera. A new deck giving wheelchair access to the

building (and potential outdoor exhibit space) was completed in late September of this year. Our 2006 celebration of 100 years of industry and community inside what is now America's largest National Park includes many humanities-based

events during the 2006 summer season in McCarthy.

Several organizations have agreed to work with our Museum, including The Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry (MATI), National Park Service (NPS), and several sponsorship companies, and of course many of the local area businesses.

All Summer Long in the Carriage Shed across from the McCarthy Lodge:

- The McCarthy Clothes-Line Show - Do you have a great photo, poem or other artwork that expresses your love for McCarthy and the history of this town? Bring your favorite photo or other art work to our "Clothes Line Show." Starting Memorial Day Weekend, the show will evolve over the summer as residents and visitors hang their art on the "clothes line" creating a unique expression of the relationship people have with the town and the area known as America's Mountain Kingdom.

The newly-opened McCarthy Mercantile will display:

- A 20 minute video Documentary created by KTUU Channel 2 in Anchorage.
- The Photographic artwork of 3 National Geographic Photographers: Franz Lanting, George Herbin and George Mobley. All three of these photographers have done photographic spreads of WRST in National Geographic Magazine over the years. George Herbin and George Mobley will be in McCarthy later in July.

Our 5th annual FOURTH OF JULY - HISTORY WEEKEND Celebration will include:



bration will include:

- Mark Kirschhoff, author of *Historic McCarthy, the Town That Copper Built* will be giving a presentation on McCarthy's history at the McCarthy Lodge.

- The wonderful 4th of July family games that everyone enjoys
- An Auction of great items to benefit McCarthy Area non-profit organizations
- A visit from the Alaska Auto-Mushers with at least 6 fully restored historic vehicles.
- The Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry will be loaning 3 fully restored historic vehicles from McCarthy — Both historic auto displays will be in downtown McCarthy from July 2nd, to July 5th. And of course all these vehicles will be in the famous McCarthy 4th of July Parade!

Much of the Museum's restorations will be completed in the early part of the season and we invite all our friends to come by and say hello and visit McCarthy's own historic Museum!

For further information contact:

Neil Darish

1-907-554-4402

McCarthy Centennial Project Coordinator

Board member, McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum

Managing Partner, McCarthy Ventures LLC

NPS Access Guide Released for Public Comment

COPPER CENTER—

On March 27, the Alaska Region of the National Park Service released the second draft of "A User's Guide to Accessing Inholdings in a National Park Service Area in Alaska" for public comment through May 27.

The guide provides information to land owners and other valid occupants of land within Alaska national

park units regarding adequate and feasible access to their property.

Public meetings about the access guide will be held in McCarthy at noon on May 3 in the Community Church, in Slana at 6:30 p.m. on May 4 in the Slana School, and in Anchorage at 3:00 p.m. on May 11 at the Alaska Public Lands Information Center on 605 W. 4th Avenue.

You can obtain a copy of the guide writing to Regional Director,

NPS, 240 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501 or by contacting the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve at 822-5234. Your comments must be received at that address by May 27.

Copies of the guide are available on-line at <http://www.nps.gov/alaska> at the Press Room link. You can download the document for review and comment at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>.

"Learn all you can, but learn to do something, or your learning will be useless and your vision will depart." —Booker T. Washington

Second Draft Access Handbook still lacking

BY SUSAN SMITH

CHAIRPERSON, RESIDENTS OF THE WRANGELLS

The long-awaited second draft of *A User's Guide to Accessing Inholdings in a National Park Service Area in Alaska* was released on March 27, 2006. Last fall, as the comment period for Draft One was drawing to a close, Wrangell - St. Elias Park Superintendent Jed Davis advised us that he would be asking his administrators for a simplified process to document access to inholdings without permits, fees, or environmental assessments (EAs.) He hoped to provide each landowner with an official document, attached to the land in perpetuity, to guarantee permanent access.

Despite being diagnosed with liver cancer last October, Superintendent Davis took our cause to the Department of the Interior's Solicitor's Office lawyers in Washington, D.C. and fought on our behalf for those concessions. Unfortunately, the lawyers took a hard line on granting special conditions for Alaskans, despite the promise in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) that Alaskan inholders would be treated differently. Davis invited a few of us from the McCarthy area to meet with him just days before Draft Two was released to outline the changes. He told us that the National Park Service (NPS) wants the guide to abide by current regulations and procedures that apply nationwide.

The Alaska Region of NPS proposes to implement a policy to waive application, EA, processing, monitoring and rental fees for any right-of-way needing an EA. Policy is set at the discretion of each new administration and can be easily changed. No new federal rulemaking will clarify that fees are inappropriate in Alaska under ANILCA law.

According to Draft Two, all inholders who access their land other than by snowmachine, motorboat or airplane would require an access permit unless their access is an established public right-of-way or park-designated road. Each permit would outline the location and width of the route, which vehicles may be used, the frequency of their use, and the number of passes allowed. Possible seasonal restrictions may be imposed, along with stipulations to prevent or compensate for resource damage. Any trail maintenance would require a permit. The term of the permit was increased from 10 to "up to" 30 years, but it would be attached to the landowner, not to the land itself. Renewals should be automatic if uses have not changed and no resource damage has occurred. Any sale or inheritance would require a transfer, approved by the superintendent. Permits may be revoked for violation of their terms and conditions, and periodic inspections would occur. Additional restrictions may be imposed by NPS at any time.

NPS would prepare EAs for all routes in existence as of January 1, 2006. Where "numerous existing routes have relevant similarities," they will conduct one programmatic EA (PEA), at their expense. NPS states that any permit application for access across national park areas will require an EA. Whether future requests for access across undisturbed land will also apply to the PEA is not addressed. Fees will not be waived for more complex routes which require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); those inholders would have to negotiate fees with the NPS.

Draft Two claims that "...the specific history of the access route or facility, if any, will make a difference in how the authorization will be processed." Also, "Some existing access routes may not be sustain-

able and may require extensive construction, realignment and/or investigation of alternative access means..." which would require individual attention and the authorization process would "...more closely resemble that for a new access route or facility." The draft gives a great deal of discretion to the NPS to decide how these permits will be issued.

The Residents of the Wrangells (ROW) organization agrees with the governor that a categorical exclusion (CE) should be developed to allow for ANILCA's special circumstances and eliminate the need for permits, fees, and EAs altogether. In lieu of a CE, routes may be designated as historical trails or park-designated roads. We suggested a simple registration form which could document ownership, location, and uses of all routes used today, rather than a permit. Each landowner should receive a document from NPS, attached to the land in perpetuity, guaranteeing permanent access across their chosen route. No circumstances should allow the access to be revoked. Federal rulemaking changes should clarify that fees and EAs are not acceptable for Alaskans under ANILCA law. Traditional use of motor vehicles, and a certain amount of minimal maintenance should be allowed without a permit. Stipulations and conditions which perceive future harm to the resources and saddle inholders with restrictions are inappropriate.

ROW recommended that a state appeals board, as suggested by the governor, be established to settle ANILCA disputes which arise. Extreme and fanatical interpretation of the regulations should be avoided. We asked that inholders be allowed to participate in the draft-writing process, but were told that we could not.

We believe that the construction of future routes should abide by the same conditions. We asked that local volunteers be allowed to maintain and repair existing and closed routes, and that section lines and RS2477 right-of-ways be recognized as valid access for those inholders that use them.

Very few of these requests have been addressed in Draft Two. Granted, waiver of fees and development of the PEA would reduce some of

the burden placed upon inholders under Draft One. But, NPS continues to refuse to officially recognize that ANILCA law mandates Alaskans be treated differently from other parks nationwide. Last fall, Jed Davis told a McCarthy audience that NPS and residents should continue to work together, with as many rewrites of the draft as necessary to "get it right."

Until NPS realizes that they must recognize and respect the

unique rights of Alaskan inholders, the guide will not significantly change. Lawyers and officials in Washington, D.C. cannot by law require Alaskans to abide by standardized nationwide regulations. Draft Two is unacceptable, and many residents would like assurances that, after receiving Draft Two comments, NPS will begin working on a significantly different process of rulemaking the third time around which includes a CE for all Alaskans.

McCarthy Area Council springs forward

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy: —On Friday, March 31st, approximately 21 people gathered at the Blackburn Center to begin the first of McCarthy Area Council's (MAC) spring schedule of meetings.

Joe Junker and Mike Coffey, of DOT, attended the meeting to answer questions and discuss winter maintenance of the McCarthy Road and airstrip.

Periodic winter maintenance is done by the DOT crew from the Chitina station. After a large snowfall priority is given to the main roads such as the Richardson and Edgerton Highways. The McCarthy Road and airstrip are plowed and maintained only after the crew has cleared the major road system in the district. "When they (Chitina crew) are caught up with those major roads, it is okay with me for the guys to come out here (McCarthy)," commented Junker.

In spite of the excellent work of the Chitina maintenance crew, they are not always able to give immediate attention to the airstrip, causing hazardous conditions for unsuspecting pilots and the twice-weekly scheduled air service and mail delivery. Some residents of the McCarthy area, are asking how the

community can receive full year-round maintenance.

Junker and Coffey addressed the possibility of a "non-permanent employee" in McCarthy that would use McCarthy-based DOT equipment to maintain the airstrip. According to Junker, this equipment (which is located in the state-owned building at the airstrip) can only be used on the airstrip —not on the McCarthy area roads.

At the present, when the Chitina crew comes in to plow the runway, they drive the McCarthy Road, maintaining it en route to the airstrip. If there was a non-permanent employee in charge of the airstrip, Junker said DOT would only come out in emergencies. This could cause the winter maintenance of the McCarthy Road to suffer.

Although nothing firm was decided at the meeting, MAC members and guests thanked Junker and Coffey for making the long drive (over the McCarthy Road) to attend the meeting, answer questions and give area residents information for future reference.

Another major item up for discussion was the McCarthy Creek/Nizina Road access. The results from the October 22 south-side survey for access across McCarthy Creek were presented. A "one-lane vehicle bridge" received the

highest marks. The tram option, which received approximately half as many votes as the one-lane vehicle bridge, nevertheless was discussed in length. Some were of the opinion, because the \$200,000 grant money has already been earmarked for the project and these funds will go away in 2007 if not used, strong support by MAC, in the form of a letter to DOT, could help the project go forward successfully. According to MAC president, Jeremy Keller, the tram project will come up for a vote at the May meeting.

Ed LaChapelle, long-time member of MAC, suggested acquiring DOT support for liability, maintenance and ownership of the tram before MAC proceeded with a vote. Without this support from DOT, it is unlikely the project can go forward. Keller said that DOT will likely only assume control if they hear an overwhelming approval from McCarthy. "A MAC vote could convey this support."

MAC member, Rick Kenyon, pointed to the survey results, "People want a vehicle bridge 2 to 1." Some responded with, "There is no money currently for a vehicle bridge."

Nizina property owner, Kelly Bay, stated that in his opinion the tram was a short-term project only and would not exclude a future bridge." Kurt Smith, also a landown-

er on the Nizina, said that even though he is a strong proponent for a vehicle bridge, he feels the tram project should be pursued.

The floor was then given to Keith Rowland. Rowland is the owner of Rowcon Services and Bridges LLC of McCarthy who both constructed and owns the Kennicott River Service bridge. No grants or public money was used for this project but was a private business endeavor which was accomplished within an 18-month period. Rowland read the following statement to those in attendance::

The Rowland family has acquired McCarthy Creek waterfront property. We intend to operate our

equipment on both sides of the creek this summer to perform construction activities. It is our desire to keep our equipment out of the waters of McCarthy Creek. To that end, we are exploring possible bridging solutions, with hopes of having something in place by this summer. It is likely that if we do have something in place this summer it would only be available to Rowcon personnel and equipment. In the future, Rowcon is interested in providing a bridge across McCarthy Creek that is available to McCarthy area residents and landowners. If this becomes a reality, we would actively seek positive local comments to develop a management plan.

Other areas of concern were discussed such as: the legal access over McCarthy Creek, whether the creek is navigable waters and the road ownership between the museum and McCarthy Creek.

Closing out the meeting, Jeremy Keller announced the next MAC meeting for Friday, April 28th. Issues to be discussed will include: DOT airstrip/road maintenance, Clear Creek water issues, Tony Zak building maintenance, NPS User's Guide to Access, and McCarthy Creek crossing/tram.

A May meeting is also scheduled for Friday, the 26th at noon to be held at the Tony Zak building.

Glacier Bay hydro plans approved

Land trade at Klondike rather than WRST

BY RICK KENYON

Construction has begun on a new hydroelectric project for Gustavus just days after the land under it was removed from Glacier Bay wilderness protection.

The disputed \$5 million, 800-kilowatt project finally got underway after state and federal officials concluded a long-awaited land exchange for the former wilderness land at Falls Creek.

The National Park Service traded to the State of Alaska 1,034 acres at Falls Creek, inside the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, in return for 1,040 acres of state land along the Chilkoot Trail in the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

"It's a good deal for us, the Park Service and Gustavus Electric," said

Dick Mylius, acting director of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources' division of mining, land and water.

Land in Wrangell-St. Elias had been considered for the exchange, but a number of area residents were opposed to the idea. Klondike, being one of Alaska's smaller parks, seemed a much better place to add land. The recent transfer of land to the University of Alaska may have also been a factor.

The new agreement also includes creation of new federal wilderness on small islands in Lituya Bay and Blue Mouse Cove—a measure intended to prevent net loss of federal wilderness in the national park system, according to Glacier Bay Park Superintendent Tomie Lee.

The National Park Service issued a decision in March on a feder-

al environmental study that cleared the way for the land exchange. The study assessed whether the hydro project would have a detrimental effect on the national park, Lee said. Federal legislation sponsored by Sen. Ted Stevens, R.—Alaska, required the land exchange to move forward if the study showed the project would not impair the park. The effects of taking the land out of the park were not part of the consideration, Lee explained.

About 80 percent of the cost of the project was funded by government grants, which should result in stabilized electric prices in Gustavus. The Panhandle town now relies on diesel power generation and it is beset by some of the highest utility rates in the region.

"This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent Being... All variety of created objects which represent order and life in the universe could happen only by the willful reasoning of its original Creator, Whom I call the Lord God." —Sir Isaac Newton

McCarthy Road flaggers wanted

DOT will be doing summer road work in the McCarthy/Chitina area as well as other areas. We are looking for flaggers. PWSCC is offering a flagger certification course on May 6th, 2006. The class is from 1-5pm and the fee is \$125 per person.

If anyone is interested in the flagger class they need to contact PWSCC directly. All costs for the class are the responsibility of the individual. If anyone is interested in a flagger position they need to contact Local 71 in Fairbanks at 452-5024 and ask for Bonnie.

If you have any questions please feel free to call or email. Thank you, Tawnia Butorac Admin Clerk III DOT/PF - Tazlina 907-822-3222 office
tawnia_butorac@dot.state.ak.us

Wrangell-St. Elias Visitor Center reopens

Visitor services provided this winter in the Wrangell-St. Elias headquarters building reception area in Copper Center will move back to

the Visitor Center facility for the summer. The Wrangell-St. Elias Visitor Center reopened its doors on April 10. Visitor Center hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays

until Memorial Day Weekend, when the Center will open daily through Labor Day Weekend, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

McCarthy on the grid?

BY RICK KENYON

Some of us have discussed the sizable sums of money being spent on individual power systems in the McCarthy area. The subject of Electric Utilities came up, so I wrote to Steve Bushong, who is the COO of Copper Valley Electric Association. Our exchange follows.

Dear Mr Bushong,

Is there any remote possibility of electric power coming to the community of McCarthy?

Thank you,

Rick Kenyon

Mr. Kenyon,

Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) has no plans for providing power to McCarthy.

The end of the nearest CVEA distribution circuit is at M.P. 17 on the Edgerton Highway. This circuit is a single-phase distribution line and originates at the substation across the road from Alyeska Pump Station 12 and is already a very long circuit. For this reason and others,

connecting at that point is not really an option.

We recognize that the cost of electric energy and reliability are key factors for the success of any community and wish you well in your pursuit of alternatives.

Steve Bushong

Chief Operating Officer

Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc.

(907) 835-4301

"Any single man must judge for himself whether circumstances warrant obedience or resistance to the commands of the civil magistrate; we are all qualified, entitled, and morally obliged to evaluate the conduct of our rulers. This political judgment, moreover, is not simply or primarily a right, but like self-preservation, a duty to God. As such it is a judgment that men cannot part with according to the God of Nature. It is the first and foremost of our inalienable rights without which we can preserve no other." —John Locke

"There have been men before now who got so interested in proving the existence of God that they came to care nothing for God Himself...as if the good Lord had nothing to do but exist! There have been some who were so occupied in spreading Christianity that they never gave a thought to Christ." —C. S. Lewis

Signal strong and clear

Editor's note: KIAM is the station in Nenana from which our local Christian radio station originates. The following is reprinted with permission from the Nenana Messenger March 2, 2006.

BY KAREN HARVEY

KIAM, with its home base in Nenana, celebrated 20 years of on-air ministry in Interior Alaska this past summer. After five years of prayer, study, planning, fund raising, recruiting, and building KIAM went on the air in June of 1985.

Today, Voice of Christ Ministries, Inc. broadcasts across Alaska from three staffed stations and five translators. Permits have been granted for 13 additional translator sites from Sand Point on the Aleutians to Prudhoe Bay and from Hooper Bay on the Bering Sea to Eagle on Alaska eastern border. These are scheduled to be on the air by June of 2007. KAKN in Naknek is an affiliate station.

"No sign of retirement for Bob and Dee," laughs Delores Eldridge about her and her husband's missionary work and future plans for the radio stations.

Bob and Delores Eldridge moved to Nenana in 1977 from Tanana where they were involved with missionary work to bush communities with Arctic Missions. Bob, a pilot, found that itinerant flying mission work kept him from home more than he wished. He never knew when he was going to be grounded by weather. Eldridges were raising their two young daughters and three of Delores's younger siblings at the time.

It was during their years at Tanana that Bob began to think about a radio station for his missionary work. It used to be that Bob did his mission work with the airplane and now he does it via the radio and backs it up with the airplane.

Bob served as pastor at the Nenana Bible Church for five years, before he launched his radio missionary career.

Was planning and building a radio station a learning experience? "I hope to shout!," exclaims Bob. "We could turn one (a radio) on." So, their dream required a huge learning curve, applications for permits, recruitment for financial support and staffing and then finally construction of the station/studio and the radio tower. Construction started in 1983.

The office, located on 1st Street, was once the Eldridge residence. It underwent a number of renovations and additions. Then they built the studio and productions building next door. The buildings are now connected by a joining room.

The tower with its red lighted tip rises above the skyline off Mile 298.6 of the Parks Highway on a 40 acre parcel that was donated to the station by John "Jack" B. Coghill. Coghill continues to support the station with sponsorship of an hour's worth of dinner music on Sunday afternoons. He even provides the music with his collection of classical recordings.

The 40 acre parcel was a wilderness. It was a long process to construct the tower, says Bob. First they had to negotiate the required permits with the Alaska Railroad for the crossing so that they could clear the land and build a road. Beside the tower and support buildings, two homes were constructed on the property. Eldridges live in one and the other is for volunteer staff.

All staff is volunteer. Most are serving missions and are financially supported by their home churches. KIAM provides some housing for staff in Nenana as well as the home on the tower property. It takes seven or eight staff members to run the station.

After ten years of operation, Voice of Christ Ministries purchased KYKD in Bethel from the Convenient Church— "On April 1, fools days," Bob jokes. Then a little over a year ago, KAGV in Houston, Alaska went on the air. They had to start from scratch with this project.

Though Bob and Deloris do much of the hands-on work, they are quick to point out that they have had a lot of help through the years. In addition to the individual volunteer staff members, many summers work groups have pitched in to assist with building projects. These are groups on church missions from outside. Some of the work teams are from universities and receive credit for their work. Some local people have also obtained work experience and vocational training at KIAM. Christopher Law, a Nenana High School graduate, is one who received High School vocational education credit for on-air announcing.

Okay, so, we know that Bob and Deloris have done more than a fair share of nail pounding, land clearing and sheet rocking, but what are their official titles with Voice of Christ Ministries? Bob is the Founder/Director and Dee is Secretary, Accountant and Bob's assistant.

Though the station is completely computerized, Bob says, he is happy to leave all the computer work to someone else. In fact, the staff tease him by threatening to give him a computer. It appears that there is no lack of laughter in the KIAM studio.

This 24 hour a day, seven day a week station gets its programming from many places, says Bob. Most comes from satellite. KIAM offers a variety of programming and services. In addition to the nationally syndicated programs, the station offers local news, weather reports, road

(continued on page 16)

Museum update

BY MEG HUNT

We hope this finds you well, and enjoying the spring. This missive is in lieu of a more formal newsletter, which may be a little delayed in getting out. I would like to let you know of a few items of interest concerning the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum.

First of all, we will be represented at the Alaska Railroad open house at the Anchorage depot on Saturday, May 6 from 9 to 5. We will have a display with some of our great railroad and transportation pictures, among other things. Neil Darish has arranged this event, which will give McCarthy's Centennial some publicity. We hope that those of you who are in or near Anchorage will come down to the depot and visit!

We are gearing up for spring and the Centennial; thanks to the Rasmuson Foundation, a new deck is in place on the Museum building, improving access and safety. Soon

we will have new doors, refurbished windows, and a paint job as well. The last time the Museum was painted was in a massive 4th of July weekend work party, back in the early to mid-80s, before things got so busy in McCarthy. This time it will be a professional job.

We have a delightful problem. It appears that we probably have two volunteers for the museum this summer! The problem, of course, is that we have housing for one. Does anyone have any ideas about housing for one of the following people:

- An energetic young woman who was in the hardware Store college program last year and fell in love with McCarthy.
- A retired electrical engineer—he turns 65 this summer—who has been a volunteer in national parks, and has visited Alaska before. Any ideas about how to accommodate both these folks would be appreciated!

Contact Meg at 907-554-4408 or
<mihunt@aol.com>

We are also open to once-a-week volunteers and the like; some folks have had a very pleasant experience talking with visitors and putting some of our collection in order.

Alas, as inflation takes place, we have needed to raise our Museum dues. Our new dues schedule is \$10 for Student membership, \$15 for individual, \$20 for Family, \$100 for Supporting, \$200 for Sustaining, and \$500 for Life. Of course everyone who has paid recently or is a Lifetime member is grandfathered, and we appreciate donations in any amount, however small or large!

Best wishes for a pleasant spring and a great summer. We hope to see you in McCarthy!

Meg Hunt
President
McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum
P.O. Box MXY
Glennallen, AK 99588-8998

Seismic stations Environmental Assessment

NPS COPPER CENTER

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Park Service has prepared an environmental assessment for the proposed St. Elias Erosion and Tectonics Project associated with the Alaska Earthquake Information Center and U.S. Geological Survey. If permitted, the project would expand the seismic station monitoring network in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Several new seismic stations would be in wilderness. Station installations would occur in summer 2006 with helicopter sup-

port, and each station would require maintenance visits about once every four years. The public review period is April 6 through May 6, 2006.

Data from the statewide network of seismometers are made available to the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska. The proposed new stations will improve the ability of the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center to detect earthquakes in south central Alaska.

If you would like to comment on the EA, the document may be obtained by contacting Wrangell-St.

Elias National Park and Preserve at 907-822-5234, Post Office Box 439, Copper Center, Alaska 99573. Comments on the EA may be sent by mail to the park at the above address during the public comment period.

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

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

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Road guidelines issued for RS 2477

BY RICK KENYON

Before leaving office, outgoing Interior Secretary Gale Norton issued guidelines defining what qualifies as a locally-owned road.

Norton's memo outlining the policy upholds a September ruling on Revised Statute 2477 by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The federal government has had several policies on how to handle the complicated task of defining a road claim under the law and who controls it. The National Park Service policy has been to basically ignore all RS2477 claims within units that it manages.

But the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last year in a case brought by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) that the Bureau of Land Management did

not have the authority to determine what constituted a road and rejected several requirements a road claim needed to meet, such as that roads must be established by mechanical construction.

The court also ruled that while only courts could finally determine the ownership issue, state law is good enough to establish a right of way.

Norton's memo applies the 10th Circuit's ruling nationwide. The new guidelines protect federal lands by clarifying that these roads cannot be expanded or significantly improved without consultation with federal land managers, according to the Interior Department. It ends all previous policies guiding R.S.2477 claims.

"The court's decision provides a thoughtful and reasonable way to

resolve road disputes between the federal government and counties," Norton said. "The decision allows the roads to be maintained at the status quo; it does not authorize automatic expansion of roads. Our new guidelines respect the obligation that Interior has to protect federal lands and environmentally sensitive areas, particularly parks, refuges and congressionally designated wilderness areas."

So far both the State of Alaska and the National Park Service have been silent as to how the Norton memo will affect the many roads that have been claimed under RS2477. It could open the way to solve many of the access issues that have plagued Alaska's parks and have frustrated Alaskans.

NPS Alaska Sets Visitation Record in 2005

NPS ANCHORAGE

National Park Service units in Alaska hosted a record number of visits in 2005, with more than 2.35 million people counted at 15 locations across the state. The number was up about 60,000 from 2004, the previous record year.

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway was again the most-visited NPS unit in Alaska with 888,255 visits, up about 44,632 from 2004. The park's visitation is driven largely by cruise ship passenger traffic, although hikers on the historic Chilkoot Trail and independent travelers add several thousand visits to the park's total. Kenai Fjords NP also had a significant increase, with visitation reaching 258,297 in 2005, up about 14,000 from the previous year. And

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve registered more than 8,500 more visits than in 2004, to a total of 12,784. The increase is due to a change in counting practices which now takes into account traffic to the unit's visitor center in Eagle.

"Our visitation numbers show growth that's similar to the visitor industry in Alaska," said NPS Regional Director Marcia Blaszak. "Visitors to Alaska want to see wildlife, mountains, glaciers and a unique part of America's history. National parks offer all of those."

Improvements in visitor facilities are continuing, Blaszak noted. The Eielson Visitor Center at Denali is being rebuilt and will open in 2008. The park's entrance area visitor center opened in 2005; Denali's visitation in 2005 was even with 2004. Construction has begun on a

new visitor center in Kotzebue, the home for the three units that make up the Western Arctic Parklands. And land acquisition was completed in 2005 for a new visitor center in Seward which will serve Kenai Fjords National Park and other agencies.

"We're looking forward to another solid year of visitation in parks in 2006," Blaszak said. "We've joined with the Alaska Travel Industry Association to do some marketing of our lesser visited parks, and we think that will begin to show results in 2006 and in the years to come."

National Park Service visitation statistics nationwide are available on-line at <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/stats/>.

Second annual ice-fishing derby pulls in fish and friends

BY BONNIE KENYON

Long Lake: —Saturday, March 25th seemed to know it was a special day. It appeared in style with beautiful, clear skies and warm temperatures.

At least 40 McCarthy area residents and friends turned out to explore and sample the contents of Long Lake. Exploration was done with two underwater cameras set up by owners Jim Kreblin and Rick Kenyon. An ice-fishing tent was erected for the occasion and contained one of the cameras. This was of great interest to the young fishermen (and women, of course). The unsuspecting fish gave the folks (mature and young alike) great pleasure when they swam by the submerged camera lens and, better yet, took the waiting bait.

Many attendees, taking advantage of spring break, traveled from other parts of the state to visit their property and cabins in the McCarthy area. Of such were: Danny and Arlene Rosenkrans and family of Copper Center, Art and Ann Ward and family of Salcha, Michelle Casey and Tracey and Carl Gressel of Valdez. Roger and Tammy Rowland and their family from Dutch Harbor make it a yearly event to visit other family members in McCarthy. This year the derby was included in their various outdoor excursions.

Other locals traveled some distance to attend the festivities: Mike Monroe of Kennicott, Mark and Emily Bass and their son Ross from the west side of the Kennicott River, Jim Stripe of Crystal Creek, Jim Drewry of Chokosna, Cal Ward, Jr. of Fireweed Mountain and Andy, Cynthia, Matthew and Robert Shidner of Mile 57 McCarthy Road, just to name a few. Friends and neighbors made good use of the fishing time to catch up on family news and adventures.



WSEN staff photo

Carl Gressel with nice Dolly Varden trout.

Mark Vail was in charge of taking Jim Kreblin's supplies and turning them into a delicious chili for all the fisherfolk. The food table was overflowing with goodies from the many contributors. Hot dogs roasted on homemade sticks over a bon fire on the ice kept the youngsters busy when they weren't fishing.

Mike Monroe arrived early to get a head start on drilling the ice-fishing holes. With the ice nearly 3 ½ feet thick, he put in a day's work before the rest of us arrived. I was one of the first to "wet a line" and soon pulled in three nice sized Dolly Varden trout. It wasn't long before other snowmachines and 4 wheelers pulled up to the hot spot and "my" hole was the center of attention. I was glad Mike was still drilling holes. I decided to loan mine out

and seek out another hot spot on the lake.

Dollies were the fish of the day. Andy Shidner and Don Welty tied for the largest fish — 2.2 lbs. They each took home a new ice-fishing rod. David Rowland and Garrett Rosenkrans acquired new rods for largest fish in their age bracket. Miss Hannah Rowland won a brand new Barbie doll fishing rod. I expect we will see her out in full force next year as she has become quite the fisherwoman. Mike Monroe was presented with a new rod to replace his homemade rig for the Most Holes Drilled award. Carl Gressel took home a new rod for a very unusual title: Beheading Fish with Foot. I guess he forgot to bring his filet knife!

While folks fished, others like René Welty and Jenny Rosenbaum, piloted snowmachines and ferried young people around the lake on their snowboards. A volleyball net was set up on the ice for those who wanted a change in sport.

Certificates were handed out to the winners in this year's derby with the grandest certificate going to Jim Kreblin: founder, host, coordinator, Grand Marshal, sponsor and ALL AROUND GOOD GUY for his much-appreciated contributions to the 2006 Long Lake Ice-Fishing Derby!



WSEN staff photo

Editor Bonnie Kenyon presents award to Jim Kreblin — founder, host, coordinator, Grand Marshal, sponsor and ALL AROUND GOOD GUY

John E. (Jed) Davis, 1949—2006

Copper Center resident and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Superintendent John E. (Jed) Davis, 56, died Monday, April 3, 2006, in Anchorage with his family at his side.

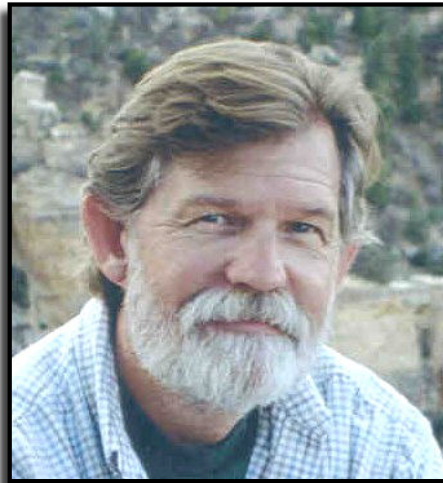
A memorial service and reception are planned on Saturday, April 15, at 1 p.m. at the park visitor center, Mile 106.8 Richardson Highway, in Copper Center. His ashes will be buried at Grand Canyon Cemetery in Arizona and a memorial service will also be held there.

Davis was born in El Paso, Texas, on July 28, 1949. He grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and graduated from East Grand Rapids High School in 1968. He attended community college there and worked as a respiratory therapist in East Grand Rapids.

Davis then moved west, beginning a 35-year career with the National Park Service. He began work as a seasonal employee at Grand Canyon National Park in 1971, becoming a permanent employee there in 1974, working as a carpenter and plumber. His family remembers, "Jed spent much time working on the cross-canyon pipeline, spending time in the canyon he loved so

much, repairing leaks in the line that supplied water to facilities on the south rim of the canyon."

Davis and his wife, Nancy, lived and worked in 11 national parks while raising their family. Davis's career included positions of increasing responsibility at Yosemite,



Mount Rainier, Capitol Reef, Glen Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Isle Royale, and Death Valley. Jed and Nancy moved to Alaska in 2000 when he became deputy superintendent at Glacier Bay National Park. He was named superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias in 2004.

The family remembers Jed was passionate about fishing and was fortunate to always live near great fishing. He taught his three children to fish and they carry on the tradition. Jed and Nancy always counted their blessings, realizing how fortunate they were to be able to live and raise their family in America's most wonderful natural places, the family said.

Davis is survived by his wife, Nancy, of Copper Center; son and daughter-in-law, Ben Davis and Maria Pedersen of Gustavus, Alaska; son and daughter-in-law, Abe Davis and Heather Coletti of Anchorage; and daughter, Bethan Davis of Juneau. He is also survived by his mother, Bette Vicari of Fayetteville, North Carolina; brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Chuckie Davis, also of Fayetteville; brother, Bob Davis of Huntsville, Utah; and sister and brother-in-law, Diane and George Kuckenbacker of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Jed Davis Memorial Fund, in care of the Alaska Natural History Association, 750 West Second Ave, Suite 100, Anchorage, AK 99501-2167.

Signal strong and clear

(continued from page 12)

conditions, fishing reports and public service announcements (PSAs).

KIAM, for many years broadcasted the local high school basketball games and even traveled with the team to broadcast away games. This was popular and a service that the station would like to resume, however, the staffing is too short right now—it requires two people on site and one at the station. Also, broadcasting the games requires an announcer with basketball savvy and

they don't have an announcer on staff at present that qualifies.

Mukluks is KIAM's bush message program. "It was really nice to have," says Lisa Jones, who used to live on their homestead in the Rex area. It is broadcast three times a day, seven days a week and helps keep the people living in the bush in touch with each other and with their friends and relations in town. Sometimes the messages are important information about travel plans

and family illnesses. The station conveniently broadcasts PSAs, weather and river reports in conjunction with the Mukluks.

KIAM is happy to broadcast PSAs. It's a free public service that is under utilized, says Deloris. So, let the radio station know about planned meetings and other events—in Nenana AND in all the other villages in their broadcasting area.

The world around us

BY DON WELTY

Spring, it's almost here! Long days, warmer temperatures, mud puddles, and the sweet sounds of anxious bird-life all testify to the arrival of a new season.

One of the most interesting and peculiar local birds are the woodpeckers.

We have three main year-round species. The hairy woodpecker draws the most attention with its larger size and loud raspy calling and hammering. The downy and three-toed woodpeckers are smaller and less vocal, with the downy most abundant in our area. The flicker is also a summer visitor, loud and colorful; it is common here and the lower 48.

Both woodcutters and woodpeckers have enjoyed the spruce bark beetle infestation in our area. The abundant larvae supply and vast forested areas make perfect woodpecker habitat. A common visitor, they often enjoy a winter treat at the suet or peanut butter ball.

All species are easily identified by their raspy, often loud "Kak Kak" call and hammering. Also identified by their unique pulsing flight and invisible ability to land on a vertical tree trunk with grace and precision. (After years of practice, a 30 degree slope max is my limit!)

I am often entertained by these aerial carpenters in the spring as they search for nesting areas and set up territories. They will hammer on anything that makes a loud noise from hollow trees and fuel drums to the side of a house, to make known their presence to other males and prospective mates.

One spring as I was working in our yard, I noticed a hairy woodpecker, that had been noisily hanging around for the last few weeks, was working on a hole high in a healthy nearby aspen tree. It looked

as if it was preparing a large entrance for a nest probably with the hope of the tree being hollow there. After an hour or so he gave up and tried another spot lower on the same tree, and later yet another. Knowing the tree to be solid, I started to scheme. (uh oh)

I thought: 1) This woodpecker has been beating his brains out so long he can't tell a hollow tree from a solid one, and 2) It really wants to nest in this particular tree, and 3) I need to rescue him before he suffers



more brain damage.

So the next day, as he hammered at yet another hole in the same tree, I prepared the nest box of all nest boxes for this poor bird. Finding a hollow tree, of the same species, of course, and cutting a 24" section, I proceeded to fit it with luxury. A sloping roof, custom scribed inside fit bottom, matching diameter entrance hole and clean sawdust filling was added. I then proceeded to risk life and limb to hang the box high on the same tree,

facing the same direction, even fitting a squirrel deterrent flashing around the base.

Soon after, here he came. I expected a sound of applause, but to my disappointment, he was unimpressed. He totally ignored it and switched to the next tree over and began yet another dead-end hole! Humbled and disappointed I decided I needed to learn a little more about this curious neighbor of mine.

It turns out they are quite a fascinating creature. Like a journeyman carpenter showing up at the job with all the latest and greatest tools, the woodpecker grows his own state-of-the-art equipment while still in the egg. He arrives at his job, which is no easy task flying without a plane(!) with a stout, sharp chisel-like beak.

To keep from beating his brains out he is equipped with a special cushion of cartilage on his skull behind the beak.

He also comes equipped with a tongue much longer than other birds allowing him to extend it deep into a hole and stab a grub. The tongue goes from the beak all the way over the top, back and side of the skull, under the skin, back up to the nostril. The tongue also has a sharp point, barbs, and a sticky glue to help pull the grub out of a small deep hole. Then, it also produces a solvent for the glue to release the grub.

The special tail feathers and control muscles allow the woodpecker to form a tripod in conjunction with its four-toed feet, (most other birds have three toes). These tail feathers, in addition to being a flight control surface, are durable and strong allowing the woodpecker to brace itself for more effective blows on the tree.

So, with all this pecking and hammering why don't they need eye

(continued on page 22)

THE CHITINA LEADER

May 1914 June

OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Cordova, April 29. Announcement is made of the marriage on last Saturday morning at McCarthy of Miss Mia Dixon and Mr. James K. Bryson, formerly a member of the Government Boundary survey party. Mr. and Mrs. Bryson left immediately for Shushanna, where Mr. Bryson is interested in mining properties. Miss Dixon will be remembered as a popular young lady who formerly resided at Cordova.

Mrs. Geo. Max Eslerly, who accompanied her husband to Kennecott, on his way to the placer camp on Chittitu creek, returned from the interior on yesterday's train. She will leave on the steamer Alameda tomorrow morning for her home at Seattle.

The wife of Dr. J. A. Pavzant, who is physician at the Bonanza Mine, came in from Kennecott yesterday and will take the steamer Alameda for Seattle, where she will spend a few weeks with her sister, Mrs. L. M. Price.

Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Andrus left on the morning train for McCarthy, where they will hit the trail for the other side of the Nizina river and go up Chittitu creek to Rex. There they are engaged in large hydraulic placer mining and will have 20 or more men at work this season.

It is expected that the annual breaking up and flow of ice in the Copper river will have an effect this week on the travel between Chitina and Kennecott. For two or three days past there has been a slight run of ice but it is not likely that the railroad timber bridge at Chitina can be kept intact much longer. Each spring a number of the spans go out and it requires from two to three weeks to make the repairs. In the meantime it is not possible to get heavy freight through to the end of the line. Some passengers usually take chances in crossing the river in boats, but it is not advised. Efforts will be made to so divert the ice that the piling will not be seriously interfered with until after the train leaving here

Thursday passes over. Considerable freight to reach here on the Northwestern Wednesday is for McCarthy and Kennecott and it is hoped to get it through. It is customary for the spring break-up to occur about May 4.

May 5

A party who recently returned from the Mother Lode property on McCarthy creek reports that President James J. Godfrey is directing the work of installing machinery so rapidly and satisfactorily that it is expected that soon after June 1st, the plant will be running. James McGavock is the chief engineer in charge of installing the large compressor and 80 horsepower gasoline engine. Ten days or more ago the compressor was taken to the mouth of the Marvelous tunnel. This was accomplished by what is termed "reversing the tram." The big track rope is 1 1/8 inches in diameter, while the smaller rope is 7/8 of an inch. By stripping the line of all of its buckets and making what is or-

dinarily the heavy side the light side, it was possible to send the compressor up to the mouth of the tunnel over the tram in a few days. This is a distance of 7,000 feet, on an angle of 35 per cent, and was a very gratifying accomplishment.

A gasoline engine is being installed on the McCarthy creek flat near the tram terminal, away from any danger of snow slides. By establishing an electric generator alongside the engine, and passing the power through the generator on a wire up the hill where it operates a dynamo, which in turn drives the compressor, the full efficiency is retained.

J. B. Parks is the mine superintendent and he has 30 men working under him. At present they are taking out 10 tons of ore per day, which will be largely increased in the course of a month or two. There are also 20 men employed outside installing machinery, in addition to five teamsters who are driving ten horses. Everything indicates that before

the summer is over the Mother Lode will be producing big tonnage from the drifts and stopes in the Marvelous tunnel, and this will be established as one of the big and rich copper properties of Alaska's rich district.

May 12

Colonel Richardson states that for the present season he cannot contemplate any new road work as the appropriation of \$125,000 will nearly all be consumed in maintaining and repairing roads already in use. He states that the bridge across the Nizina river has been completed at a cost of something like \$23,000, and that efforts will be made to have the road leading to and from the bridge put in passable condition. He was informed by J. E. Barrett, of McCarthy, that the citizens of that community had built a bridge across McCarthy creek capable of holding the strongest team. They were hopeful that the Road Commission would build a road to the new bridge and also construct trails on this side of the Nizina, so that traffic to the Chisna via the Chittistone could go

the shorter route and without crossing the river.

John E. Barrett, one of the old timers at McCarthy, or as it is now known, Shushanna Junction, was an arrival in town yesterday. He reports that the new town is growing rapidly.

May 19

The word go has been given and this afternoon at Chitina the first stake was driven in the survey of a route for government railroads in Alaska.

Cordova, May 28.

The new auto that has been in town for several days will be shipped to Chitina on Saturday's train. It will start out on its first regular run to Paxson's on Tuesday next. It will soon be augmented by an autotruck, to be shipped from Seattle on the steamer leaving Saturday. When it arrives it will be put on the run also, to carry freight for the road houses and mining camps.

CHITINA, June 2.

Reports received here yesterday from the Nelchina placer camp state that there is pay on five creeks. Eight outfits

are new at work sluicing and good returns are expected. The camp is very short of provisions, but it is expected that with the betterment of trails shortly pack outfits will relieve the situation.

June 2

The people of Chitina are arranging to hold a big celebration on July 4th, expecting to have an attendance from the various mining camps in the Copper River and Chitina valley camps. It is expected to run excursion trains in both directions, from Cordova and Kennecott. Efforts are being made to secure prominent speakers from the division to address the crowds on the vital questions of the day, as they apply to this section of Alaska. All kinds of athletic sports will be indulged for the benefit of the visitors, the pleasures of the day to wind up with a grand dance in the evening at the Arctic Brotherhood hall. Among the sporting events, for which prizes to the amount of 350 will be given, will be a game of baseball, automobile race, Indian war dance,

horse races, bicycle races and boat races.

June 9

Cordova, June 13.

L. A. Jones and wife came in yesterday from Copper Center and are at the Windsor. They will leave on the first steamer for the outside to enjoy a short vacation. Mr. Jones is the school teacher in the interior town.

June 13

Yesterday was the longest day in the year and there was a proper celebration of the event at Shushanna Junction. The big event of the occasion was the twilight game of ball between the McCarthy Tigers and the Kennecott Bear Cats. It was an interesting and well played game throughout, but the Tigers were too quick for the Cats, who were handicapped by so much brightness. The score resulted in 4 to 2 in favor of McCarthy. The event was marked by such a jubilation that the Kennecott boys went home in high spirits, feeling just as good as though they had won. They promise that the story will be somewhat different on the Fourth of July.

June 23

Alaska wood frogs hopping in mystery

Kathy Turk has seen several wood frogs near her home in Tok, and she wonders how the farthest-north amphibians can live in such a cold, dry place.

"Since we are pond-starved in my Tok area, how are these frogs laying eggs and where do the tadpoles grow?" Turk wrote in an email.

Before answering that question, let's pause a moment to marvel at wood frogs, which range as far north as the Arctic Ocean in Canada and have been spotted around Anaktuvuk Pass in Alaska. These palm-size creatures survive Alaska's winter by burrowing into the duff and allowing the cold to freeze them solid, even their eyeballs and hearts. After spending the majority of the year as tiny ice cubes, protected from drying out by the glucose their livers flood their systems with as they hibernate, they thaw and hop to breeding ponds in early to mid summer. In most of mainland Alaska, they are the only cold-blooded, smooth skin creatures roaming the boreal forest. The same species of wood frog ranges all the way south to Arkansas.

"They're kind of the coyote of the frog world," said Mari Reeves, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who studies wood frogs. Reeves and her field crews have traveled from the Porcupine River to the Kenai Peninsula to see if Alaska's frogs look like they

should. She also has an answer for Turk's question:

"They could be breeding in wetlands in Tok that people don't think of as wetlands," Reeves said. "We find them breeding in tire tracks, roadside ditches. A place just has to stay wet through late June or mid-July. Alaskan frogs might also range farther from their breeding sites than we think they do."

The Kenai Peninsula is the site of much of Reeves' frog research. Along with colleague Kim Trust, Reeves has captured thousands of frogs and tadpoles there to search for abnormalities. With skins that allow water and air to pass through and tadpole stages that develop in the water, frogs are vulnerable to toxins and often are one of the first species that alert scientists that something is wrong. Of several thousand frogs Reeves and others have examined on the Kenai, about 10 percent don't look normal. Some have missing or shorter legs, or eyes that are all black instead of the normal black with a yellow iris. Ten percent is a high number of abnormalities, Reeves said, but it's tough to be a tadpole.

"Out of our 10 percent that are abnormal, 20-to-30 percent of them could be due to some sort of injury," she said. "Lots of things eat tadpoles—dragonfly larvae, water beetle larvae, birds. Only about four percent of eggs make it from the tadpole stage to metamorph (into frogs)."

Injuries aside, the defect percentage in Alaska frogs seems high compared to frogs in Canada, Vermont, and Minnesota. Reeves and her partners take a good look at the abnormal frogs they capture, sending some of them live to the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse to check them for tiny parasites. Then, their blood goes to Lafayette, Louisiana for DNA analysis at the USGS National Wetlands Research Center, and the gonads go to McNeese State University in Louisiana, where researchers will see if anything is wrong with the reproductive organs.

The researchers don't yet know what is causing the frogs not to be perfect frogs. It could be chemical contaminants, parasites, ultraviolet radiation, predators, temperature, or a combination of these things. Pending lab results may hold the answers.

A more basic mystery about wood frogs is why people often find them hopping so far from water. Reeves said scientists aren't sure how far wood frogs roam, but Alaska Pacific University graduate student Meg Purdue and USGS geneticist Sandra Talbot will look for clues by studying a population of Kenai Peninsula frogs this summer.

"We've been looking to answer that question for a long time," Reeves said.

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.

"Atheism comes from, literally, the Greek word a-, 'the negative'; and theism, the word theos for 'god' —'negative God' or 'there is no God.' It is affirming the non-existence of God. It affirms a negative. Anyone with an introductory course in philosophy recognizes that it is a logical contradiction. It would be like me saying to you, 'There is no such thing as a white stone with black dots anywhere in all of the galaxies of this universe.' The only way I can affirm that is if I have unlimited knowledge of this universe. So to affirm an absolute negative is self-defeating, because what you are saying is, 'I have infinite knowledge in order to say to you, "There is nobody within finite knowledge".'

Atheism, as a system, is self-defeating." —Dr. Ravi Zacharias

Science expo 2006

BY KELSEY SMITH

Dinosaurs, optical illusions, water collection, plant growth, melting ice, and volcanoes were the subjects of the 2006 Science Expo, held on March 17th, in the basement of the McCarthy – Kennicott Community Church.

Local student scientists began their work weeks ago, collecting data, formulating a hypothesis, testing that hypothesis, drawing conclusions and organizing their science project to be presented at the Science Expo 2006.

The student scientists, Kaylin Moffitt, Kelsey Smith, Tessa Bay, Matthew Shidner, Robert Shidner and Will Dure, presented their proj-

ects to parents and Patty Yould, this year's scientific commentator.

At noon the science expo was opened to the public. At this time

our guest speaker, Ed LaChapelle, spoke with the group about the use of science in everyday life and as a career. Very interesting to be sure!!

The student scientists then presented their projects to the general public, answering questions and giving individual explanation. I also overheard several ideas for next year's projects – that's a scientist for you, always thinking what's the next interesting idea to investigate!

Special thanks to Patty Yould and Ed LaChapelle for their help, and direction, our community for supporting the local scientist students, and especially the students for putting in the effort to make this day such a great time!!



Photo courtesy Kelsey Smith

Left-right in front row: Kaylin Moffitt, Robert Shidner, Patty Yould, Ed LaChapelle, Will Dure, Matthew Shidner.

Back row: Tessa Bay, Kelsey Smith

A Collection of Arrows

BY KELSEY SMITH

The local 4-H club, the Wrangell Rebels, have had a guest from Fairbanks, Alaska! The weekend of March 10-12, Mr. Jeff Coe spent the weekend at the Nizina River with the Smith family. On March 7, 2006, Mr. Coe came to McCarthy, and was introduced to the members of the 4-H club.

The 4-H project was to make arrows. We painted the crest, or our colors, on the arrows. Colors burst from the arrows—blue, green, pink, yellow, red, brown, and black. They lit up the church base-

ment and amazed the parents of the 4-H members.

Going on, we then fletched the arrows, or put our feathers of choice

on the shaft. The exciting part was blowing up our targets, balloons, which left a lot of people breathless. We then scattered the balloons on the hill. We picked out our bows then trooped out into the cold air and frosty snow. We took turns shooting and everybody got at least one bulls-eye!

We are very happy to have had Mr. Coe come out and teach us the fun art of archery. We would like to thank Mr. Coe for everything he taught us, and for his fun presence. Thanks!



Photo courtesy Kelsey Smith

Kaylin Moffitt, Kelsey Smith, Will Dure, Tessa Bay, Matthew & Robert Shidner, Jeff Coe.

Kennicott River Service Bridge gets facelift

BY RICK KENYON

As we go to press the end of April, the Kennicott River Service Bridge is getting its east pier replaced. This is a scheduled modification, for the purpose of installing a larger pier with armor rock, in order to resist the

efforts of the river to erode the present pier.

The work is expected to take about 10 days. A temporary bridge span has been placed just downstream of the main bridge to accommodate emergency traffic across the river.

WSEN staff photos

Right: Object in foreground is new pier that will replace the existing east end support pier.

Below: East span removed. Temporary bridge span just downstream.



The World Around Us

(continued from page 17)

protection? Slow motion photography has shown that between each peck, a woodpecker opens its eyes, aims, then closes again before the next peck. Wow! Try imitating that next time you hear a hammering woodpecker if you want to entertain your mate!

I have since decided to let woodpeckers make their own nests, and

just watch with greater appreciation their flying and carpentry skills.

As evolutionists sit and scratch their heads in frustration on how feathers, avian lungs, temperature regulation, navigational abilities or even just one cell from one part of one animal could arise from random

mutation, I hope you will join me in

praise and adoration of our creator for this marvelous world around us.

References: 1) National Audubon Society; Birds of America; woodpeckers, pg. 137, Part II. 2) D. Juhasz; The Incredible Woodpecker, Exnihilo 1995, Vol. 18, page 10-13.

Excellent websites:
www.answersingenesis.org and
www.ICR.org

"The ruling class has the schools and press under its thumb. This enables it to sway the emotions of the masses." —Albert Einstein

A merry heart does well like a medicine

A blonde walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the loan officer. She says she's going to Europe on business for three weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000. The bank officer says the bank will need some kind of security for the loan, so the blonde hands over the keys to a new Rolls Royce.

The car is parked on the street in front of the bank, she has the title and everything checks out. The bank agrees to accept the car as

collateral for the loan. The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the blonde for using a \$250,000 Rolls as collateral against a \$5,000 loan. An employee of the bank then proceeds to drive the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Three weeks later, the blonde returns, repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$18.41. The loan officer says, "Miss, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has

worked out very well, but we are a little puzzled.

While you were away we checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us is why you would bother to borrow \$5,000?"

The blonde replies, "Where else in New York City can I park my car for three weeks for only \$18.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"

(Thanks to subscriber Trig Tri-giano)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR (cont)

another year. She came to Tanzania as I was leaving in 2003, replacing one of my best friends. It was a lot of fun living the life of a Volunteer once again, her site is very similar to the area where I was teaching, surrounded by mountains and far off the beaten track. No electricity, cell phones, internet, television, lots of hikes and runs out in the bush and reading and writing under candle light. Can't beat it.

My home base for the last couple months has been a 7000 hectare farm of some friends of mine located in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania. This is where I was blessed with a full moon on my 30th birthday in February. The farm is very close to the school that I taught at, this is how I met them. I arrived just in time for planting season. This year they are focusing mainly on beans, planting 16 different varieties of stock seed over 200 hectares. Besides beans they also have plots of pineapple, tea, maize, lemon grass and paprika.

Since my arrival at the farm I have had a variety of different jobs, including surveying the farm with a GPS and figuring out the areas of the different plots of beans. In addition I have been spending a lot of time hiking and camping in the more wild parts of the farm taking pictures and identifying the differ-

ent species of birds and other animals that live in this area. A good portion of the farm is virgin forest, untouched and pristine with numerous rivers and streams <some of which are loaded with crocodiles>. I've seen sign of lions and hyena on my rounds but none firsthand.

Currently I am looking after the farm while my friends are in South Africa for a couple weeks. Jack the golden lab and Bob the female beagle are the only ones who know English for miles and miles now. It is a relatively self sustaining farm; the 100-plus workers know their respective jobs. For the most part my job has been to do the rounds and make sure everyone has a smile on their face. I have a Land Rover at my disposal, which is a lot of fun to drive around the back roads. It took me a while to get used to driving a car with the steering wheel on the wrong side of the vehicle and gear shift on the left; I got laughed at on more than one occasion when I went to hop in the Land Rover to drive away and got in on the wrong side.

Tanzania has a new president who came into office this year. At the beginning of April he declared Tanzania was beginning their 'Green Revolution' as he banned the use of plastic bags and also the use of charcoal, to take effect in October. I believe this is a good start.

Dar es Salaam alone, a city with a population of over 2 million, uses an average of 2000 tones of charcoal a day. The forests in the outskirts of the city are being chopped like mad. Plastic bags litter the roads of cities and villages. It will be interesting to see how this plays out.

Little has changed in Tanzania in the past couple years. It has been wonderful traveling around my old stomping grounds and finding the same smiling faces where they were when I left. I had a hard time convincing my old bus conductors that I had been away for 2 years and was no longer teaching at Wilima Secondary School, they thought it had only been a couple months since they last saw me. Life here has convinced me that time does not necessarily flow in a linear fashion.

Spending 3 months here has been a fantastic experience, many righteous people met and adventures found around every corner. With only one more African full moon left, I find myself not wishing my time away yet looking forward to returning to the U.P. Sometimes I wonder if I only leave the U.P. so I can look forward to returning. Perhaps I'm just passing time until trout season rolls around again.

Cheers!

Jay Bitely —East Africa

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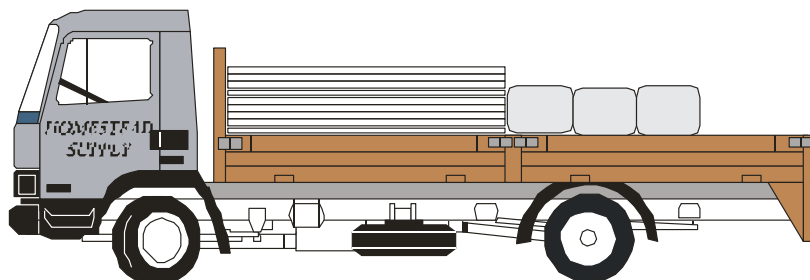
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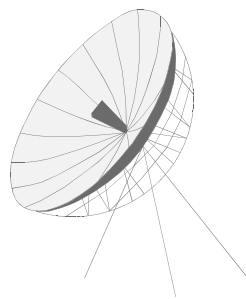
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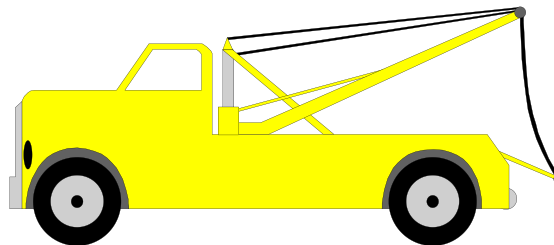
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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Hi everyone. Soon after you read this, Jim and I will have traveled the 4,000 miles necessary to reach our McCarthy, Alaska summer home. It's a long trip but beautiful the whole way and really wonderful when we get there.

This month's recipes are a little bit of a mixture. I am addicted to book stores when we travel and when I go inside the first place I head is to the cookbooks. We recently made a trip to Arkansas and I found some gems! One of them is called Seasoned Greetings, A Celebrity Cookbook put out in 1988 to benefit the WDAF-TV4 Love Fund.

You all must know who Ed Asner is! He contributed

Ed Asner's Mediterranean Stew

- 1 lb. Chuck steak, cut into 1 1/2" cubes
- 1 lb. Sweet Italian Sausage
- 1 1/2 cups burgundy
- 2 cups water
- 1 6-oz. can tomato paste
- 3/4 teaspoon pepper
- 3 minced garlic cloves
- 2 teaspoon paprika
- 1 lb. cubes cooked ham
- 3 coarsely chopped medium onions
- 1 coarsely chopped sweet red pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 2 1-lb. cans drained garbanzo beans
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 1 head cabbage, cut into wedges

In a large skillet, saute beef cubes and sausage until brown. Drain meats and slice sausage; transfer to Dutch oven. Add wine, water, tomato paste, salt, pepper, garlic and paprika. Bring to boil, cover and simmer 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until meat is tender.

Add remaining ingredients except cabbage. Cover and cook about 20 minutes. Refrigerate overnight to de-

velop flavors. Skim off fat. Bring stew to room temperature.

Reheat in microwave oven 4-5 minutes; top of range 15-20 minutes or until hot. Makes 6-8 servings.

Next I found A Very Special Cookbook from the Packers and Wisconsin Special Olympics which came out in 1991. It was a great book because it gave you info about each player and coach and recipes that each had submitted himself as well as some submitted by their wives and children. It was difficult to choose just one but here goes with one submitted by Keith Uecher, a Guard/Tackle for the team.

Keith's Chicken with Angel Hair

- 4 oz. Angel hair pasta
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 zucchini, sliced
- 2 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 12 oz. boneless chicken, cut into thin strips
- 1 can stewed tomatoes, Italian style
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- Parmesan cheese

Cook pasta according to package directions, drain. In skillet, cook onion, zucchini and garlic in oil 3 minutes. Add meat; cook until browned. Drain tomatoes, reserving liquid. To skillet, add reserved liquid; cook on high 5 minutes or until reduced, stirring frequently.

Add whipping cream; cook 8 minutes or until thickened, stirring frequently. Stir in tomatoes and pasta; heat through. Serve with grated Parmesan cheese and garnish with chopped parsley, if desired. Cooking time is 20 minutes.

The last one I'll tell you about from this trip is called First Ladies Cook Book—Favorite Recipes of All The Presidents of the United States. It takes us from Martha Washington to Nancy Reagan with historical lore that gives us a little more personal side of the presidents and their wives than we are used to hearing. It was so difficult to choose a recipe to pass along to

you. I wanted to use one from one of the earlier presidents but some of the ingredients were a little daunting, like "1/2 peck of tomatoes, eel skin wrapped around salmon for the lard, a dozen eggs in one cake," etc. I chose Mary Lincoln's Election Cake for this issue since election is a word we'll all be hearing for the next couple of years! Did you know that her family disapproved of her marriage to Abe because he was just a poor ræwboned lawyer in Illinois who was ten years older than she!

Election Cake

- 1 cup currants, soaked overnight in a tightly closed jar in 1/2 cup brandy
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 3/4 cup scalded milk
- 1 yeast cake
- 1/4 cup warm water
- 1 cup flour, unsifted
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 3/4 cups sifted flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon mace
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 egg whole
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice

To the scalded milk add 1 tablespoon sugar; cool. Dissolve the crumbled yeast in warm water, and add to milk. Add the un-sifted flour, and beat until well blended. Let rise in warm place until it has doubled in bulk, about 1 hour.

Cream butter and sugar until very light. Drain brandy from currants. Place sifted flour, salt, mace, and cinnamon in sifter. Add egg to creamed mixture and beat until light. Stir in lemon rind and juice. Add yeast mixture and beat thoroughly. Add currants, retaining the brandy for later. Sift in flour, add brandy, beat well. Place in tube pan or 9X5 loaf pan that has been well greased. Cover with a cloth and place in warm place away from draft. Allow to rise until double in bulk. This mixture rises very slowly

and may take 4 to 6 hours to double in bulk.

Bake at 375 degrees F. for about 45 minutes. Cool in pan briefly. Turn out on rack, allow to cool further. Then brush with lemon or orange glaze.

Lemon or Orange Glaze

1 cup confectioners' sugar
1/4 cup lemon or orange juice

Mix the sugar with the lemon or orange juice. Beat well. Then spread thin on top of cake. Let it drizzle down the sides, but do not ice the cake sides.

Now just one more from our own Fran Gagnon. Remember how I bought a little box of her recipes at the garage sale she had before she moved to Phoenix. By the way, the last note I had from her she is doing so much better. This recipe is for a sauce you can use on ham, chicken, pork chops or any meat dish. I served it hot, tried freezing it, and served it cold on a sandwich and IT ALL WORKS.

Hot Mustard Sauce

1/3 cup dry mustard
1/4 cup firmly packed light brown sugar

2 tablespoons cornstarch
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 can condensed beef broth
2 egg yolks
2 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup cider vinegar

Mix mustard, brown sugar, cornstarch, and salt in a small saucepan; stir in beef broth. Beat egg yolks slightly in cup; stir into mustard mixture. Cook stirring constantly until sauce thickens and boils 3 min. Remove from heat. Stir in butter until melted then slowly stir in vinegar. Makes about 1 2/3 cups of sauce.

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

February was just about average in both temperature and precipitation. March was cold and dry.

The high temperature for February was 44 on the 10th (41 on Feb. 8, '05 and 44 on Feb. 21, '04). The lowest temperature recorded at McCarthy in February was -26 on the 25th (-40 on Feb. 5, '05 and -15 on Feb. 27, '04). The high was 40 or above on 4 days and the low was -20 or lower on 5 days. The average February temperature was 11.6 (12.3 in '05 and 14.9 in '04). This is still mild compared to -5.9 in '99. *Silver Lake had a high of 47 on February 12th (40 on Feb. 24, '05 and 40 on Feb. 22, '04) and a low of -38 on February 4th and 5th (-41 on Feb. 6, '05 and -38 on Feb. 1 '04). The average February temperature at Silver Lake was 9.7 (9.5 in '05 and 22.9 in '04).*

The February precipitation was 1.72 inches of liquid (1.17 in '05 and 1.46 in '04). Total snowfall was 8.6 inches (16.4 in '05 and 4.3 in '04). *Silver Lake had 0.40 inches of liquid (0.83 in '05 and 0.27 in '04) and 1.0 inches of snow (10.0 in '05 and 5.0 in '04).* McCarthy began February with 24 inches of snow on the ground and ended the month with 24 inches. *Silver Lake had 4*

inches on the 1st and ended February with 1 inch.

March saw the return of warmer temperatures and plenty of sunshine. The high temperature for March was 48 on the 20th (51 on Mar. 11, '05 and 45 on Mar. 29, '04). The low temperature for March was -31 on the 17th (-5 on Mar. 21, '05 and -21 on Mar. 20, '04). The average March temperature at McCarthy was 10.0 compared to 28.7 in Mar. '05 and 21.0 in Mar. '04. The high reached 40 or higher on 10 days and the low was -20 or below on 9 days. *Silver Lake had a high 43 on March 2nd and 25th (45 on Mar 11, '05 and 41 on Mar. 24, '04), a low of -24 on March 18th (-5 Mar. 26, '05 and -17 on Mar 21, '04). The March average temperature at Silver Lake was 10.3 (27.2 in Mar. '05 and 16.6 in Mar. '04).*

March liquid precipitation was only a trace (0.12 in Mar. '05 and 0.67 in Mar. '04) and snowfall was 0.1 inches (0.8 in Mar. '05 and 10.1 in Mar. '04). *Silver Lake had 0.0 inches of liquid (0.0 in Mar. '04 and 0.27 in Mar. '04) and snowfall of 0 inches (0 in Mar. '04 and 5.0 in Mar. '04).* By the end of March the snow cover was 21 inches at McCarthy and only a trace at Silver Lake.

The total snowfall for '05-'06 was 83.2 inches, thru April 12 (79.4 in '04-'05, 110.6 in '03-'04, 44.5 in

'02-'03, and 67.1 in '01-'02). The greatest snow depth was 30 inches on November 25th and December 5th. This compares with an average ('80-'05) of 65.1 inches and a snow depth of 27 inches. The greatest snow fall was 110.6 inches in '03-'04 (99.9 inches in '90-'91) and the lowest was 27.3 inches in '86-'87. The greatest snow depth was 42 inches '03-'04 (39 inches in '90-'91) and the lowest was 16 inches in '86-'87 and '98-'99. *Silver Lake had a total snowfall of 48.5 inches and the greatest snow depth was 27 inches.*

The first 12 days of April have seen a gradual warming of temperatures and 9.9 inches of wet snow (1.13 inches liquid). The high has been 48 and the low 0. By the 30th we are observing lows near 30 and highs in the mid 50s. There is about 22 inches of wet snow left. It is safe to say that breakup won't be over until the first part of May.

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.

June is usually 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.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

BY SUSAN SMITH

CHAIRPERSON, RESIDENTS OF THE WRANGELLS

Residents had high hopes for Draft Two of the National Park Service (NPS) *Access Guide* after Superintendent Jed Davis assured us that he would fight for no permits, fees or environmental assessments (EAs). Unfortunately, some in the Interior Department do not share his willingness to address our issues.

The cover letter for Draft Two claims "...owners and other valid occupants are entitled to adequate and feasible access to their property, but the process of obtaining legal access across public land has never been well described in a single document." The letter goes on to say, "The draft describes how landowners and valid occupants can secure rights under Section 1110(b) of ... ANILCA."

Alaskan inholders do not need to obtain or secure their legal access or rights; the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) unequivocally granted those rights in 1980.

Department of the Interior (DOI) Solicitor's Office lawyers told Davis that the Alaskan guide must be designed to fall under current nationwide regulations. ANILCA legislation mandated that access to inholders in Alaskan parks be handled differently. This issue is the core of our inability to come to mutually acceptable terms. As long as this dichotomy exists, residents and NPS will find it difficult to come to any agreement.

The State eloquently presented its objections to a permitting system in its Draft One comment. They reinforced the fact that adequate and feasible inholder access is not discretionary and requested a formal document for residents, needed to "...assure that future managers

do not take away or unduly diminish that right." They have "...researched the legislative and regulatory history of permit requirements pursuant to Section 1110(b) and believe the Service has some flexibility to modify or relax procedures to establish adequate and feasible access to inholdings." They suggest that NPS "...quickly and simply provide inholders with the security of a permanent authorization."

We agree.

The State also recommends that NPS have as their goals: deference to the inholder's definition of adequate and feasible access; minimal administrative burden; guidelines for NPS use of discretion; clarification that access cannot be denied; a substantial role for inholders in the process; permanency of rights; minimal maintenance without further approval; the ability to transfer property without administrative approval; and the pursuit of rulemaking to amend the existing regulatory process to allow for ANILCA law.

These issues were not properly addressed in Draft Two of the *Handbook*.

The University of Alaska also commented on Draft One. They strongly objected to the development of a guide without inholder representation and participation, viewing this omission as "...an important signal of a lack of impartiality and fairness in the process followed to date and certainly affects the outcome of the process." As a matter of fact, they objected to the entire idea of the *Guide*, and recommended ordinary rulemaking processes be followed to adopt "...regulations under the Administrative Procedures Act, not the issuance of rules in the form of a User's Guide....Section 1110(b) contemplates that its protections of the

CSUs (Conservation System Units) would be administered by regulation."

The University also felt that the draft "...asserts a level of discretion in the Secretary that is not supported by the Statute." The Secretary's discretion is limited to the protection of the CSU resources. Draft Two allows NPS managers even more leeway in deciding the level of assessment, fees, vehicle usage, maintenance options, and stipulations for each right-of-way. It fails to recognize or identify discretionary limits.

Section 1110(b) of ANILCA opens with a powerful phrase, "Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act or other law..." The State asserts that this language "...clarifies that requirements of other laws cannot be used to override the substantive grant of access provided by this section," and "...exempts the required use of NEPA in implementation of Section 1110(b)." Yet NPS insists on applying NEPA to our situation.

A Categorical Exclusion (CE) is defined (40 CFR 1508.4) as "...a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the human environment, and which have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a Federal agency in adoption of those procedures (Section 1507.3) and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is required." Governor Frank Murkowski requested the use of a CE in his letter to Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, written April 15, 2004. Draft One comment letters from the State, University of Alaska, Residents of the Wrangells, McCarthy Area Council, and Slana Alaskans Unite, among others, all call for the development of a unique ANILCA CE.

NPS has never seriously considered the use of the CE to carry out the ANILCA mandate. How can the suggestions of so many affected landowners be completely ignored? Alaskan park residents deserve a permanent solution through rule-making to eliminate the use of EAs and fees and provide a simple document which assures access in perpetuity. Thirty-year term renewals to evaluate the situation are unnecessary since NPS plans to periodically monitor routes to ensure that resources are protected and uses have not changed. Davis said that he

came very close to convincing the D.C. lawyers of recognizing access in perpetuity; even he agreed that it was worth pursuing further. Our heirs should not have to deal with the ambiguities of transfer approvals thirty years down the road. Now is the time to resolve the access situation permanently.

Sadly, Jed Davis passed away on April 3. He brought a new kind of management to our park by listening to and respecting the desires of the residents. His hard work won some important concessions, but Draft Two falls short of even his vi-

sion of our access solution; he told us in McCarthy last fall that he supported no permits, no fees, no EAs, and a permanent access document attached to the land in perpetuity. Alaskans must not be forced to abide by the same permitting procedures as the rest of the nation. If the State continues to press for a CE as a better alternative to the Draft Two document, perhaps NPS' third attempt will more closely resemble the unhampered, permanent access that is our ANILCA-mandated right.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hello to the Kenyons!

Please renew our subscription for 2 years.

We miss reading it so much! Your coverage of the Pilgrims was very good and objective. It was a sad story.

My favorite article is The World Around Us by Don Welty. But really it is all so good. It's the only paper I read in its entirety.

Thanks again,

Mark and Lee Ann Fowler

Editor's note: Jay Bitely spent a winter here in McCarthy (2004-2005) and we have enjoyed following his travels since.

WSEN,

After 2 years of staying in the confines of North America I decided it was time to take my show on the road internationally once again. But where to go? It is a big world, with many places begging to be explored. As fall of 2005 was coming to a close I knew I needed to stop procrastinating and make some sort of plan. South America, India, and Australia were all possibilities seriously considered; I was merely awaiting a sign to guide me where I needed to be. A return trip to Tanzania in East Africa where I spent 2 years (2001-2003) as a Peace Corps

Volunteer eventually won out. My original plan was to begin my travels in mid-November after finishing the season working at Birch Shores Resort, but the allure of a U.P. winter made me postpone my travel plans until after Christmas. It had been 4 years since experiencing a Yooper winter. Last year I opted to spend the winter months in Alaska, the winter before road tripping around the lower 48 and the previous 2 teaching mathematics in Tanzania. Luckily for me fall turned to winter in a hurry and I was far from disappointed, being able to fit in plenty of ice fishing and snowshoeing before heading south of the equator to work on my flip-flop farmer's tan, at the peak of the African summer and rainy season.

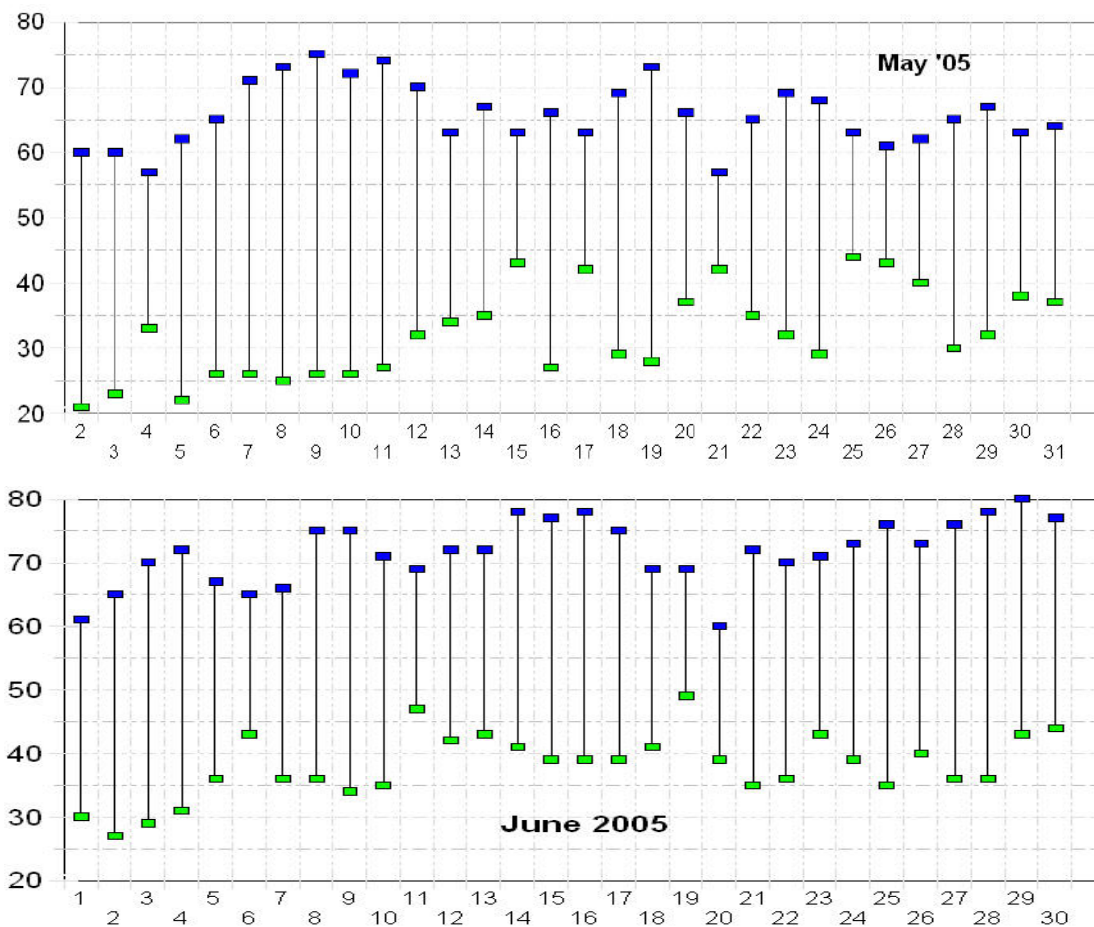
A flight was booked departing from New York to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania for the 10th of January and returning on the 20th of April. Five days were spent in New York City before my departure date, figured it would be an interesting contrast spending some time in the big city with it's bustling pace before arriving in Tanzania where the concept of 'hurry' is non-existent. During these 5 days I got the opportunity to see many friends that I served in Peace Corps with as well as some

resort and high school friends. I spent nearly as much money in those 5 days as I have in the past 3 months in Tanzania.

A fellow backpacker named Lukmaan was met during my 8 hour layover at the Dubai Airport in the United Arab Emirates just as I was chuckling at the realization that I had no money on me for a taxi ride from the Dar Es Salaam Airport to a guest house once I arrived in Tanzania. We hit it off right away and spent many hours discussing life, the universe and everything while awaiting our flight. Turned out he was also heading to Tanzania. He picked up the taxi ride and for the next week we were inseparable, touring the capital city and taking a 3 day trip to the island of Zanzibar off the coast of Tanzania. We had a lot of fun conversing with the locals as he spoke fluent Hindi and Arabic <there is a large Indian and Arabic population in the coastal areas of Tanzania> and my Swahili came back quickly even after laying dormant for 2 years.

The next segment of the trip involved staying with a Peace Corps friend of mine named Mithril for a couple weeks. She has been a Peace Corps Volunteer for 2 years and has extended her contract for

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Wrangell St. Elias News



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