

Wrangell St. Elias News

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

VOL. ONE ISSUE THREE

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 1992

ONE DOLLAR

Area residents gather, examine local government issue

By BONNIE KENYON

A town meeting was held on September 25th to discuss the possibility of forming some type of local government. The meeting was held after mail at Ed LaChapelle's cabin in downtown McCarthy. Of the 31 present, about 23 were landowners in or around the McCarthy or Kennicott area.

Mark Vail was asked to chair the meeting. Ed provided a "speaking stick" which was passed to those desiring to speak. Anyone not holding the stick was asked to wait until the stick was passed to them before speaking. This procedure will be used at future town meetings as an attempt to keep order. Also brought up was the desire for someone to check the Anchorage library for a copy of "Robert's Rules of Order".

Someone expressed the need to set a time limit on this and future meetings so they wouldn't become a burden to those who had

local businesses and other obligations. Marci Thurston shared her hopes that town meetings could have some sort of socializing such as games, storytelling and, perhaps, even special music in order to take the edge off serious issues being discussed. There was some disagreement from Natalie Bay who felt town meetings should be kept strictly to the issues at hand. However, everyone agreed a 10 minute

break after an hour of discussion would be in order.

A show of hands was requested of all those who felt that some form of government or local organization was needed. More than half responded. A few others refrained until more information was presented.

Jim Edwards began the discussion by asking why we

wanted an organization and was there an immediate threat that needed to be addressed? Kelly Bay responded that he felt the community needed a "voice" in order to deal with various agencies such as the State and the National Park Service.

Kennicott resident, Chris Richards, expressed his concern with the State wanting to make this area a massive tourist attraction. Mark Vail added that the increase in tourism to the area should be dealt with by some type of community organization. John Adams said the community needed an organization in order to obtain funds to do projects such as toilet facilities for visitors.

The "speaking stick" was passed around the room to all who wished to speak or share any information they may already have. The following items were covered:

Catie Bursch of Fireweed Subdivision shared what she observed of a meeting in

NPS looks at management options

The National Park Service also has an interest in how McCarthy is "managed", an interest heightened by the possibility that NPS will soon gain control of Kennicott. Wrangell Saint Elias Park Superintendent Karen Wade said that one possible result of the study being done by Laura Rotegard (see page 8) may be the concept of a "Heritage Area" encompassing the McCarthy area.

Heritage areas involve partnership agreements between the community, state, National Park Service, landowners, and non-profit organizations in the area. They are "internally, locally controlled and managed".

Cited as a possible role model for regional planning in this area is a regional partnership in Pennsylvania. Called the "America's Industrial Heritage Project" (AIHP), it is

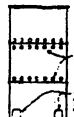
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Area residents examine (cont.)

Pilot Point this summer. The community had just become a second class city during the winter and the tremendous amount of paperwork was evident. Catie and her husband, Thom, have set-net sites near Pilot Point and along with other fishermen, are now being taxed by the city of Pilot Point.

The need to investigate the effects to other communities who have formed organizations was raised. Pat Edwards said that this had been done several years ago when the issue of a second class city came up. The answers they had received then had not been encouraging. A number of people volunteered to write to other towns or communities they knew of. Nancy Green offered to gather what information

had passed. A visitor attending the meeting offered to research some landowners associations in the lower 48. Ben Shaine said he would look into the status of Gustavus, a community which is located in the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

Rick Kenyon was asked to check into possible new, lower levels of recognized government organizations recently passed by the Hickel Administration.

Rich Kirkwood, Kennicott Glacier Lodge owner, stated we needed to ask ourselves the following questions. "Do we want outside money or do we want to do things ourselves?"

The next meeting is scheduled for December 16th. The time and place

"Do we want outside money or do we want to do things ourselves?"

there was available from the previous attempt to form a second class city.

The fear of uncontrolled growth of any type of local organization, the possibility of taxation, and zoning was voiced.

A question came up as to what our alternatives were. Kelly Bay said he felt a second class city would be too much to start out with, but that some type of homeowner's association would be more appropriate. Mark Vail suggested a "conservation group", with the goal of preserving the local lifestyle. He talked about the landowners association at Fireweed subdivision where he lives, and the strict by-laws they

will be announced later. All information gathered concerning this issue will be presented then.

Mark Vail was asked to be the person responsible for collecting and distributing the information that is gathered by all concerned. Ed LaChapelle and Natalie Bay each pledged \$50 to be used for postage. Anyone desiring to be on the mailing list was asked to make a donation to cover postage. Those who receive mail at McCarthy are exempted as no postage is needed for local mail.

Park Service looks (cont.)

overseen by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission. The stated goal of the project is to "encourage the protection and enhancement of the important historic resources of the region, and to utilize these resources as a focus for tourism and economic development initiatives".

AIHP got its start in 1985 with a study very similar to the one being done here by Laura. The project encompasses nine counties and includes partnership

would find desirable in order to be able to work within the planning process. She said some of the things that she thought were important were:

1. Can regularly interact with me (Laura), with DOT and Park Service, representing predominant local opinion.
2. Can organize solving local concerns re: solid waste disposal, water quality, public restrooms, DEC and Board of Health oversight.
3. Can organize grant requests. Possible sources

"The predominant goal for a structure like this is to control the destiny of the community"

agreements between municipal, county, state and federal levels of government. The makeup of the Commission includes: two members from the National Park Service, two from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania representing the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs, four are from a regional tourism promotion agency, four are from a regional planning and development agency and nine members are the representatives of each of the nine county governments that make up the project region. In addition to the establishment of the Commission, Congress designated the National Park Service as the lead federal agency, and supported significant funds for research activities.

We asked Laura to describe the form of community government that she

include both state and NPS.

4. Shouldn't cost residents anything...BUT whoever is involved needs to have some compensation for their time and effort.

5. Should have legal clout to have jurisdiction over any proposed new development.

6. The predominant goal for a structure like this is to control the destiny of the community, how it looks, whether it's a safe place to live...Another way of saying this is, this structure should believe in the need to define the values of living there and be able to defend them before they disappear.

She thought the list of possible forms might include:

1. Town incorporation with a planning official
2. Borough absorption
3. A non-profit citizens action group
4. A customized community council

Justice - Kennicott Style!

By BONNIE KENYON

August 23rd, 1992 was not just any ordinary day for longtime resident, Chris Richards. Returning home he discovered a strange



man inside his cabin in the process of stealing his personal possessions. Chris describes his reaction: "I was pretty upset about it and I ran

him out of the house at gunpoint. I then took all of his personal possessions and burned them." The intruder turned out to be a military man from Fort Richardson who had backpacked into the area.

Chris was able to get on Channel 5, our local CB business channel, and announced what had just occurred. Oddly enough a Captain from Fort Richardson and his wife vacationing in our local area overheard Chris give the description of the incident. Chris was able to turn over the man's military ID to the Captain saying, "No complaint. I don't want to make any charges, but somebody should explain to him officially just how lucky he is to be alive!"

Unfortunately, Chris did not have the intruder to hand over. After Chris gave the young man a "large" piece of his mind, he strongly encouraged him to leave the area and not return. The trespasser has not been seen in these parts since!



A visitor to McCarthy has something to say about the snowfall on September 15

September was a month of record - breaking weather in the McCarthy area

By George Cebula

Winter arrived early at McCarthy this year. The first measurable snowfall occurred on Sept 10 with 2.1 inches. This was the second earliest snowfall, only beaten by the 2.5 inches on Sept 8, 1970.

The next day Sept 11 also had an additional 1.8 inches of snow. The skies finally cleared and the temperature fell to a record low of 11 degrees on Sept 12. This came very near to the all time record low for Sept of 9 degrees on Sept 26, 1986. Sept 15 was the real record breaker with 5.6 inches of snow and an early morning low on Sept 16 of 6 degree. The average date for the first measurable snowfall is Oct 5. The latest having occurred on Nov 19, 1979. Sept 1992 finally ended with an average monthly temperature of 34.3 (44.5 in Sept 91); total

precipitation 2.88 inches (3.34 in Sept 91); total snowfall 17.2 inches (0 in Sept 91). The above data is based on official weather records from June 1968 through Sept 1992. The highest temperature was 87 degrees on June 21, 1991 and the lowest -58 degrees on Jan 7, 1975.

Some of other area stations also showed a cold and snowy Sept 92.

Old Edgerton had a low of -1 on Sept 23 and 5.0 inches of snow.

Tonsonia had a low of -1 on Sept 23 and 7.5 inches of snow.

Slana had a low of -1 on Sept 23 and 24; with 14.1 inches of snow (11.3 on Sept 18). Nabesna had a low of 0 on Sept 30 and 13.8 inches of snow (8.0 on Sept 18). Gulkana 12 inches of snow on Sept 18, this broke the old Sept snowfall record of 6.4 inches set in 1970.

Anchorage had the coldest Sept on record with the average temperature of 40.4 breaking the

old record of 44.5 set in 1972.

Fairbanks also had a record Sept with the average temperature of 31.7 breaking the old record of 37.8 set in 1908. Fairbanks recorded 24.4 inches of snow, three times the old record of 7.8 inches set in 1972.

As we go to press the first half of October has been about average.

Fifty two was the highest temperature on Oct 6, and 0 the lowest on Oct 13. It is not unusual for 60 degree readings in early Oct and the first 0 reading is around the 15th. The Sept snow is now gone with only a trace on the ground and 2.0 inches through Oct 15. Total precipitation through the 15th had been 0.62 inches, again just about average.

George Cebula is the NOAA Regional Cooperative Program Manager for Alaska and a frequent visitor to the McCarthy area.

Local News of a Lighter Nature, or Who's doing what?

By BONNIE KENYON

New Faces - This winter our local area will have several new faces. Some have been here for the summer working at local businesses and others have just recently arrived. It is not our intention to leave anyone out so if your name is not listed here, please forgive us, and accept a big WELCOME anyway!

Kim Northrup: Kim worked at McCarthy Lodge this summer as bartender. She liked the McCarthy area so much she decided to stay on for the winter working as a tutor for two of our local boys - 13 year old, Livingston, Gary Hickling's nephew, and Tyler Green, son of Gary and Nancy Green. This will be Kim's first winter out here so she's been busy ordering her winter "gear" from all those numerous catalogs that filter in this way on mail days. If Kim still likes the area after this winter, she may even stay on through next summer! Her mother, **Peggy Guntis**, from Tuscon, AZ, was here to visit Kim in September and see her new surroundings.

Lois Ann Holmes: After visiting McCarthy/Kennicott this summer, Lois Ann decided she would like to spend the winter here. Jim and Pat Edwards offered to let her stay in a cabin on their property in exchange for a hand at various chores. Lois Ann comes from Iowa but has spent the last few years in Anchorage.

Lilly Goodman: Though not really a new face to McCarthy, Lilly has decided to accept the challenge of "wintering" in the area! Summer of '91 she worked for St. Elias Alpine Guides and made several close friends who encouraged her to stay. Lilly has set up camp in "Shackie"-a small cabin on Jim and Pat Edwards' property. She loves to ski and can hardly wait for enough snow to cover those rocks!

Thea Agnew: Another newcomer for wintertime, Thea is presently staying with the Miller family in Kennicott. She is tutoring the Miller boys and Stacie. Thea worked for St. Elias Alpine Guides this summer as one of their guides.

Matt Hambrick: While some local businesses close down for the winter months, Kennicott Glacier Lodge is working on a full-scale expansion project. Matt is staying here for the winter to help out. He was an employee of the lodge this summer.

Richard Villa: Richard has changed locations for the winter. In the summers he works for Bob Jacobs of St. Elias Alpine Guides in McCarthy. Richard decided to pick up some winter work by helping out on the Kennicott Glacier Lodge project. This is a real change of pace for Richard who is more likely to be seen climbing a nearby mountain or taking a group for a glacier walk!

Progress Reports- For those of us who own property in the McCarthy/Kennicott area, summertime is the time to either add on, build, or improve. Here are just a few of those local projects.

Mike McCarthy: Mike, a commercial fisherman from the Homer area, has taken on quite a project! He bought and is restoring one of the houses on what is referred to as "silk stocking row" in Kennicott. Mike is making himself right at home here and is very interested in obtaining any historical info on his particular house or others on the "row". You can write Mike at PO Box MXY, Glennallen, AK 99588.

Malcolm Vance: Malcolm has taken on another "adventure". This time it's cabin building on his new lot in McCarthy. Given two older cabins from Tony Zak, he has reconstructed a two-story structure - dove notched logs upstairs and frame construction downstairs. The lumber came from Sapa Farms at Kenny Lake. The upstairs of the 12'X15' cabin is still unfinished and being used for cold storage this winter. There is a trapdoor and stairway leading up to it. The downstairs is partially underground with two windows and a door in the front wall. He will be living in the downstairs till he is able to finish the upstairs in the spring.

Malcolm's comments, "It looks nice. I'm real happy to be in it!"

Ken and Carly Kritchen: Building a 12'X26' addition to their log cabin has been no small task for Ken and Carly. Before they could put the foundation down, they had to dig into the dirt bank behind the cabin in order to level the area out. Next on the list was to complete a root cellar which is under the addition. Once that was done, the foundation was laid and the first row of logs were set in place. The 3 sided logs came from Sapa Farms at Kenny Lake. Getting the logs up their steep trail was done with a 4-wheeler and a specially-designed trailer made by Ken. They hope to continue working on the addition this winter - weather permitting.

Bob Jacobs: Even though we have not talked to Bob himself, we were told by a reliable source that Bob has built and winterized a room for himself in the Powerhouse - the location of his local business, "St Elias Alpine Guides." We hope this means we will get to see him more often than summertime only!

Rick and Bonnie Kenyon: Two inch thick styrofoam insulation was added to Kenyons' living room and bedroom ceilings in September. Also, an oil stove was installed to take some of the pressure off the woodstove! The newly added insulation appears to have been worth the effort already. Rick and Bonnie were very grateful to have their friends, George and Ted Cebula, come out to help them reach the high spots on the ceiling.

Jim and Jeannie Miller: The Miller family have just recently installed a satellite dish on their property at Kennicott. This makes the second dish for our local area. Hope Jim can find something to do while Jeannie is busy watching her football games this winter!

Family members visit- Summertime is a great time for family members to visit. Among some of those who made it out this way are:

Gerald Green: Gerald is Gary Green's dad. He must have enjoyed giving Gary and Nancy a hand at McCarthy Air because he was in town for most of the summer.

(cont pg 9)

Park Service wraps up 1992, plans for 93

Enforcement activities

Charges have been filed on three cases involving unauthorized air taxi operations, commercial transport of game, and unauthorized guiding of commercial sport fishing.

According to Chief Ranger Jay Wells, FS Aviation of Anchorage has been charged with being an "unauthorized Air Taxi" for not having a NPS commercial use license. No details of the alleged violation were available.

The commercial transport of game charges were brought against Calvin Justin and arose from an incident that occurred off the Nabesna Road.

Alaska Wilderness Outfitters from the Cordova area were charged with "unauthorized guiding of commercial sport fishing". According to Wells they had not obtained a commercial use license from the National Park Service. Wells also said that AWO have at least 3 previous federal convictions for unauthorized commercial use.

Other enforcement activities in the Wrangell Saint Elias National Park include a "horse trespass" case. The horses belong to Laura Hancock (Nabesna Road) and reportedly have been running - at - large for one and a half years with no grazing permit. Chief Ranger Wells said that the

Park Service has impounded 2 horses which are up for sale, and that no court date has been set for the federal charges yet.

A court date has been set for November 2 in U.S. Magistrate's Court in a case involving Michael Stitzel, Robert Pierson and Richard Ballow, all of Valdez. The men have been charged with transportation of wildlife taken in violation of the regulations of the U.S. and also with possessing unlawfully taken wildlife, or hunting in the Park.

Resident zone boundaries

The Superintendent and Chief Ranger met with the Regional Office to discuss resident zone boundaries. Agreement was reached on the definition of those boundaries. The Subsistence Division will prepare a draft letter to the Director explaining the issue and seeking his concurrence with implementation. A presentation will be made at the Subsistence Resource Commission meeting.

I asked Superintendent Karen Wade to describe resident zone boundaries and she gave the following description.

Resident Zone Boundaries: NPS regulations provide that local rural residents may participate in subsistence use of national parks, monuments and preserves.

(36 CFR 13.41) Eighteen resident zone communities were established by federal regulation in 1981 for the purpose of clarifying eligibility for those desiring to hunt within WRST PARK (not Preserve) boundaries. Individuals or families living within community boundaries are eligible to engage in subsistence uses within the PARK without a permit. Other individuals and families that live outside of the community boundaries and within the rural area may be eligible to obtain a subsistence permit from the Superintendent by demonstrating a customary and traditional subsistence use of PARK resources, without the use of aircraft prior to 1980. Community boundaries have not as yet been defined. Since assumption of subsistence management responsibilities on federal lands by the federal government, it has become increasingly important to clarify who is eligible to harvest PARK resources. Definition of resident zone boundaries is an important step in that process.

Story - telling

On August 28 and 29, Park Service staff participated in an informal two-day discussion with the Wrangell Mountain Center in McCarthy. Subject of the discussion was the "types of story messages that can be conveyed to the public to encourage an appreciation of the values of McCarthy, Kennicott, and the Wrangells".

According to an NPS

official, "the workshop was quite successful and enhances the continuing dialogue within the community and with the Park Service about desired conditions to enhance visitor experiences".

Council asks Secretary to allow aircraft access

Funding requests have been made for a study of "customary and traditional means and use of access points and routes" relating to subsistence use in the Park.

The funding request notes that the Subsistence Resource Council (SRC) for Wrangell Saint Elias has made a formal recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior to allow the use of aircraft to access subsistence resources within the park. According to the document, "considerable discussions have occurred among the members of the SRC concerning the prohibition of aircraft to access subsistence resources within the park. It is felt by the SRC that this prohibition temporarily restricts access to subsistence resources".

If funded, the study would attempt to define "traditionally employed" as it relates to access in Wrangell St. Elias. It would also collect and analyze data relating to aircraft and other means of access to subsistence resources within the Park.

Natural hazards study

The Park Service is seeking further federal funding to study flooding and other natural hazards in the Kennicott basin.

The study includes Hidden Creek Lake and the annual floods that are caused by its sudden release each spring. A hydrograph was placed in

the Kennicott River this past summer to record river depth.

Other areas of study are McCarthy Creek, snow avalanche hazard areas, and landslide and debris avalanche zones.

So far \$29,000 has been appropriated for the project. An additional \$50,000 is being sought for 1993-94.

"Hazard Barrel Removal" project helps clean up Wrangell Saint Elias

By RICK KENYON

The National Park Service received a 1992 appropriation of \$55,000 for a program they call "Hazard Barrel Removal", or HBR. According to Will Tipton, the Chief of Maintenance and Facility Manager, this was just one phase of a program implemented in response to an inventory done in 1986 by Kit Mullen and Ron Hicks.

According to Tipton, the 1986 inventory was done to locate sites where old barrels or equipment lay abandoned from years gone by. If possible, those responsible for leaving the unwanted items in areas that are now National Park lands are identified. They are then requested to do a cleanup of the sites. However, in some cases it is not possible to identify the original owners. Many times the barrels or other equipment were abandoned many years ago. In these cases, the Park Service has done the removal themselves. The last cleanup area was Peavine, which was done in 1990.

This year's project was based from an airstrip at Orange Hill, near Nebesna. A camp was set up, and 2 workers rounded up several hundred empty barrels which were crushed and slung from a helicopter which carried them to the Nebesna Road. From there, workers trucked them to the NPS maintenance shop in Glennallen, then to the Glennallen dump. Tipton said that some barrels were found which still had product in them. These were also taken to the maintenance shop where they await disposal.

Other areas were also cleaned up. Tipton mentioned Glacier Creek, Jakes Bar, and the Bremner Airstrip. From these areas the barrels were hauled by helicopter to the May Creek facility. A "Skyvan" was used to transport them to Glennallen.

We also interviewed one of the maintenance men along with the ranger from May Creek at the gravel bar airstrip just west of the Kennicott River near McCarthy. They had brought in 4 full barrels of Aviation Fuel which were

75 YEARS AGO

November 3, 1917. A Newspaper is born in the town of McCarthy, Alaska. M. M. Cole purchased the printing press from Mr. Jack Schultz, who apparently had obtained it from M. V. Latin. Schultz must have been a neighborly sort, since he also let Cole use his own house as "publishing office pro tem". Thanks to the Public Library in Anchorage we have been able to obtain copies of some of the old

newspapers. From time to time we will reprint portions in Wrangell St. Elias News. The first installment is the front page of the very first issue of the McCarthy Weekly, reproduced as closely as possible. If you have other historical documents of interest please let us know.



Ranger watches as helicopter lifts 2 barrels of fuel headed for May Creek

slung from the helicopter and taken to the May Creek facility in 2 loads. Four empty barrels which appeared to be new were hauled out on one of the return trips. According to Tipton, it will no longer be necessary to use helicopters to haul fuel to May Creek as they now have bulk storage tanks in place there. In the future, it will be hauled in by large aircraft.

Other summer maintenance projects in the Park included hand brushing of several remote airstrips, including May Creek, Jakes Bar, Orange Hill and Shushana.

Will Tipton has been with the National Park Service since 1958. He came to Alaska in 1980, and worked at the Glacier Bay National Park until coming to Wrangell Saint Elias.

THE MCCARTHY WEEKLY NEWS

VOL. 1.

MCCARTHY, ALASKA. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 1917

NO. 1.

Announcement

WE HAVE PURCHASED THE PRINTING PRESS RECENTLY OWNED BY M. V. LATTIN, AND WILL PUBLISH A WEEKLY PAPER: "THE MCCARTHY WEEKLY NEWS" EVERY SATURDAY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

In placing this, our first edition before you, we ask for your indulgence in making allowances for a hurried week: we have been greatly rushed in order to publish today; but felt there was no time like the present.

Through the kindness of Mr. Jack Schultz from whom we purchased the press, we have been able to use his house on Riverside Drive as publishing office pro tem.

During the next few days we will move to our permanent location and will be prepared for business and lots of it.

It is our intention to print a live paper every Saturday and we are negotiating for a weekly telegram of news from the States also all the doings of the camps adjacent and all Alaska.

The prospector can rest assured we will publish the news far and wide when he makes the big strike.

Our ambition is to have a clean, non-partisan but distinctly patriotic sheet and we hope for support from the townspeople whom we will always endeavor to please.

Any suggestion of improvements or additions will be greatly appreciated - at the same time, don't knock!

We wish to thank Mr. Jack Schultz very sincerely for his substantial help this week.

Hoping for your support,
We are,
Your Obedient Servants,
C.F.M. & M.M. Cole

Great Patriotic Rally

The Public Meeting held in McCarthy, on Sunday evening Oct. 28th, in obedience to the President's Proclamation of a day of intercession, gave ample evidence of the patriotic spirit of the residents, who attended enmass. After a few introductory remarks by the Chairman W.F. Barnes, a martial roll of drums began the exercises, a soul stirring rendering of the call to arms being given by Charley O'Connor, then followed the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" by the congregation led by the school children who had been groomed by Mrs. Faddis & Miss McCarthy, and an able address by our Representative J. H. Murray on the object of the gathering and the national question.

Patriotic songs by the school children, a talk by Judge O'Connor on what we can do to help to fight here at home, The "Marsellaise" sung by Mrs. Underwood in Welsh and English, and a few words by Mrs. Cole on what we can do to help the Soldiers.

Mrs. Faddis accompanied the musical portion of the programme.

These items were all given most enthusiastic attention and an intense patriotic feeling was evident.

After reading a poem which was specially composed by Mrs. Rust, the Chairman offered up a prayer for our success on the battlefield, then introduced Mr. Gottchalk of Cordova, who explained the necessary procedure in the organization of a Red Cross Chapter. The temporary Order was then organized and the election of officers took place as follows:

Chairman F. R. Barnes
Secretary Mrs. S. Laurie
Treasurer W. R. Faddis
Chairman Entertainment
Committee Mrs. W. R. Faddis
Chairman Membership
Committee Mrs. C. F. M. Cole

The Committees which had been appointed at the Liberty Day gathering for the purpose of collecting Red Cross funds then reported the amount of their collections and it was decided that all contributors be given memberships in the Red Cross Organization to the amount of their respective subscriptions.

Up to date \$600 is reported in the treasury with every prospect of it being doubled. The Membership Committee intend to personally visit the Mother Lode Mine and outlying districts.

Rumors are rife that the Entertainment Committee is studying hard and has great plans for different doings - it is sure they will be great money getting ones for we who are safely at home in this far off Alaska must see to it that our boys who have given up everything for us, are well taken care of; we must all either fish or cut bait.

A full list of subscribers appears on another page of this issue.

Personal News

THE POST OFFICE Department has advanced the postal rates, first class postage is now 3 three cents instead of two cents as here-to-fore.

The Second, third and fourth class rates will also be advanced.

BACK YOUR COUNTRY FOR ALL YOU'RE WORTH BUY A LIBERTY BOND!

FRANK H. FOSTER, and other prominent citizens are in Valdez attending the fall term of court.

TEN LIFE MEMBERSHIPS reported in the American Red Cross at McCarthy.

Can we get this for an average all winter? Come and join.

MR. & MRS. CARL ANDERSON of the Tjosevig property were in town last week-end, visiting their friends.

TWENTY PUPILS are enrolled at our Public School this term and we have a new school marm all the way from the East to teach the young idea.

MR. R. GOTTHALK was in McCarthy this week on business and returned to Cordova Thursday.

NICK PYCKLES arrived from Chitina Tuesday's train on business connected with The Chitina Hotel. He tells us that the new addition to the house has been completed and Mr. Breedman is well prepared for the winter travel.

DR. C. L. HAWES returned from the States on Friday's train and will commence practice at once, so that those who lost a tooth in his absence can get attention.

MRS. SAM LAURIE entertained a number of the ladies at her home, to talk over organizing a Red Cross at McCarthy. There were fifteen present all anxious to work for the cause. Mrs. Laurie made an earnest speech and everyone was much impressed. Candies were served by Leo and William Laurie and refreshments dispensed.

**-McCARTHY- :
The BUCKLE of :
OUR COPPER BELT :**

**JUNCTION
FOR NIZINA, CHISANA
DAN CREEK, YOUNG
CREEK & CHITISTONE**

WATCH US GROW

An open letter to the residents of Kennicott and McCarthy

The following letter was received from Laura Rotegard, who is the Project Coordinator for the Kennicott/McCarthy Special Research Study. Laura asked that it be printed in the newspaper. The underlining and bold text were in the original letter.

If you have questions or comments, Laura is scheduled to be in McCarthy sometime in November. Wrangell St. Elias News would also be interested in hearing comments from readers.

Sept. 22, 1992

To the Friends of Kennicott, and the residents of the Kennicott / McCarthy study area:

Sally Gibert called me yesterday at my office to remind me that I had promised a summary of my planning philosophy to attach to her minutes from the last Friends meeting. Please keep in mind that this is my personal opinion, that these thoughts are preliminary, and that they do not represent any other Park Service individual.

I gave Ed and Bonnie a copy of a one page editorial from a professional magazine I receive, **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**, that denounces the presence of any development in National Parks as "an intrusion and degradation." The article continues with the thought that access alone is privilege enough for the visitor. Providing more than that is compromising the resources and is intolerable. The analogy is made to the Mona Lisa. If we scratch only 1% of the canvas, is the painting really intact? So too with national parks. If we develop only 1% of the total acreage, have we truly protected and kept intact the resource? The crowning insult is the accommodations made for the automobile and the recreational vehicle. The Park Service planner is all too quick to cave into political pressure in providing for it's convenience at the expense of the resource. **"Dignity, not development is the purpose of every National Park."** it reminds.

To all of this I agree. But what this article doesn't address is the very question being asked in this planning study, "What is the National Park Service role in protecting the resources here (the dignity) while servicing the demand for visitor facilities? What should the visitor experience be that befits the dignity of Wrangells and of Kennicott? I believe that when these questions can be answered, the management direction for Kennicott will be clearer, and an appropriate strategy for it's protection will be more obvious. What will be the place of McCarthy in relationship to Kennicott, now, in 1992? That remains to be seen.

McCarthy is experiencing a "destination resort" use trend, particularly by Alaskans. I've written a number of statements that suggest that McCarthy is historic enough, lifestyle rich enough to stand on it's own, beyond the weekend use. I've shared these thoughts locally, and with the regional director to hear the response. What we've discussed is that visitors come to see Kennicott, McCarthy is a bonus. Kennicott is the recognized resource to be protected. As of yet, McCarthy is not. However, planning for Kennicott cannot be done without considering the whole issue of visitor access and facilities that McCarthy contributes to and is impacted by. This links the two communities and the road end, as well as the road corridor and the gateway of Chitina to the Kennicott experience.

The project limits for this study reflect this but only include McCarthy, Kennicott and the tram area. With NPS and DOT already involved in a road corridor planning effort, the Kennicott study area will overlap at the road end. Close coordination will exist between these two efforts to plan for an acceptable "traveling to" as well as "being there" experience.

The process that this study will follow is the outline for the report.

1. Understanding the purpose and intent of the Preserve
2. Gathering data on significance: of the natural resources, - exceptional values & integrity.

the cultural resources- the National

Historic Landmark at Kennicott, historic sites, heritage lifestyles

3. Analyzing the suitability of the study area by comparing its themes to that of other NPS units
4. Analyzing the management options for this area and defining the role of the NPS.

size, costs, landownership, threats to resource, access etc.

5. Creating solutions/alternatives for how to manage
6. Testing those ideas through impact analysis

how do different plans affect: water courses, other natural systems, cultural resources, visitor experience, private lands, costs, etc.

and if time allows:

location and need for visitor facilities.

7. Submitting this to D.C. as a draft report, with a recommendation.

What I've discovered in the beginnings of my research into the purpose of the legislation for the Preserve is interesting. Both ANILCA and the Senate report that describes the thinking behind the bill, have specific language recognizing communities as viable entities within National Park units. The writings go so far as to list "residence areas" for Wrangell/St. Elias National Park and Preserve. McCarthy and Chitina are among them, Kennicott is not. Other language in the senate report directly charges local communities with the lead for providing visitor services. **As in all park unit enabling legislation, the action of establishment at one particular time in history, is usually a response to irreversible exploitation of resources. Establishment is an attempt to stop these activities, or at best, to freeze destruction in it's tracks, to that one level at the time of establishment.**

Lands in private communities, within public units, are a new test for planning. NPS understanding of these areas is just developing nationwide. The expertise to do this kind of planning is scattered among all the parties

that interact in the Kennicott area. What this suggests to me is that congress was farsighted in it's intent to use a local, state and NPS cooperative tool to plan and provide for visitor services. This is a hallmark opportunity in the life of the National Park Service, to act within a new capability:

1. to ultimately be responsible for protecting resources while
2. sharing ideas and supporting those who can best initiate and provide for the visitor's needs.

My thoughts on significance, threats, values and conflicts have been documented in a 10 page trip review that is in our office on internal review. As soon as it clears, it will be forwarded to Karen and the region. Sally, Betty and Bonnie Morris have requested copies. These will be sent as soon as Karen signs off.

As for the dignity of the park in all of this? Where development goes, and more importantly, how well it is crafted, defines and reflects that dignity. Respect for the resources: the glaciers, the mountains, the waters, the mill town, dictates the quality of those facilities. I believe it's my job in this

study, to define what that dignity is about, for the visitor, and for the managing entity. You, the resident who know the country well, provide many of the clues. The rest is for the planning process to discover.

Laura Rotegard

Project Coordinator-
Kennicott/McCarthy Special Resource Study

Who's doing what? (cont)

Ann Bursch and Vera Snyder: Ann, Thom Bursch's mom, and Vera, his grandmother, were here visiting Thom, Catie, and Frances during the week of Sept. 20-27. This was Vera's first time to view Thom and Catie's handiwork on their property in Fireweed Subdivision. Both ladies came up from Minnesota.

Bob and Mary Berg: Bob and Mary are Tonia Alexander's parents from Westcliffe, Colorado. Although this wasn't their first trip to our area, they always seem to enjoy spending time

with Steve and Tonia at their cabin near Long Lake.

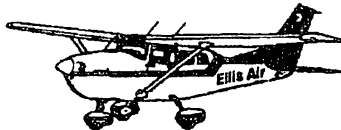
Neta Schafer, Rick and Maria Kenyon, Jr.: Rick and Bonnie were thrilled to have 3 family members visit them this August. Neta, who makes her home in So. Daytona, Fla. is Bonnie's mom. Rick Jr. is Rick and Bonnie's 25 yr. old son who is now living in Donalsonville, Ga. with his wife Maria. Rick enjoyed showing Maria the area where he had spent the majority of his growing-up years. Since Rick and Maria returned to Ga., Rick and Bonnie were informed they are going to be grandparents in May of '93!!

Good friends say goodbye - Some people are just hard to say goodbye to! On September 9th at the Old Hardware Store in McCarthy, an informal dinner was held in honor of **Ursel and Walter Mueller**. Coming from Zurich, Switzerland, Ursel and Walter arrived in our area May 1991. They finished building a log cabin located on Jim and Pat Edwards' property near Swift Creek and made it their home away from home till September 12th. They are greatly missed!

Scheduled air service to McCarthy

Lynn Ellis offers the only regularly scheduled air service into the McCarthy Kennicott area. As the official mail carrier for the area, he makes two trips a week, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Departs Gulkana at 10 AM, McCarthy at 11:15, and May Creek at 11:30. Check-in time is 1/2 hour before departure. Passengers are on space-available basis.



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Burn Barrel Basics

How to operate a burn barrel.

By Ed LaChapelle

Dealing with garbage in a responsible way is a perpetual problem for bush life. Incineration in a burn barrel is a common solution, but observation shows that not many barrels are operated efficiently. Here's how to do it right.

Good garbage management recycles as much as possible, usually glass and aluminum as a minimum. Composting vegetable wastes for the garden absorbs much of the kitchen production. Everything else goes into the incinerator. It is helpful if this remainder is sorted into dry and wet garbage, cardboard and paper products like magazines and catalogs.

Prepare a 55-gallon drum as shown in the accompanying sketch. Getting the draft holes the right size and in the right place is important. Have on hand a long, heavy poker to stir the burn. About 5 feet long at least; with the barrel going full blast, you won't want to get any closer.

Here are the steps to a good burn:

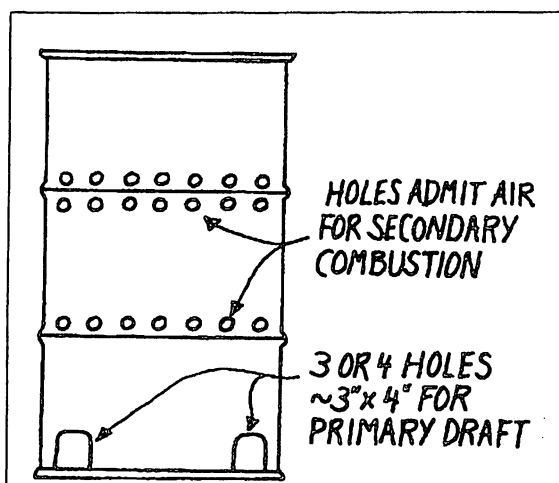
1. Start with an empty barrel. If it is half-full of half-burned garbage from the last burn, it won't work.

2. Dump in enough dry

garbage (loose paper, plastics, etc.) to half-fill the barrel, prime with a cup or two of fuel such as diesel oil or kerosene and ignite. **Never use gasoline.**

3. With a good fire under way, add some of the cardboard. Old corrugated cardboard boxes are a prime fuel for incineration.

4. Now the barrel should be



getting very hot, with flames shooting into the air and no smoke. Add the wet garbage a bit at a time, alternating with more cardboard and compact paper waste like catalogs.

5. As the burn dies down, start stirring with the poker to revive the fire. Keep stirring from time to time. If the remainder is not burning well, add another cup or two of fuel (but never gasoline) and keep stirring. Charred paper from compact sources takes the longest to get rid of. Keep stirring.

6. When the ashes are cold, remove them or else cover the barrel. Rain falling on the ash will leach out lye that will eat out the

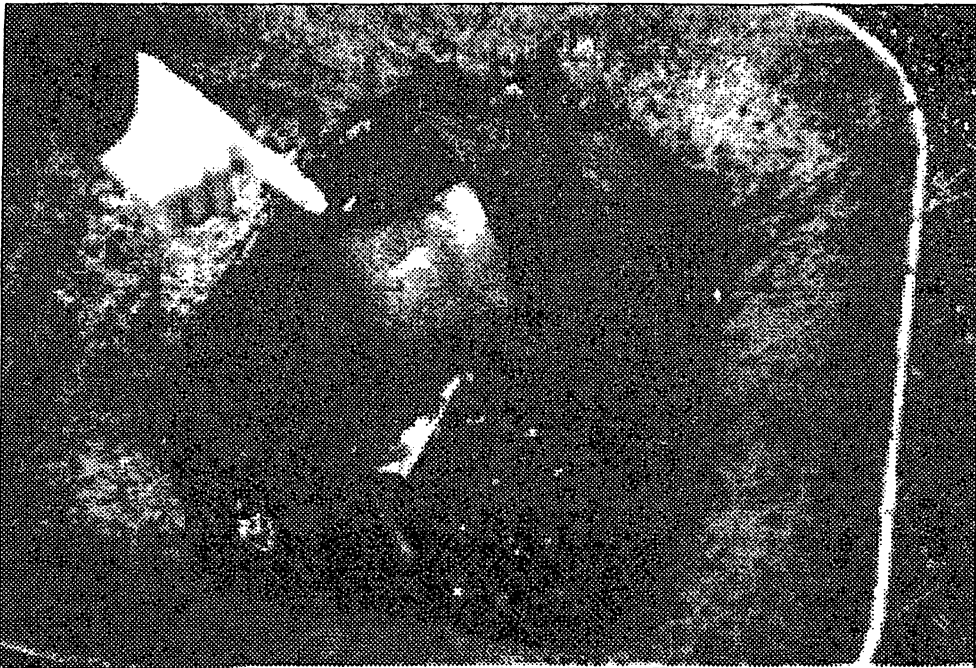
bottom of the barrel.

Remember that incinerator ash is recognized by the EPA and DEC as a hazardous waste, so dispose of it responsibly. Storage in a barrel and backhauling to a legal dump is the ideal solution. Keeping the ashes covered to prevent the leachate from rain getting into the water table is practical.

A properly-run burn barrel should be HOT. Aluminum melts, any glass present should start flowing and a red glow may even show along the side of the barrel. The burn will also be clean, with flames shooting ten feet or more into the air and hardly any visible smoke. A cloud of smelly, white smoke tells of poor combustion and a cold burn.

The burn barrel works even better with a forced draft. An old hair drier works fine (disable the heater coil). Use about 3 feet of 2" pipe to lead the drier output into one of the primary draft holes and shield the drier from heat that can melt plastic parts. The biggest advantage from a forced draft comes when getting rid of compact paper at the end of the burn.

Now if there just was some way to capture all that heat and store it for use in the winter.....



With glass and aluminum recycled and vegetable waste composted, here is the end product of one household's garbage for one month. Proper incineration in a burn barrel reduces everything else to a compact pile of ash and burned-out tin cans.

Editor's Note

I decided to make and use a burn barrel, using Ed's instructions. Several things should be kept in mind, the first of which is **SAFETY**. A barrel that has had gasoline in it is extremely dangerous. If possible, use one that contained some non-flammable material.

I used a large, sharp chisel and hammer to remove the lid from the barrel. Hearing protectors and heavy gloves are advisable. Ed said he used a pick-axe to make the secondary combustion holes, but I used an electric drill with a half inch bit. The chisel took care of the primary draft holes. The completed burn barrel was set on 3 cement blocks in the hope that winter snow would not block the lower draft holes.

Next, I took Bonnie's hair dryer apart and attempted to "disable the heater coil" as Ed had suggested. Unfortunately he was out of town and could not be consulted, but this should be no problem, right? Just disconnect the heater coils and re-wire the leads to the motor, right? Wrong. Not with this type of hair dryer, anyway. When I put 115v ac to the motor, bad things happened. Like smoke coming from the motor, the house lights going dim, etc. Fortunately I got the power off in time, and the motor was not ruined. On the back of the little motor were 4 diodes, in what appeared to be a rectifier circuit. Hmmm, looks like the motor may run on direct current? Hurrah, after clipping off the diodes and applying 12v dc from a battery, I now had a working, portable, 12 volt blower! If you are not sure about any of this, **PLEASE** ask for help.

After rounding up some cardboard, paper scrap, catalogs and what little garbage that had not ended up in the compost pile I was ready. Oh, and a stir-stick. The burn was great. Lots of heat, hardly any smoke, and not much ash left at the end. The blower really helped, but I found the most important thing that I had NOT been doing previously was **STIRRING**. Fill the barrel, light the fire and walk away and in an hour or so the fire is out and the barrel is half full of charred junk. Stay and stir the barrel, use the blower, and you end up with only a small pile of ash.

About storing up that heat, there must be a way to ...

The First New England Thanksgiving

The first American Thanksgiving Day was celebrated during the second winter the Plymouth colonists spent in the New World. The first terrible winter in Massachusetts had killed nearly half of the colonists. But new hope sprang up in the summer of 1621. The corn harvest was successful and brought great rejoicing. Governor William Bradford decreed that December 13, 1621, be set aside as a day of feasting and prayer. The colonists were grateful that they were still alive.

The women of the colony spent many days preparing for the feast. Various kinds of foods were boiled and baked and roasted. The children were kept busy turning roasts on spits in front of open fires. More than eighty friendly Indians came to the feast. The Indians brought wild turkeys and venison as their share. The tables were set outdoors, and all the people sat around them like one large family. Prayers, sermons, and songs of praise were

important in the celebration. Three days were spent in feasting and prayer. Then the Indians returned to the forest and the colonists to their tasks.

The custom of Thanksgiving Day spread from Plymouth to other New England colonies. During the Revolutionary War, eight special days of thanks were observed for victories won and for being spared from dangers. On November 26, 1789, President George Washington issued a general proclamation for a day of thanks.

In 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation setting aside the last Thursday of November in that year "as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father". He issued a similar proclamation in 1864.

In 1939 President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed that Thanksgiving Day was to be celebrated one week earlier. His purpose was to help business by making the shopping period between Thanksgiving and Christmas longer. Some governors refused to follow his example, and their states

celebrated Thanksgiving on the traditional day. Congress finally ruled that after 1941 the fourth Thursday in November would be observed as Thanksgiving Day and would be a legal holiday.

"The reason so many people around the world yearn for America is that they see something here which we Americans often lose sight of - because it surrounds us and pervades our society. What they see, that we miss, is our freedom."

-- Jeanne Kirkpatrick



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A Time to Share



BY CARLY KRITCHEN

As the Christmas holidays fast approach, many of us start thinking about doing some holiday baking, either as a special treat for the family, or to give as gifts. I'm lucky to have a friend who has hosted a Christmas cookie and candy exchange every Christmas season for many years.

It started out as a small party for all of our sewing group, but soon she had other friends calling and begging for an invitation, and now as many as 30 or 40 women attend. It's a really fun way to collect new recipes, catch up on the local gossip (I mean news!), and carry home a wonderful assortment of cookies and candies.

You can bet that Kenny is always home waiting for me, and more than willing to help carry in the boxes, and maybe "test" a few of the goodies! Here are a few of my favorite recipes.

Cece's Fudge Recipe

This is a "no-fail" fudge recipe that tastes delicious, and I've really never had it fail!

2 1/4 cups sugar
1/4 lb. butter or margarine
1/2 can evaporated milk (7 oz.)
8 oz. chocolate chips
7 oz. jar marshmallow cream
1 cup chopped nuts
1 tsp vanilla

Combine butter, sugar, and milk

together and bring to a boil. Continue boiling for 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add chocolate chips. Stir until all the chips are melted. Add marshmallow cream, nuts, and vanilla, and beat until well blended. Pour into a well-greased flat pan, and let cool. (I usually use a 9"X9" pan).

Carrot-Zucchini Bars

This recipe is from my friend Chris, who usually tries to make something moderately "healthy" to make up for all the sugar consumption that goes on at the party! (Besides that, these are really good!).

2/3 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup butter
3 oz. pkg cream cheese at room temperature
1 egg
1 tsp vanilla
1 1/2 cups flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
2/3 cup grated carrot
2/3 cup grated zucchini
1/2 cup golden or regular raisins

Beat together brown sugar, butter, and cream cheese until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Beat in flour, baking powder, and salt until well blended. Stir in carrot, zucchini, and raisins. Spread evenly in a 9X9 pan, and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. When cool, spread with cream cheese frosting and cut into bars.

Cream Cheese Frosting:
Beat together 1/4 cup butter, and a 3 oz. package of cream cheese. Add 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar, and stir until smooth. Add 1/2 tsp vanilla.

Sesame Seed Cookies

I like these cookies cause they're not too sweet, and are easy to bake up in a hurry. Kenny loves them, too, and can really eat a lot of them at one sitting. I got the recipe from the Anchorage Times Christmas Cookie Contest winners, and this was judged best cookie.

2 cups flour
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp salt
1 cup shortening
1 cup sugar
1 egg
1 tsp vanilla
3/4 cup sesame seeds

Sift flour, soda, and salt. Cream shortening, gradually add sugar. Add beaten egg and vanilla. Beat well. Add the flour mixture. Shape into small balls, roll in sesame seeds. Press with bottom of glass. Bake at 350 degrees for about 8 minutes.

Date Pinwheel Cookie

This is my mother's recipe, and she has been making these for Christmas as long as I can remember. It doesn't seem like Christmas without them, so now I make them, too.

2 cups brown sugar
1 cup butter
2 eggs
3 1/2 cups flour
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp soda dissolved in 1
Tablespoon hot water
1 tsp salt
1 tsp vanilla

(cont. next page)

Filling:

3 cups chopped dates
1 cup water
1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup chopped walnuts

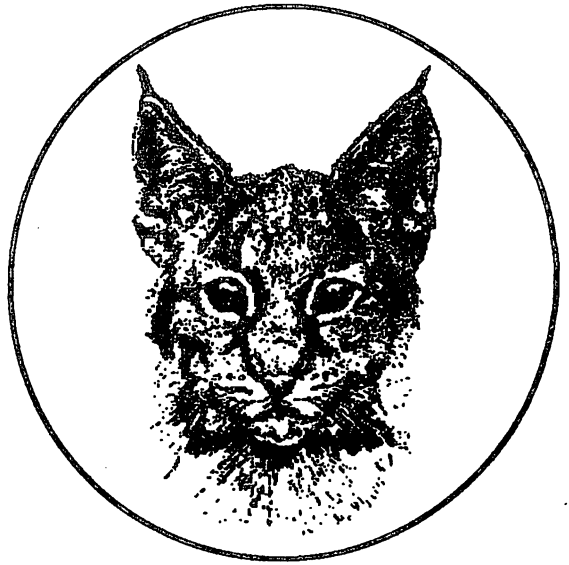
Cream sugar and butter well, add eggs, soda, and vanilla. Mix well. Stir in sifted flour, cinnamon, and salt. Cool dough. Cook all the filling ingredients over low heat until the dates are well cooked and the mixture is thick. Divide the cooled dough into 3 separate sections and place on waxed paper. Roll out to 1/4 in. thickness and spread with cooled date mixture. Roll up and chill for 2 hours. Slice and bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Makes about 3 1/2 dozen.

Anyone Interested??

How about our own Christmas cookie and candy exchange for McCarthy/Kennicott area residents? If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Lois Ann Holmes or Bonnie Kenyon on CB Channel 18 or see us at "mail".

*Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.
He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.*

-- King Solomon



1992 - The year of the Lynx?

By RICK KENYON

If you have always wanted to see a Lynx in the wilds, 1992 has been the year of opportunity for those in the McCarthy area. Normally very shy, for some reason they seem to have lost their natural fear of man.

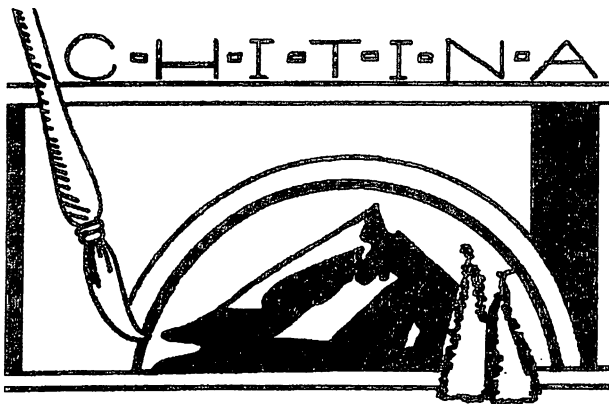
Numerous reports during the summer from those driving the McCarthy road told of sightings. One of our guests asked "who has the pet Lynx?". Another guest parked their motor home in our yard and had a Lynx walk within 6 feet of it one morning.

On October 14 and 15 we had one spend considerable time in our yard, apparently hunting voles. I was able to take a whole roll of film, and

hopefully we will have the pictures for publication next issue. The Lynx came within a dozen feet of us several times and showed little fear. Lilly Goodman (staying at Edwards) told of the Lynx treeing the domestic kittens. She said it took three hours to get the kittens down from the tree!

Catie Bursch reported seeing 2 of the animals at the same time. They were on the McCarthy Road, somewhere between Fireweed Subdivision and the trams.

Our best guess is that the cats are starving due to the low rabbit cycle, although the ones we have seen looked healthy. If you have more scientific information or other Lynx stories please pass them on.



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Mr. Kringle Snows the Auditors

Mr. J. J. Jones
Gray & White, CPA's
36 Wall Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jones:

After an extremely arduous journey via airplane, train, car and dogsled, we managed to contact our client. He seems to be a pleasant old gentleman, not at all the type you would imagine as owner of a world-wide business, and we anticipate few problems during the audit, which should take a couple of weeks.

Our accommodations are comfortable but it is somewhat chilly here.

Sincerely,
R. T. Greening
J. Trump

Mr. J. J. Jones
Gray & White, CPA's
36 Wall Avenue
New York, N. Y.

November 30

Dear Mr. Jones:

This operation is somewhat unique to our experience. We are a little dubious now as to whether or not the audit can be completed in the time originally allocated for it.

Please see our separate, confidential communication concerning some of the disturbing problems we have encountered.

Sincerely,
R. T. Greening
J. Trump
p.s. Could you send us two pair of ear muffs?

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Jones;

As reported in our accompanying letter, we have run into some puzzling factors here at K.K. Industries. We are listing them in no particular order for your information.

1) Although the president maintains this is a world-wide merchandising operation, he is very evasive about where the factory is located and who and how many employees there are. He just laughed and his stomach shook (client has a big stomach) and said he had a small staff of (12) TWELVE!

2) We have not yet been able to locate any sales invoices.

3) Client is very vague about his suppliers.

4) Apparently client has never filed a tax return. The above seemed of such great importance, we felt it advisable to report in this fashion.

R. T. Greening

Mr. J. J. Jones
Gray & White, CPA's
29 Wall Avenue
New York, N. Y.

December 10

Dear Mr. Jones:

Your optimism and confidence in our ability to straighten everything out is highly encouraging. We are "getting on with the audit" as you urge us to.

K. Has been very busy of late on some mysterious project so we have not had as many interviews as we would like.

He manufactures a wide variety of toys and some other products but the records are a mess! It seems he's well known though. We found many orders addressed to him by name only and they still arrive in record time.

The distribution system is somewhat puzzling but we are planning to devote a day to it. That should clarify some of the questions we have.

Sincerely,
R. T. Greening

Mr. J. J. Jones
Gray & White, CPA's
29 Wall Avenue
New York, N. Y.

December 17

Dear Mr. Jones:

Both of us have worked loyally for the firm for a number of years. We have always tried to do the best we can. We hope you'll consider the above in light of our following remarks.

Mr. K. is somewhat eccentric. We asked him to describe his distribution system and he took us outside and pointed to a rundown old contraption which we gathered was a sleigh. Then he showed us several animals which were browsing in a nearby corral. They seemed quite tame, as K. called them by name.

Frankly, we're at wit's end. No invoices, no bills, no financial reports. The man keeps no records AT ALL!

Sincerely,
R. T. Greening
J. Trump

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Jones:

We utterly failed to accomplish the audit of K's enterprises. We honestly believe, however, that this failure is not entirely due to our own incapacities. Although K. was very cooperative, we never were shown any records. He just tossed letters for merchandise at us. No. bills, No invoices. For example, we asked him how much the enterprises were worth and he just threw out his hands and laughed.

Then he gave us a preposterous sum for goodwill! Yesterday, we noticed he was very preoccupied and last night he said he was going on a long trip. Would you believe he was going by sleigh?

We recommend that the firm withdraw as gracefully as possible from the audit and write off expenses already incurred. This is an extraordinary business outside the realm of our experience. K's a wonderful man and, incidentally, a highly successful businessman, but he is direly in need of accounting help.

Regretfully yours,
R. T. Greening
J. Trump

Mr. J. J. Jones
Gray & White, CPA's
29 Wall Avenue
New York, N. Y.

December 25

As of this date we both believe the only honorable thing to do is resign. Please see accompanying confidential communication.

p.s. Incidentally, we were so wrapped up in the problems of the audit, K. had to remind us what day it was. In memory of our past happy association -
MERRY CHRISTMAS!



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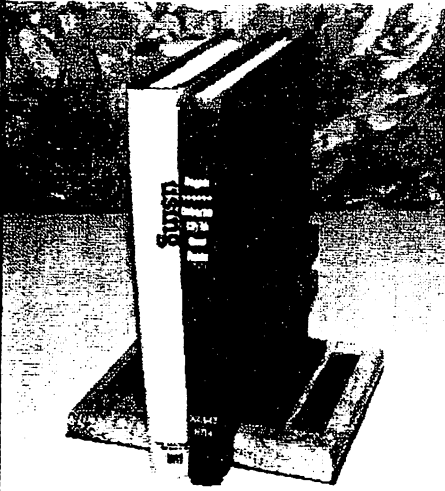


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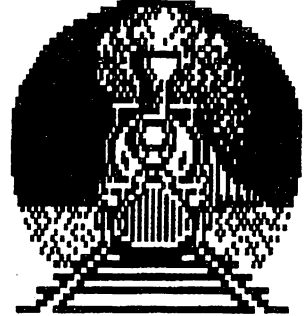
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CONCENTRATION OF POWER IS
WHAT ALWAYS PRECEDES THE
DESTRUCTION OF HUMAN
LIBERTIES.**

WOODROW WILSON

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by Rick & Bonnie Kenyon at their homestead
near McCarthy.

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McCarthy
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Glennallen, AK 99588

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Bonnie Kenyon

OPINION

In this issue we have a guest editorial written by Ed LaChapelle. Ed spends a good portion of each year at his cabin in McCarthy and you can contact him there.

Friends and neighbors of McCarthy-Kennicott, it's time to take a look at where our community might be going. We are at something of a crossroads today, making choices about whether we are going to be stuck in the same old economic development rut of the past or can turn our attention to the economic, social and political developments relevant to the 21st century. Let me make it clear from the start: I very much favor the progress and development of this place we call our home as long as these build toward a better quality of life. But let's build with a realistic view of where the world is already headed as we barrel down the road toward the Year 2000.

Increased tourist visits, and the prospect of the Park Service acquiring the Kennicott mill site, point to more local growth in the tourist industry. Up to a certain point this is going to continue to affect our economy and the way we live, but the geopolitical reality of our location and interests will impose some limits. In fact tourism, a tough way for locals to make a year around living out of two or three frantic summer months, looks like something of a red herring. It will still be with us, but the mainstays of the local economy already are heading in a different direction and are going to thrive in the next few years without benefit of tourist dollars.

The big turning point,

of course, is introduction of telephone service to our area. Not just telephone service, for talking, but telecommunication service for computers and fax.

There is a major social and economic trend taking place in the U.S. today. It has been going on quietly nationwide for several years, but especially throughout the attractive areas in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Northern California. This trend is the migration of people with portable incomes into nice places to live. In part these people bring with them retirement or investment incomes, but the major earning activity is done over telephone lines with computers and fax machines. "Electronic commuters", "golden collar workers" and "foot-loose wage earners" are some of the names given to these full-time citizens of the global electronic village. Desk-top publishing, writers, investment managers, commodity traders, consultants of all kinds, technical experts, contract workers for corporations, computer programmers....the list can go on and on. Many are self-employed and all are able to earn a living by accessing world-wide information resources while dispatching their products electronically.

To take one concrete example familiar to some of us, consider the publication of Home Power Magazine, the major reference source for users of alternate energy that has gone in five years from a give-away flyer to a major publication with world-wide distribution. Last year I visited the HP originators, Richard and Karen Perez, who live and publish in a remote area of

Oregon's Klamath Mountains on a homestead run by solar power and connected to the outside world with a VHF radiolink for their telephone. Their whole operation could be dropped into the middle of McCarthy and would fit right into the local lifestyle without missing an issue of HP.

Given available telecommunications, this way of working and living is made to order for Alaska, a way of economic development with low adverse impacts and minimum demands on infrastructure with consequent tax burdens for the State.

For the McCarthy - Kennicott area it is a natural. This is a great place to live (after all, that's why we are all here), but, pre-telephone, a tough place to make a living. This is all going to change in the next few years as the dominant sources of income in this area become more and more tied to an electronic pipeline to the outside world, independent of tourism and viable throughout the year. Don't think this is some vision of a distant future; it is already here. Pension and investment incomes have been around for some time. Local property owners have been anticipating electronic commuting for several years now and at least one sign up for telephone service plans to use it next year. Another household already enjoys a full-time income from electronic data transmission. Tomorrow is looking us in the face today, and you're holding an example of it, desk-top publishing, right here in your hands.

Let's turn to another topic for a moment: ISTEA. This stands for Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, passed by Congress last December. What this act does is

appropriate money for "alternative transportation systems and enhancements", meaning non-auto, non-highway functions. Alaska's cut of this pie for the coming fiscal year is \$13 million. It's in the hands of DOT&PF, who are currently studying just what they are supposed to do with it. Sound like an opportunity? You bet it is. Just the chance either to upgrade to a redesigned tram across the Kennicott River, or supplement the present one with a footbridge. Not a vehicle bridge, ISTEA doesn't pay for that.

I don't favor a vehicle bridge in any case, ISTEA or not, for at least three reasons. First: our community enjoys the blessing of no traffic congestion, quiet streets where kids can play and people congregate, low-traffic roads where bicyclers can ride relaxed, plus a whole area where handicapped people don't have to worry about being about being run down by vehicles. Let's keep it that way. Second: Overwhelmingly, visitors like the quiet and different atmosphere they find on this side of the river. Repeatedly in casual conversations with tourists, they have volunteered to me comments like, "this is a great place, I sure hope they don't ruin it with a bridge", or "the trams are what are saving McCarthy", or I hate to leave this place and face traffic again". Third: There is a deeper psychic effect of crossing into a traffic-free change of pace. For residents and visitors alike this is a transition from the "rat race" to a clearly better place. Which is what National Parks ought to be all about. A recent visitor summed it all up nicely: "When I come across the trams, I feel the government is off my back and I can relax".

Ed LaChapelle

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

July 31, 1992

Dear Rick and Bonnie,
Thank you for your letter of July 20. I'm happy to hear that the subscriber list is growing and that the paper is selling like hotcakes.

I'm also happy to tell you about myself and the trip as you requested. My wife, Katy Barloon and I have been visiting the Wrangells each year since 1985. In 1988, 1989, and 1990, I was a participant in the Alaska Mountain Wilderness Classic, which during those years ran from Nabesna to McCarthy, a distance of some 160 miles. Racers were required to be entirely self sufficient and had to carry small rubber rafts and paddles in order to negotiate the Nabesna, Chitistone, and Nizina rivers. In 1990, Jeff Gedney and I won the race.

Though Katy and I had previously done the Chitistone trail trip, we wanted to return to that general area, but avoid large numbers of other trekkers. Kelly Bay of Wrangell Mountain Air flew us into the Chitistone area where we spent most of our time near the Hole-in-the-Wall Glacier.

We spent our time viewing the spectacular scenery, dozens of sheep, and a grizzly sow and her two cubs that we were able to see over a number of days. The cubs were especially entertaining as they frequently wrestled with each other, fell down snow gullies, and did a lot of squalling when they realized mom had left them behind. At one point in the trip, we could see all the way from Chitistone Pass to the Glacier creek drainage. I'm a life-long Alaskan who has spent considerable time in the Alps, the Canadian Rockies, and the Himalayas,

and I don't believe I have ever been in a prettier spot!

McCarthy is a special place to Katy and me because it has been the gateway to many adventures and because it is the home of Kelly, Natalie, Gary, Betty, and other friends that make our visits the highlight of each summer!

Katy and I look forward to visiting with you next summer.

Sincerely,
Brant McGee
Anchorage, AK

.....
Brant & Katy were our very first subscribers. Thanks, Brant. We look forward to your visit also!

.....
McCarthy
September 24, 1992

Dear Rick,
Your editorial in the Sept./Oct. issue brings forward some questions I hope can help guide us as a community - How can we best nurture the high quality of life that residents and visitors discover here? How can we maintain our uniqueness without being exclusive? What are our best opportunities for sharing what is very special about the place we live? Thank you for raising these questions.

A key to good answers lies, I think, in your quotation from the poem on the Statue of Liberty: In our overpopulated and busy world, what can we offer to those "yearning to breathe free"? McCarthy and the Wrangells can offer clean air, uncrowded space to experience solitude, relaxed time to enjoy conversation with a friend, the opportunity to participate in a community where people know each other personally,

and the chance to experience the power and beauty of nature. These are precious gifts. Living here, we have a responsibility to take care of them for those who visit and for future generations.

If our community becomes just another place with high-speed roads, RV campgrounds, tacky tourist traps and fancy resorts, these gifts will be lost. Our responsibility is to do better than that.

How can the McCarthy Road be developed so that driving it is both safe and a slow-paced, enjoyable adventure? What pedestrian crossing of the Kennicott River will safely accommodate the people coming here, while retaining the sense of cooperation and excitement most visitors like about the trams? How can we take advantage of our freedom from vehicle traffic to create a system of wheelchair paths in town and out to the glacier? What can we do to support opening of a low-cost hostel to complement our more expensive lodges, so that people of limited income can visit? If we develop our community and its facilities with care, how many people can we encourage to come here, while still retaining the qualities which are the gift of this place to the world?

To me such questions are challenging and worthwhile. I hope the "Wrangell St. Elias News" can be a forum where we explore them together.

Sincerely,
Ben Shaine

.....
Thank you Ben, we hope so too!

In response to the "OPINION" page of the Sept./Oct. 1992 issue.

I felt the article insinuated that everyone in McCarthy selfish. (I am hoping that this was not the intent of the editor). I found that insinuation unfair and negative and I think there are many unselfish people and actions in our town.

I suggest we look for the positive and good. Next issue, let's compile a collection of events and occasion where people in our community went out of their way to help visitors. Examples kind and generous actions above and beyond personal gain.

I'm sure everyone has an interesting and possibly humorous story to share. I like our town and enjoy all the colorful characters who live here.

Catie Bursch
Fireweed Subdivision

.....
*Dear Catie,
You might want to read the article again, then go on to read the whole issue. The OPINION (on page 14) said that discrimination where access is concerned is selfish, and no "insinuations" were made*

On page one we told about the "generous actions above and beyond personal gain" of Bridget Brosnihan, Bob Jacobs, T. J. Wilson, Dee Frady and Gary Green, as they all gave unselfishly to help the injured motorists.

When Los Angeles erupted in violence, no one thought that "everyone in Los Angeles is selfish", only the rioters and looters. Many acts of heroism by local residents were seen, made necessary by the selfishness of the few.

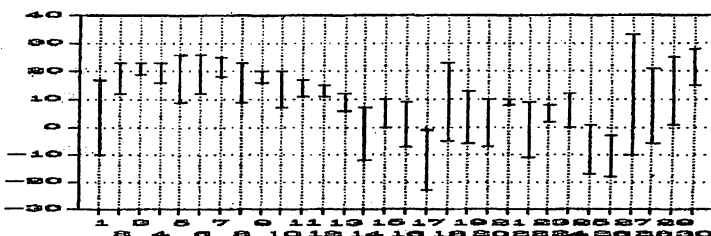
This Time Last Year

So far 1992 has broken the records, but here are last years temperatures to compare with. By the end of December 1991 we had 17" of snow on the ground.

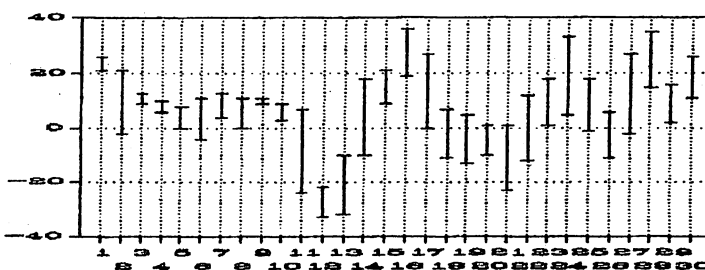
1991

Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it.
--Charles Dudley Warner

Nov. 1991 Temps.
MAX/MIN



Dec. 1991 Temps.
MAX/MIN



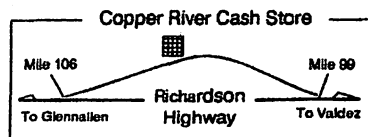
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