

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Fifteen Issue Five

September & October 2006

\$2.50

Summertime highlights



WSEN staff photo

5th Annual McCarthy Kennicott Half Marathon was better than ever! Story page 7.



WSEN staff photo

McCarthy and Kennicott area residents enjoyed a reception given by Wells Fargo bank on August 3 at the Kennecott Recreation Hall. Story page 7



WSEN staff photo

Copper Valley Telephone held its 4th annual customer appreciation picnic on July 27. Story page 6



Photo courtesy Jim Buckingham

Another Hale-Buckingham wedding! Pg. 14

While it is more normal here in McCarthy to visit neighbors using a 4-wheeler, bicycle or on foot, sometimes more unusual means of transportation are used. Dave Syren recently paid us a visit at WSEN in his helicopter. Watch out for the broccoli plants, Dave!



WSEN staff photo

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy is right on the edge of the fall season. Leaves are swiftly turning from greens to yellows and even a few scattered reds which gives the landscape the beginning shades of fall. After living in Florida for many years and not seeing many changes in seasons, I have come to really appreciate the various seasonal transformations that occur annually in the state of Alaska. Perhaps that adds to the feeling that time certainly flies between issues of our publication!

Speaking of flying...the July/August *WSEN* was mailed from McCarthy on July 21st and several of our Florida subscribers reported that they received their "news" on the 26th. Now that is record speed for our second-class mailing. We cannot help but thank our Glennallen postmaster Terry Kaiser who does his best to keep things moving in the right direction. You can imagine my dismay at hearing that Terry was going to retire this October. Happily, however, I heard he had changed his mind and after talking to him on the phone, discovered he decided to stay on for another 5 years! So, *WSEN* reader, this is good news for you, too. Terry, if you are reading this "note,"

please accept our thanks for a job well done.

When Rick and I are not sitting at our computer writing articles for the *WSEN* or attending local gatherings for the idea of writing a news item, we enjoy gardening, especially, the harvesting of our efforts. This year we decided to run an "experimental farm" (very small scale, of course). We purchased a variety of potato seed from Wal-mart in Anchorage in the spring and planted them in three different garden spots. One, in particular, produced no scab while the other two did. Normally we are only able to plant one kind because of the scab problem. Now with the new plot and different soil ph, our annual potato crop can be expanded to include a variety of "spuds." Each year, we grow enough potatoes to last us until the new crop is harvested. A cellar in the side of a hill enables us to store them year 'round. Now you know what we might be doing if you call the office and all you get is the answering machine. Maybe this helps answer the most frequently-asked question by our guests: What DO you do out here in your spare time?

We hope you have enjoyed the "new look" of *WSEN* since we went to color on the cover and laser-

printed pages with photos on the inside of the paper. The relatively small press-run (currently about 550) pretty much dictates that we do the printing "in-house." The higher quality and the color has greatly increased our costs of printing. Also, the cost of postage has gone up in the past two years. Because of this we regret to announce that the cost of a subscription is now \$14 for one year, \$25 for two. Canadian subscriptions are \$16. Other countries will be \$23 per year. We trust this modest increase will not impact our readers.

For those of you who are "plugged in" to the modern digital age, we do offer an online-only subscription which will continue to be only \$11 per year. Each issue is posted online in PDF format which you can download and print yourself if you desire. You will receive an email with a link to the current issue every two months. Print subscribers also get this link if you give us your email address.

WSEN welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Wallace McGregor, WA; Nancy Amuso, MA; the Gibeault family, CT; Dan Sadtler, AK; Pat and Mary O'Donnell, VA; and Jim Sartin, TN.

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Contributors to this issue: Peggy Guntis, George Cebula, Don Welty, Paula Easley, Lee Ann Kreig, Doug Miller and Marne Grahm.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Mark, Emily and Ross Bass:

The Bass family live next door to us ("next door" McCarthy style, that is). Emily and son Ross walked over for a short visit the other day. It was a great opportunity to catch up on my neighbors' summer activities.

Ross is 4 years old now and turning into a fine young man. He has quite a circle of friends, says mom. Let's see... there is Kincaid, Kaylin, Emmett and Eva, the Rowland kids and that doesn't even include the 3 sets of friends, cousins, aunts and uncles visiting this summer. One of his fun-packed adventures included a hike on the glacier using his own ice crampons.

Emily, Mark and Ross celebrated Ross' birthday with a camping trip on the hill behind their house. This was a first-time experience for Ross. Although it was just an overnight excursion, Ross aged significantly. He left home at age 3 and by the time he returned, he had turned 4! The camping trip was accompanied by rain and a visit from a curious bear which Lucy managed to scare off.

He loves his new bedroom which is complete with a rope swing and a ladder leading to his own loft. I was honored to receive a personal tour from Ross when I attended his birthday party. He is taking up guitar, piano and harmonica and has a full-time job of keeping an eye on Lucy.

The Bases are eagerly looking forward to their trip to Disneyland and will also attend a Van Morrison concert, says Emily, while in California. Pre-school begins soon and Ross will be a mentor for kids

with disabilities this winter while in Anchorage.

Emily is now all set up to pursue Grant Writing. Her starband equipment is making it all possible. She has submitted two grants for non-profits already and is quite excited with future prospects.

Thanks, Emily, Mark and Ross, for allowing me to make you my first "item of interest" for this issue.

Mike, Loree, Carter and Max Nelson: The Nelson family visited the town of McCarthy from their home in Seattle. Mike is the nephew of Paul Barrett and son of Paul's sister Marilyn. It was nice to touch bases with them once again. Daughter Carter is 10 years old and son Max is now 7. I just wanted to say it was good to have a short visit with the Nelsons and encourage them to visit McCarthy more often.

Neil, Margaret and Catherine O'Donnell: Neil and daughter Catherine were another welcome sight to our town. Although the numerous rainfalls during their stay could have dampened anyone's adventure and Margaret wasn't able to accompany them this trip, Neil and Catherine made sure they had plenty of entertainment. They brought along Neil's brother, Patrick O'Donnell, who interestingly was born on St. Patrick's Day, Patrick's wife, Mary, sons Conner and Christopher and daughter Megan who were visiting from Norfolk, Virginia. A hike on the glacier and attending a local birthday party, and several neighborly stops were included in their McCarthy trip.

Neil says, "The Virginia O'Donnell clan was very impressed

with their glacier hike, the Rowland's full-curl ram and the mine buildings. They saw bear scat everywhere, but never the source. Mary did see a moose."

Although the adults tried and failed to climb the Rowland log, at least Conner saved the clan from total failure. The O'Donnells said the constant clouds and rain in McCarthy was a nice change from their East Coast heat wave.

We expect to see Neil, Margaret and Catherine over Labor Day weekend.

George Cebula: As soon as I see the leaves on nearby trees begin to yellow, I think of George's brother, Ted. You see, his annual trip to Alaska usually occurs in September. George stopped by the other day and I asked him if we could expect to see his brother soon. He assured me Ted was due to arrive on the mail plane September 6th. The Cebulas usually have a "to-do" list. The major project is "to get ready for winter," says George. By the looks of things (like fresh snow on the mountain north of us!), it won't be too long before that white, fluffy stuff appears at our feet. Thanks for giving us fair warning, George!

Jim and Peggy Guntis: Each summer when the Guntis' arrive at their McCarthy home, a major project is soon underway. This year it was the installation of new wood flooring. Peggy reports that the job is now finished and she is thrilled with the new look it gives her home. I expect to check it out for myself tonight when Rick and I go to the Guntis' for supper and game night.

Jim and Peggy visited Homer for the second time this season where daughter Kim lives with her husband Richard. Kim loves her job as a student advisor at the UAA-Kenai Peninsula Katchemak Bay campus. Jim had a great time accompanying Richard on his halibut charter boat. While the men were fishing, the ladies made the rounds at the many garage sales in Homer. Peggy loves books and came home with her arms full which spurred Jim on to (once again) enlarge her many bookshelves upstairs.

Don and Lynn Welty: The Welty household is experiencing some changes this summer. Daughters René and Sarah are both working outside McCarthy which makes for a much too-quiet house. It was a welcome sight when Jay Claus, son of Paul and Donna Claus of Ultima Thule, came for a visit recently. Lynn says she is glad to have someone else in the house. The quiet was just too quiet!

Jay has been working with Martin Boenik of Wrangell Mountain Air, on getting his pilot's license. Martin is a flight instructor as well as a commercial pilot so when the Boenik family arrives in the McCarthy area for the summer season, folks eagerly seek out Martin for their flight instruction. Before Martin left Alaska, he and Jay traveled to Anchorage so Jay could take his check ride. Lynn tells me it was successful. Congratulations to Jay and fine work, Martin!

Don and Lynn are enjoying the fruit of their labors now that the gardens are really producing all those fine vegetables. The greenhouse Don built for Lynn is doing a great job, too, and Lynn is putting up the produce for them to enjoy this winter. Harvest is a rewarding time and the Weltys are making much of it.

Jim and Audrey Edwards: The Edwards' recently returned from outside, visiting both east and west coasts. They attended the wedding of Audrey's grandson, Jason Valentine, held in Rhode Island. According to Audrey, she and Jim had to pull out their formal attire because the wedding was a full military ceremony with all the bells and whistles of such a grand occasion.

After the wedding, Jim and Audrey traveled to California and spent a week at Disneyland. They enjoyed their stay, said Audrey, but it is always good to get home.

While looking through some of those special scrapbook mementos, Audrey discovered an article written by Jim's son and daughter, Steve and Shelly, February 8, 1976—over 30 years ago. At that time they were youngsters still living at home in McCarthy. Although we couldn't reproduce their pictures (I'm sure Steve and Shelly, both WSEN subscribers, will be glad about that!), the story they wrote is really delightful and one worth sharing.

I'm Proud of My Town!

by Steve and Shelly Edwards, McCarthy, Alaska

We are proud of our town, McCarthy, Alaska. We have lived here since we were born and have always found it very quiet and beautiful. It is quiet mainly because the town's population averages about 17 people all year around.

In the 1920's and '30's, our village in Southern Alaska was a very busy mining town with more than 1,000 people at times. But then a copper mine closed down, and McCarthy became a ghost town.

The few McCarthy people are helpful and friendly. We stick together and help each other.

One of the things we like best about our town is that everything is easy and slow; nobody is in a big rush. People in McCarthy are usually busy, but there is always time to stop and talk to a neighbor.

Kenny Smith: Steve and Shelly's description of McCarthy neighbors made me think about Kenny—a great summer neighbor who always takes time to stop by and chat over a cup of coffee. His normal mid-May arrival in town was delayed this year. Kenny takes his grandkids seriously so when Alex, 11, and Makenna, 8, enrolled in a summer sports camp in Anchorage, he was needed to help give them a hand.

His summer has taken him back to Anchorage a few times to attend the girls' soccer games. Alex's team took the championship, says Kenny, so the activities—which included several play-off games, kept Kenny on the move between McCarthy and the big city.

He and his entire family spent 10 hours at the Palmer state fair recently. With such a variety of festivities occurring throughout the fair grounds, the Smith family stayed in touch with each other by cell phones. They really had fun.

Now Kenny is back at his McCarthy cabin to finish out the season and wait for the arrival of Pam (daughter) and Phil Okeson and their daughters, Alex and Makenna. Usually the Okesons visit the area 3 or 4 times a year, but this year has been a super busy one. This will be their first trip this year and Kenny is eager for their arrival.

Ed LaChapelle and Meg Hunt: Because of all the rain (and more rain) that McCarthy area is experiencing, Meg says she is busy collecting that good "soft" water for things such as laundry and baths. Ed and Meg are also enjoy-

ing the fruit of their gardening labors. A highlight of their summer occurred on Saturday, August 19th — Shakespeare in Kennecott, a presentation that Ed and Meg's Porphyry Productions helped bring about for the folks in McCarthy and Kennicott.

Nearly 60 folks turned out to see shortened versions of two Shakespeare plays performed by professional actors from Anchorage. The plays were *Hamlet* and *Taming of the Shrew*. Meg thanks Andy and Cynthia Shidner of Current Ridge Cabins for their donation of two cabins for the two nights the actors were in our area.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, BOB AND SUNNY! I really appreciate folks who search me out to share an item of interest for publication in WSEN. One such person is Nancy Cook, Bob and Sunny's daughter. She eagerly informed me that her folks had celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on July 16th. The Cooks own property off the Nizina Road across McCarthy Creek and are familiar faces in our town, especially in the summer season. Bob is a van driver for Wrangell Mountain Bus and is seen often ferrying visitors between McCarthy and Kennicott. He is always quick to smile and offer me a neighborly wave of the hand when passing on the road. I'm sure he was sporting an extra large grin on he and Sunny's special day. They made a trip to the Bremner Mine and celebrated that evening with Champaign and cake at the McCarthy Lodge.

Congratulations are certainly in store for the Cooks!

McCarthy-Kennicott Museum: While visiting with Meg, who is also the president of our local museum, she shared that museum grant money is enabling them to perform major upgrades to the

interior and exterior of the museum building.

Many visitors and locals alike appreciate the new exterior's paint job which was done by Jeremy Keller's Ibuild contracting business. Future interior work on the walls and ceiling will be done by John Adams, owner of McCarthy Building Services.

Meg reports that the museum's annual meeting was held September 4th, 10 a.m., at the McCarthy Lodge.

The museum closed at noon on Monday, September 4th. Volunteers turned out at 1 pm to help move things out of the area to be worked on by John.

Dan Elofsen: Dan just returned from spending 10 days in the warm (actually, hot, says Dan) state of Alabama where he did some further training for his work. He liked it so well, in spite of the tremendous heat, that he stayed an additional week. He met a southern "debutante," too, who he hopes will travel north to visit his neck of the woods.

Dan is more-than-excited about a recent development next door to his property southeast of McCarthy Creek. Tom and Mary Kaye Golden, Dan's folks, just purchased 10 acres of land — now making them Dan's nearby neighbors. According to Dan, the Golden's were in McCarthy for a couple of days over the 4th of July. They are eager to build a cabin, and it sounds like he is eager to give them pointers along the way. "I am looking forward to a new phase in my life," says Dan. I believe that new phase includes having his folks as very special next door neighbors. Congratulations to the Golden's and thanks, Dan, for sharing the good news with us!

Trig Trigliano: It's the Labor Day weekend and Trig is on the

move. Until he retires from his job at the University of Alaska/ Anchorage, he makes the most of his holidays, tinkering on his McCarthy area house and taking the 4-wheeler for a spin around the neighborhood.

This trip he brought along a friend, Dick Bruce, who used to work with Trig at the university. The fellows will be here for about a week. That will give Trig plenty of time to show Dick around town.

Upon their arrival here, Trig was pleasantly greeted by the new addition on his property — a metal building folks around here call a "Connex." Before he came in, Rowcon Services filled his order and had it installed and ready to fill. Just what Trig does best. In fact, Trig was so impressed with the new storage container that he threatened to sleep in it the first night. I think Dick may have talked him out of that idea.

Welcome back, Trig, and thanks for bringing Dick along to meet your friends and neighbors.

Gene and Edith Coppedge say "good-bye!" Long-time owners of Silver Lake Campground, mile 11 McCarthy Road, pass on to all their friends, past guests and fishing fans their best regards and love. Gene and Edith recently sold their popular rainbow trout fishing spot to new owners and are on their way to warmer climes — Georgia. Gene and Edith, we want to say to you, "Thank you for all those years of service to locals and guests alike and always being there for us. You will be greatly missed and forever in our hearts!"

CORRECTION: On page 39 of the July/August issue, it was mistakenly reported that Fran Gagnon passed away in Tucson when it should have read Phoenix. Our apologies to Fran's family and our readers.

Sheep hunter seriously injured in fall

WRST—On Friday, August 18, 2006, a sheep hunter was seriously injured from a fall in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Richard Collins and his son, Jacob Collins, were east of Sheep Lake. At approximately 5 pm Jacob lost his footing and fell about 40 vertical feet before striking a steep broken rock face, rolling down a scree slope, and coming to a stop in a small stream.

After searching for over an hour, Richard found his son unconscious with a number of deep lacerations and bruises. Richard was able to get Jacob into dry clothing and they spent the night on the side of the mountain. During the night, Jacob remained unconscious and suffered a number of seizures.

Early on Saturday morning, Richard stabilized his son as best he could, hiked back to an ATV at the end of the Tanada Lake trail, and began the long ride back to

the Nabesna Road. Shortly after 9:30 pm, Richard reached the Nabesna Road and contacted local resident Jeff Bertrand, who assisted him with placing phone calls.

National Park Service was notified of the accident through Alaska State Troopers at 10:15 pm, and initiated rescue efforts.

Rangers Thompson and Gusse met Richard on the Nabesna Road and placed him on an Alaska Air National Guard Pavehawk rescue helicopter at Duffy's airstrip. The helicopter then traveled to the accident site and began searching for Jacob. At 7:35 a.m. on Sunday morning, after a brief air and ground search, Jacob was located alive, but in critical condition.

National Guard Pararescue Jumpers and Richard carried Jacob to a safe helicopter landing site, where the helicopter hoisted him aboard. The helicopter crew flew Jacob and Richard to Gulikana airport, where they were transferred to a National Guard C-130

and flown to Providence Hospital in Anchorage.

Jacob remained unconscious for some time, but as we go to press he is awake and attentive and responding to therapy. Although Jacob sustained a number of cuts and bruises and a significant concussion, he did not fracture his skull. Nor did he sustain any serious internal injuries or any other bone fractures.

A special thanks to those who participated in the rescue; including Tom and Jeff Bertrand, National Park Service employees Mark Thompson, Thelma Schrank, Walker Gusse, and Matt Senger; members of the 210th Air National Guard Pavehawk Helicopter Crew, members of the 211th Air National Guard Hercules C-130 Crew; members of the 212th Air National Guard Pararescue Jumpers; members of the 11 Rescue Coordination Center; and Alaska State Trooper Ron Simmons.

Copper Valley Telephone shows appreciation

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy: —Copper Valley Telephone Company (CVTC) held its 4th annual customer appreciation picnic in McCarthy on July 27.

Anyone with a question or even a complaint could find some CVTC employee just waiting to "take your call" —in person even. General Manager, Dave Dengel, Joanne Winney, Marketing and

Public Relations Manager, Tabitha Gregory, Customer Service Supervisor, and Chris Mishmash, Purchasing and Facilities Manager, were not too busy to visit even if they were slicing tomatoes, flipping hamburgers or turning hot dogs.

There were plenty of sodas, chips and cookies to go around. The yearly gifts that CVTC brings are always a hit with the locals because they are items folks use

on a daily basis. (I am now using the CVTC tote for my weekly mail day bag! The only hitch is that my neighbor Audrey Edwards, picnic attendee, too, is doing the same thing. We almost got our bags mixed up the other day.)

Thanks, Copper Valley Telephone staff, for putting on a fine feast for your customers in the McCarthy area. We appreciate you, too!

"Here's my credo. There are no good guns, there are no bad guns. A gun in the hands of a bad man is a bad thing. Any gun in the hands of a good man is no threat to anyone, except bad people." —Charlton Heston

Wells Fargo reception, a first for Kennecott

Kennecott: —Every August Wells Fargo's state-wide advisory board and senior leadership gathers in a different place within Alaska to meet with community residents. Last year they met on Annette Island near Craig. That is also when the board decided where they would come for 2006. The 35-member group of community leaders obviously believe in planning ahead.

Although the annual gatherings have always occurred where a branch of the bank resides, Kennecott was chosen for this year's festivities. The nearest Wells Fargo branch for those who live in Kenne-

cott and McCarthy is located in Glennallen, about 125 miles away.

"We are excited to bring our advisory board members to Kennecott and McCarthy to visit with community members and enjoy this beautiful place," said Richard Strutz, Wells Fargo Alaska regional president.

On August 3rd at 6 pm the doors of the Kennecott Recreation Hall opened to receive the many residents and area visitors who were eagerly waiting for the reception to begin. Tables laden with pastry hors d'oeuvres, fruits, fresh vegetables, a chocolate fountain fondue, roast beef, meat balls, breads, coffee and

wines greeted the hungry attendees. Benches alongside the inside walls of the hall were quickly filled with the diners. Friends and neighbors greeted each other, commenting on the delicious and beautifully-arranged food which was catered by Kennicott Glacier Lodge. The aroma from the chocolate fountain attempted to override all others but that didn't stop folks from sampling everything. It was apparent no one left hungry or without making the acquaintance of at least one Wells Fargo advisory board member and saying, "Thanks for choosing Kennecott and McCarthy to visit."

5th annual McCarthy Kennicott Half Marathon —better than ever

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy: —The 2006 McCarthy Kennicott Half Marathon was held on Saturday, September 3rd. By 2 p.m. the annual starting point, Glacier View Campground at mile 59 of the McCarthy Road, was the scene of 60 eager runners, all donned with their individual race numbers. The number of participants has grown remarkably since the marathon's conception in 2002 when 26 registered to run the 13-mile course which took the runners up to Kennicott and back down to McCarthy.

The Half Marathon promotes the American Diabetes Association (ADA), helping raise awareness and champion a healthy lifestyle for those who are diagnosed with diabetes. District Director of ADA for Alaska, Phoebe O'Connell, made sure everyone was registered properly and offered encouragement and assis-

tance. Her helper this year was Kathryn Price of Palmer.

Dan Myers, the race's original organizer, was on hand once again to spur on the new and seasoned runners, and sometimes walkers. The youngest participants this year were Matthew Shidner, 11, of McCarthy and Catherine O'Donnell, 9, of Anchorage and regular visitor to McCarthy area. Some runners like Matthew and Catherine, chose the shorter course of approximately 5 miles. The oldest was returning runner Eleanor Claus, 72, of Ultima Thule. The race included several local folks such as Kelsey Smith, Tessa Bay, Cynthia Shidner, Kris Gregory and Howard Mozen.

The following winners in the men's category for the 5-mile course were: Michael Montague (40:37) and his brother, Brendan Montague (42:15). A familiar face in the McCarthy area, Mike Truskowski, came in third with 43:43.

The women's class was led by Patty Montague (mom of Michael and Brendan) with 50:47. The Montagues hale from Girdwood. Anita Hurlburt took second place with 51:47. Marietta Hau made third with 57:07.

The Half Marathon winners in the men's division were: Julian Hanna with 82:06 who came in second in last year's marathon; second place, Keith Weinbold, 82:10; Ivan Hurlburt, third, with 83:30.

The Half Marathon winners in the women's class were: Deborah Byzys, first place, 92:50; Cynthia Shidner of McCarthy, second, 94:20; Sue Sears, third, 102:56.

For further information on how you can be involved in promoting and/or donating to the American Diabetes Association, please contact ADA, 801 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 103, Anchorage, AK. 99503 or call 1-888-342-2383.

Congress comes calling —National Parks of Alaska

BY BONNIE KENYON

Anchorage: —A congressional field hearing was held in Anchorage on August 14th in the Assembly Room of the Loussac Public Library. The hearing was hosted by Government Reform, Criminal Justice Subcommittee Chairman Mark Souder (R-IN) and is the ninth in a series of hearings examining each type of National Park Service (NPS) unit and various aspects of Park operations as they relate to the NPS's mission. The Anchorage, Alaska, hearing focused on the national parks of the Alaska region. The scope of the hearing included inholdings, resource management and other issues unique to NPS units in Alaska.

The first panel of witnesses included Marcia Blaszak, Alaska Regional Director for NPS and four superintendents: Tomie Lee, Glacier Bay National Park; Joel Hard, Lake Clark National Park; Paul Anderson, Denali National Park; and Jeff Mow of Kenai Fjords National Park.

Panel II consisted of Michael Menge, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources; James Stratton, Regional Director for the Alaska Office, National Park Conservation Association; John Shively, Vice President Holland America; Rick Kenyon, inholder and publisher of *Wrangell St. Elias News*, and Dave Worrell, spokesman for the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA).

Each witness prepared and submitted a written statement for the record and each one gave a verbal summary of their prepared statement.

Following an opening statement by Chairman Mark Souder, Marcia Blaszak began the panel's session of the hearing with a statement that included: "The towns of McCarthy and Kennecott are largely privately

owned with an economy that has evolved, in part, to cater to park visitors. The opportunity and challenge we face is to protect the stunning natural and cultural resources of the national park and to provide the necessary access for residents and visitors, while simultaneously ensuring that a century-old community is able to continue to grow and to maintain its unique place in Alaska... In Wrangell-St. Elias, investment in a new visitor center along the Richardson Highway, state investments on the McCarthy Road, and NPS and private investments in Kennecott and McCarthy are keys to the park and its gateway communities being sustainable visitor destinations."

Dave Worrell, speaking on behalf of Ron Peck, president of ATIA, stated that the number of cruise ship visitors is steadily rising but very little change in the amount of independent travelers. Challenges and obstacles for the Alaskan visitor are public lands access issues, infrastructure quality, improved dispersal of visitors and recognition of all Alaska's public lands. It is ATIA's objectives to increase awareness of Alaska's diverse national parks and encourage visitation to Alaska's lesser-known parks. Priorities include the south side development for Denali National Park, road improvements at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and the expansion of marketing efforts to promote all Alaska's park lands.

Michael Menge, DNR Commissioner, addressed inholder access in his testimony: "Considerable forward progress has been made, although some solutions remain elusive. The ideal approach will result in a permanent access authorization that is not subject to revocation or expiration. The Park Service, under the capable guidance of Ms. Blaszak, is working hard to find creative solutions that docu-

ment the ANILCA access guarantee while providing enough flexibility to both the inholder and the NPS to respond to changing needs and conditions. State representatives are in close communication with Ms. Blaszak and her staff to keep the forward momentum. We are optimistic that with the additional help of many well-reasoned comments received from affected inholders, an acceptable solution will soon be within reach."

Rick Kenyon, inholder in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve for the past 26 years stated: "For 26 years we have watched the interaction between the rural Alaskan communities of McCarthy and Kennecott, and the Park Service. For the majority of those years it must be characterized as adversarial. Fortunately, much progress has been made during the past two years." Although Kenyon stated displeasure with Drafts one and two of the NPS User's Access Guide, he commented: "In the past two months, considerable progress has been made as Director Blaszak and Deputy Director Knox have taken the reins of the project and met with the affected parties to hear their concerns, and to openly convey the concerns and goals of the NPS."

Jim Stratton, Alaska's regional director for NPCA, testified about the challenges facing Alaska's national parks —challenges such as protecting wildlife populations and acquiring inholdings. He called on the Park Service to increase support for conducting and analyzing population science for hunted species, support regularly scheduled community harvest surveys and support a new position for a statewide wildlife data manager.

On inholdings, Jim's written testimony states: There are about 3.3 million acres of inholdings re-

(continued on page 22)

McCarthy's Time Line by Infrastructure

COMPILED BY DOUG MILLER

July 1906 — John E. Barrett stakes his homestead and mining claims on the McCarthy Creek, which he also names. He erects fences, posted signs, builds a cache and when winter approaches builds a boat to leave the country. He returns 1907 and builds cabin.

1907— Barrett rents property to the Alaska Syndicate.

1908-1910—Barrett builds his homestead and continues to develop his mining claims. These are the properties called the Green Group (Greenbutte today) located on the McCarthy Creek Valley. USGS Maps surveyed 1907 and published 1908 clearly show trails and the encampments of Motherlode, Greenbutte, as well as roads from McCarthy to Kennicott. Barrett also does some farming.

1907-1911—Largest construction boom takes place. Dog sleds and horses with sleds haul much of the freight in the winter.

1907-1910—Kennicott is established and rapidly takes shape.

March 29, 1911- C.R. & N.W. Railroad reaches McCarthy & Kennicott.

1911—Topographic maps of the Nizina district clearly show 6 miles of wagon roads established from the Nizina River valley up the Dan Creek and Chititu Creek. 1911 USGS Map.

1912—February 24, 1912 the *Chitina Leader* (newspaper) states: "One of the most active sections is that country tributary to the railroad at Mile 191 where McCarthy Creek runs into the Nizina River (the Kennicott today). Quite a little settlement is already springing up there." more.... McCarthy had only one building in 1911 but many by 1912.

1912—Blackburn, the town, is established between the McCarthy Station and Kennicott. Located be-

tween the Bloomquist and Barrett homesteads. Neither had patent to their property at this time.

July 1913—Word of the Shushanna gold strike arrives in the Copper Valley. Shushanna Gold Stampede begins. Shushanna is now known as Chisana.

Shortest route to Shushanna begins in McCarthy townsite then up McCarthy Creek, up the Nickoli Creek over Sourdough Hill (Ridge) across the Nizina River, up the Chitistone Canyon

and over Skolai Pass to Shushanna (Chisana). Approximately 80 miles. This route includes 7 miles of the McCarthy-Greenbutte road. Stampede ends by 1916.

1913—Barrett creates township of McCarthy and leases lots for twenty-five years. Mercantile town begins in earnest. Dan Creek, Chititu, Shushanna and Kennicott successes fuel McCarthy's rapid growth.

1916—A.R.C. & the Territory of Alaska receives \$500,000 for the benefit of Alaskan roads. The Nizina district produces \$250,000 in minerals in 1916. The local papers begin to solicit upgrades for the trails in this area and a bridge across the Nizina. It costs eight cents per pound to freight goods 25 miles. 20 men have lost their lives in the Nizina River since 1911.

1916—Mother Lode Mine reports the high grade ore being produced will require a large transport force for delivery to McCarthy. Mother Lode located up McCarthy Creek.

1916—Kennicott-Tjosevig property near the Bonanza report they will commence construction of about 600-feet of rock work to build a motor road that will bring ore to McCarthy. The Kennecott-Barrett Copper Co. is formed. The Dan

Creek-Nizina telephone line reaches McCarthy. Again, editorials solicit appropriations for the betterment of road conditions from McCarthy to the Nizina (the Sourdough Hill Trail).

1916—Chris Tjosevig reports \$500,000 ore body at the Kennecott-Tjosevig mine.

1916—Senatorial candidate Charles Sulzer campaigns in McCarthy, road conditions are high on the locals agenda. Residents of McCarthy

contribute over \$1500 for street improvements in 1916. The A.R.C. announces that the Sourdough Hill Trail will receive improvements. The McCarthy district receives the entire appropriation allotted to the Third Division. \$2200 will be spent on the trail and foot bridge will be built over the Nizina at \$1200 during freeze up. Phone lines are extended to Blackburn and Kennecott.

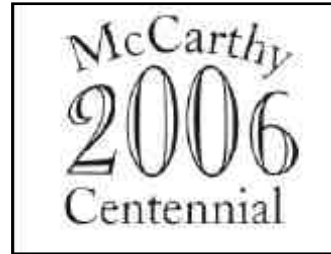
1917—WW1 begins to affect McCarthy. Able men are required to report.

1917—Barrett receives patent to his homestead and issues deeds to any landholder who wants one in McCarthy. Businesses feel secure in expanding more.

1917—McCarthy reaches peak populations during this time. Copper prices are high because of the War.

1918—Nels Tjosevig conveys guests to Mother Lode in automobiles. Automobiles also ply the Chitina-Fairbanks route in 24.5 hours another reports 39 hours. August 17, 1918.

1918— "An official investigation into the Nizina Bridge building took place this week but nothing has been made public as to the decision. The contractor's work was ac-



cepted on June 28th by Engineer Schueber."

1919—John Barrett elected by McCarthy's Commercial Club to represent McCarthy at the Territorial Legislature to lobby the government "regarding the conditions [that] exist in this section due to lack of roads and bridges."

1919— "The foundation for the bridge over McCarthy Creek is assuming a business like appearance."

1919— "Gus Johnson of the Road Commission reports having completed the bridge over McCarthy Creek this a.m."

1919—\$375,000 Appropriation made by the Territorial Legislature for construction and maintenance of roads in the Territory, The Third Division (McCarthy's area) receives \$100,000.

1919—The U.S. Senate appropriates \$300,000 for use on Alaska roads. "Engineer Morrison has arrived on a inspection trip to the Nizina Bridge."

1919— "Work has been started on salvaging of the Nizina Bridge by the Road Commission crew with Gus Johnson in charge. The big truck is now making regular daily [trips] to the Lower Mother Lode Camp bringing in full loads of ore sacks."

1919— "When are we going to hear something is being done about the Nizina Bridge?"

1920— "Today's train brought another tractor on the (for the) Government trail... already proved great success... hauls 8 to 12 tons... snow drifts no obstacle and mud seems to be its native element."

1920— "Federal Road Official on Tour of Inspection- Col. J.C. Gotwals attention has been drawn to the bad condition of Sourdough Hill Trail... Commercial Club writes letter requesting \$10,000 for maintenance..."

1920—Col. J.C. Gotwals acknowledges Commercial Club letter about road needs... promises to include some allotment for 1921...

1920—Col. J.C. Gotwals visits McCarthy to inspect Nizina Bridge site and Sourdough Hill Trail.

1920— Road Commission survey crew at Sourdough Hill leaves.

1920— "The Road Commission broke camp this week for the winter, they have completed several miles of new road and will be back in good time next season to complete it."

1921— "A petition is now in circulation to secure a much needed wagon road to Long Lake."

1921—John Barrett is road making, clearing slides etc. on the Mother Lode Road... Road Commission Imports Cars- Six armored, Holt, five ton tractors, built for war use but never used, have just arrived here for the use of A.R.C. In addition to the tractors, 5 Dodge trucks were shipped here, one to be sent to each camp for local use. Everything is now in shape for the transportation of the supplies... A.R.C. horses also arrive from Anchorage...

1921—Gus Johnson is expected back to McCarthy on the next train and it is believed that the road work in this section will commence shortly.

1921— "McCarthy Creek ran the highest for several years last Sunday... Returning from the Green Group by automobile, J. E. Barrett... two bridges washed out... three bridge abutments washed out... A crew of men with a team were put to work by Mr. Barrett to make temporary repairs, as no appropriation has ever been passed for these very necessary repairs on the only completed road in this section..." "We notice by the *Cordova Daily Times* that Col. Gotwals, in an interview to that publication, said that the road over Sourdough Hill was being rushed to completion and would be finished by August 1(1921)..."

1921—Green Group reports more mine development and road repairs this summer...

1921—We Need a Bridge is stated three times in this issue- *The McCarthy Weekly News*, July 30, 1921.

1921—Superintendent Dan Jones, of the Road Commission, ar-

rives... freight delays... work will begin immediately...

1921— Road Commission working on Sourdough Road for six weeks was disbanded for season... balance of appropriation to be spent drilling Nizina River to determine what type of bridge will be required... road completed to within 6,000 feet of river... Gus Johnson writes to the Territorial Road Board stating number of requests made for trails... White River being one...

1922—John Barrett repairs McCarthy Creek Road...

1922—Alaska Road Commission (ARC) announces permanent camp planned and commencement of work on Nizina Bridge next winter... announces bridge across the Kennicott to help ranchers at Long Lake for the future... start piers on Nizina this winter...

1922—A.R.C. opens office in McCarthy (Nizina Bridge Construction).

1922—A.R.C. reports bridge across the Nizina a large project... six concrete piers 181-182 feet apart & long approaches built of pilings... remainder of winter putting down pilings and preparing concrete... at present 17 man crew and 10 horses... larger crew in future—summer of 1924 should witness freight across the bridge...

1923—A.R.C. reports all the preliminary work done on Nizina Bridge in preparation for the concrete work... 250 tons freight to the bridge site...

1923—Greenbutte ships a carload of ore... transportation a problem...A.R.C. operations should eliminate problem shortly...

1923—A.R.C.- Water Washes Away Bridge Abutments—Nizina (preparatory falsework on the Nizina project).

1923— A. E. Trimm has contract to repair Mother Lode Trail... Green Butte ships more ore. Forest Fires threaten bridges on Mother Lode Trail.

"Are we at last brought to such humility and debase degradation, that we Americans can not be trusted with arms for our own defense?" — Patrick Henry, 1788

NPS Director Fran Mainella Announces Resignation

WASHINGTON – National Park Service Director Fran Mainella, the 16th NPS director, announced that, after nearly six years of service, she will leave her position to devote more time to her family.

In her resignation letter, Mainella wrote, "Thank you, Mr. President for allowing me to serve you and the American people as the Director of the National Park Service. Thank you for your support and confidence in my ability as the first woman to serve as Director."

"Now, in my sixth year as Director, it is time for me to pursue opportunities that will allow me more time to spend with my family, including my parents and in-laws who have been having health issues. Thus, with mixed emotions, I request that my resignation be effective on a mutually agreeable date that is beneficial to the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior."

Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne applauded her strong leadership of the National Park Service.

In a letter, Kempthorne wrote to her, "You wrote history in helping to create the Great Sand Dunes and Lewis and Clark National Parks. You led the effort to get 6,000 park improvement projects started or completed. You helped create the Natural Resource Challenge that has invested more than \$450 million to protect national parks. You tripled cyclic park maintenance funding."

"Perhaps your most important contribution, one that will endure long past your tenure as Director, is your effort to foster a culture of partnership within the National Park Service. Thanks to your leadership, today virtually every national

park works in partnership with state and local officials, local residents and friends groups."

"Prior to your leaving, I look forward to working with you in planning and celebrating the 90th anniversary of the National Park Service. You have said that our 'National Parks are the soul of America and a gift to the world.' I agree. The 90th anniversary should launch a campaign for the National Parks to remain as havens of enjoyment, learning, recreation, and personal renewal for the next 100 years."

"You can take deep satisfaction that 96% of visitors enjoy their time in national parks. On behalf of a grateful nation, the President and me, please accept our heartfelt thanks for the energy and enthusiasm you invested in your service as Director of the National Park Service. Congratulations on a job well done. From our discussions, this is a time when your family must take priority over the demands of public service. I honor your decision."

In her letter to the President, Mainella also thanked Mrs. Bush, who serves as honorary chair of the National Park Foundation and has "demonstrated her commitment to both national parks and to children. She is helping young people discover their national parks and teaching them how to protect and enjoy them."

Mainella garnered accolades for her leadership from NPS career employees as well as conservation leaders.

"Career National Park Service employees admire Fran's love for the national parks," said Steve Martin, NPS Deputy Director. "We respect her energy, enthusiasm and commitment to our mission. We respect the decision she has made and will miss her when she leaves."

"It was a great pleasure working with Fran Mainella during all of her nearly six-year period of service," said conservationist and businessman David Rockefeller. "Fran put the welcome mat out at national parks for millions of Americans. As former Citizen Chair of the National Park Foundation, I worked very closely and happily with her."

"Fran is famous for her commitment to creating partnerships and preserving the natural and cultural resources within the national parks. She has been a terrific leader of the National Park Service, and we Americans owe Director Mainella a debt of gratitude for all she has done," said Patrick Noonan, Chairman Emeritus of The Conservation Fund.

Mainella will continue to serve as Director through the planning and celebration of the 90th anniversary of the National Park Service and through the completion of the 2006 National Park Service Management Policies and other important projects.

Before becoming the 16th Director of the National Park Service in 2001, Mainella served 12 years as Director of Florida's Division of Recreation and Parks. During her tenure, Florida State Parks were voted the best in the nation, achieving the Gold Medal Award given jointly by the National Sporting Goods Association and the National Recreation and Park Association. Before assuming her State post, she was Executive Director of the Florida Recreation and Park Association, a statewide professional organization for those working in public and private park and recreation programs and facilities. Mainella has served terms as President of both the National Recreation and Park Association (1996-97) and the National Association of State Park Directors (1997-99).

"If you have 10,000 regulations, you destroy all respect for the law." —Sir Winston Churchill

The future of America's National Parks

Celebrating the 90th anniversary and looking forward to the Centennial and beyond

Yellowstone National Park, Wyo. — In a special message and a memorandum issued recently, President George W. Bush directed Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne to establish specific performance goals to help prepare the national parks for another century of conservation, preservation and enjoyment. In honor of the 90th Anniversary of the National Park Service (NPS), and with an eye on the upcoming centennial in 2016, President Bush called on the NPS to continue the cooperation necessary for the national parks to flourish for the next 100 years and beyond.

In addition, the President's special memorandum directed the Secretary to identify signature projects and programs that are consistent with these goals and that continue the NPS legacy of leveraging philanthropic, partnership, and government investments for the benefit of the national parks and their visitors.

Secretary Kempthorne shared the President's vision at Yellowstone National Park at the 90th Anniversary celebration and the opening of the new Canyon Visitor Education Center at the Park.

"At Yellowstone and Yosemite, Denali and Dinosaur, Grand Canyon and Grand Teton, Shiloh, Shenandoah and other parks, the National Park Service each year welcomes 270 million visitors as they discover America the beautiful, the historical, the cultural," Kempthorne said. "America's national parks were the first in the world to set aside large-scale landscapes."

Kempthorne continued, "National parks preserve majestic natural wonders. They keep watch over battlefields hallowed by red

badges of courage. They keep culture alive at sites dedicated to the performing arts, poetry and music. Parks offer recreation and discovery through spectacular backcountry hiking and climbing. They honor great leaders like Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Chief Joseph, John Muir, Eleanor Roosevelt and Martin Luther King, Jr. As havens of enjoyment, recreation, learning and personal renewal, national parks must endure."

In his message, the President wrote:

"Americans take great pride in our country's natural and historic treasures, and the National Park Service plays an important role in ensuring our rich heritage is preserved and enjoyed for generations to come."

The President continued, "I call on all Americans to help in these efforts and to enhance our parks as we get ready for the National Park Services' centennial celebration." He further encouraged the NPS to invite and receive suggestions from those who desire to preserve the scenic, cultural, historical, geological and recreational values of our national parks.

"We are calling this effort the National Park Centennial Challenge," said Kempthorne.

To implement the President's vision, Kempthorne has asked the Director of the National Park Service, Fran Mainella, to recommend outstanding candidates to lead the Centennial Challenge effort. The Secretary will select the candidate who has the most passion for the parks and for this new effort.

During the last five years under the leadership of President Bush,

the NPS has built a strong foundation of improving parks, with 6,000 park improvements completed or underway. The President requested that the NPS further improve national parks during the next decade leading up to the 2016 centennial celebration. He requested that in the development of performance goals, the NPS integrate the assessments of the past five years used in monitoring natural resources and improving the condition of park facilities.

At Yellowstone, the grand opening of the new facility marked the first major visitor center development in the park in three decades. Its state-of-the-art, interactive exhibits will help visitors learn about and understand the geology of Yellowstone and the "Supervolcano" which lies beneath.

Kempthorne described Yellowstone as a natural cathedral, a beautiful place but with fascinating geological and volcanic activity. He praised the new Canyon Visitor Education Center as one that, "...will enable visitors to research the largest and most violent volcanoes on earth, learn about geysers and hot springs and mud pots, and experience the incredible and diverse ecosystem this geology supports."

The exhibits will include a large, unique globe that rotates on a film of water showing the location of volcanic hot spots around the world, a room-sized, fiber optic and LED animated topographic relief map of the geologic history of park, and life-size dioramas of wildlife found in Hayden Valley.

The Center will serve more than 600,000 visitors a year. Some \$8.6 million of the \$10.5 million used to fund the project came from en-

trance fees collected from the 20 million people who visited the park between 1997 and 2005. That is about 43 cents a person.

More than \$1 million was donated by the Yellowstone Association. Other important contributors to the project include the Buffalo Bill His-

torical Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation and Canon U.S.A., Inc.

National Park Service Alaska Region Science Strategy Released

On July 25, 2006, National Park Service (NPS) Alaska Regional Director Marcia Blaszk announced the completion and release of the "Alaska Region Science Strategy: 2006 and Beyond." The NPS presents this science strategy to meet the intention of the 1998 National Parks Omnibus Management Act that set the course for implementing proactive scientific investigations. "Implementation of this strategy will help us to better understand and effectively respond to changes affecting Alaska's national parks over the next few decades and beyond," said Blaszk.

The strategy addresses the first of five regional priority focus areas recently identified by Alaska park managers, that being to protect the integrity of each park's natural and cultural resource values. The strategy was developed cooperatively with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and with support from the National Park Foundation. It synthesizes existing documents and input from NPS leadership and tech-

nical staff, partner agency staff, research scientists and other interested parties.

National parks provide the setting for many scientific and scholarly studies with broad benefit for society. Science is also essential for informed management of natural, cultural, subsistence and recreation resources, resource interpretation, and educational programs. The strategy identifies major challenges the NPS faces in Alaska, in terms of science, information needs and organizational structure. In the coming months natural and cultural resource leaders in Alaska's national parks and regional office will review the strategy to determine plans for implementation. "This strategy is a first for us, in that it crosses multiple scientific disciplines," said Regional Science Advisor Robert Winfree. "We are committed to using science to help identify and achieve goals for natural, cultural and subsistence resources as well as the visitor experience in parks."

The Alaska Region Science Strategy is organized in three parts.

Part I puts the strategy in context. Part II, the framework, details "ends" and "ways" of achieving its goals. Part III, the implementation plan, focuses on the strategic "means," to accomplish goals. This includes integrating existing assets, encouraging more science in parks, nurturing selected partnerships and using science more effectively. The Regional Science Strategy contains a number of rather specific suggestions to help accomplish these goals.

You can view a copy of the Alaska Region Science Strategy: 2006 and Beyond on-line at: <http://www.nps.gov/alaska/strategy.pdf>

Alaska has 17 national park areas and is home to two-thirds of the land in the entire National Park System. Alaska's parklands hold vast mountain ranges and a broad array of wildlife. They preserve America's history and offer visitors a variety of recreational activities. To learn more about Alaska's national parks visit: <http://www.nps.gov/alaska>



NPS goes solar

McCarthy—The National Park Service West Side Support Facility has a new solar system. The 7KW solar array is fed into an Absolyte GNB 2800AH @ 24V battery bank through 5 Outback 60A, 72V controllers.

The system cost \$72,000 and was installed by 9 students from the S. Dakota State University, led by Associate Professor Mike Ropp.

It will supply power during the summer months to contractors and NPS personnel who stay at the facility.

Joseph Hale & Tilaundia Buckingham Wedding

BY LEE ANN KREIG

On July 2, 2006, Joseph Faithful Hale and Tilaundia Love Buckingham were married at Lazy Mountain, Palmer, Alaska, in a romantic and stunning setting in the broad meadow behind their future home with the majestic Talkeetna Mountains as backdrop.

Family members were dressed in summery gingham of cornflower blue. The unmarried Hale and Buckingham children sat on the grass, boys on one side, girls on the other, and sang gospel songs as guests were seated on outdoor log benches. Nearly four hundred people gathered to share in this blessed event. As we sang together, our assembly so small compared to the grandeur surrounding us, magnificent clouds rolled out from behind the mountains to form a wedding canopy over us. How awesome a sight! What a privilege to be a witness to this!

The bride's father, Jim Buckingham, spoke to us about God's love, mercy, and grace and His special expression of it through marriage. He shared that Joseph and Lolly are committed to each other for life, knowing that their relationship is God's will and that He had put His love in each of their hearts for the other. To express their purpose to be clean and pure before God and man,

Joseph and Lolly chose to have no physical contact before marriage. To be above reproach, they invited chaperoning, a role



that delighted the Hale and Buckingham children.

As Jim completed his words, the children began to sing, "Peaceful Harbor" and we had our first sight of the bride and groom. Joseph entered from a distant stage left from one end of the meadow and Lolly from far to the right. They began walking towards each other while the children continued to sing, all of us sharing in the electricity of anticipation as they approached one another. Lolly was dressed in white crepe with a wreath of pale wild roses and mountain blue gentians in her hair. Joseph wore shirt matching the bride's gown, brown pants and vest, Stetson hat and boots and carried a sin-

gle flower. As they met, Joseph kissed the flower then handed it to Lolly ever so sweetly. Then Joseph dropped his hat and, as if on cue, the sun burst through the clouds we all gazed transfixed as they shared their first embrace. Wow!

Arm in arm, the couple approached Lolly's father and he counseled them on their roles and responsibilities as husband and wife. They solemnly exchanged vows, declaring their commitment to God as first above all, and Jim pronounced them man and wife.

The ceremony was followed by a covered dish buffet until the couple was ready to depart. At that time, Lolly & Joseph cut the wedding cake, a beautiful traditional three-tiered white cake with icing the same buttery white as Lolly's dress. Following cake, we were each handed a white or blue balloon and arranged ourselves in a giant circle in the meadow. Joseph and Lolly, both in cowboy hats, appeared in a pretty little carriage pulled by Reuben, a magnificent dappled grey Percheron stallion. As Joseph guided the horse and buggy around our circle, we let our balloons fly up and away. As we watched the balloons sailing until they were out of sight, Joseph and Lolly cantered off to their new home.

"Not until we have become humble and teachable, standing in awe of God's holiness and sovereignty...acknowledging our own littleness, distrusting our own thoughts, and willing to have our minds turned upside down, can divine wisdom become ours." —J. I. Packer

"The laws of man may bind him in chains or may put him to death, but they never can make him wise, virtuous, or happy." —John Quincy Adams

Bicycle race Kennecott event canceled for lack of permit

BY RICK KENYON

Aretic Bicycle Club's 21st Fat Tire Festival took place on August 5th & 6th. The main event, a Chitina to McCarthy race, was won by Brian Bonney with a time of 3:16.02.02. Second place winner Josh Yeaton was less than a second behind at 3:16.02.90!

Sheryl Loan was the fastest female with a time of 3:23.27, followed by Heather Best at 3:51.55.

In past years one of the fun events was a "chain-off" race down

the hill from Kennecott to McCarthy, but this year the NPS decided to require a Special Use Permit, or CUS, in order to use either the old Wagon Road or the Kennecott Subdivision roads. A CUS requires a \$200 administrative fee and proof of adequate insurance.

According to acting superintendent Will Tipton, the decision to prohibit the race unless a CUS was obtained was made by Chief Ranger Marshall Neeck.

"While the wagon road is clearly within our jurisdiction and would require a SUP, activities that occur on NPS lands within the Kennecott subdivision may or may not require an SUP," said Tipton. "This is a new issue for us and we are consulting with our lands specialists and our Regional Solicitor for further clarification."

Race organizer Reggie Parks did not return our requests for comments.

Kennecott Mines Support Facility Plan EA released for review

Kennecott—The National Park Service has released for public review an Environmental Assessment on the Kennecott Mines Support Facility Plan for the national historic landmark and McCarthy area in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

The public review period is August 10 through September 30, 2006. The NPS preferred alternative would implement a plan for protecting park resources and enhancing the park visitor experience in the Kennecott-McCarthy area.

The plan addresses mainly infrastructure for NPS personnel, but does include "visitor amenities"—a potential foot trail from the footbridge to Kennecott and welcome signs on the west side of the Kennecott River.

Areas of planning include NPS housing, construction materials storage, power generation, power distribution, sanitary sewer system, fire suppression, water storage, water treatment, water distribution, local transportation, and utilities.

The NPS held a public meeting on the EA on Thursday, August 31, 2006, at the Recreation Hall in Kennecott, Alaska. About a dozen local residents attended, and about a dozen NPS employees. The meeting was facilitated by Chris Beck and Thea Agnew.

Acting Superintendent Will Tipton said that although the Kennecott Support plan is a multi-million dollar proposal, it is not likely to be funded in the near future.

Several people asked about the forecast growth of the area that was taken into consideration in the EA.

Park Planner Vicki Snitzler said they had no data other than that from the McCarthy Road Roundtable project.

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. Copies will also be available at the mail shack in McCarthy, Alaska. 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 and comment on the EA 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 Vicki Snitzler, Park Planner, at 907-822-7206.

"A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banner openly. But the traitor moves amongst those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself. For the traitor appears not a traitor; he speaks in accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their arguments, he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He rots the soul of a nation, he works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city, he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to fear." —Marcus Tullius Cicero

The world around us

BY DON WELTY

As winter changes to spring, spring to summer and summer to fall, many of the creatures around us change. Through the remarkable process of metamorphosis, creatures like the butterfly change in ways that defy evolutionary explanation.

The mystery of the butterfly begins with a tiny egg, less than a millimeter in length laid on the underside of a leaf. A leaf that just happens to be the specific plant that the young caterpillar needs to feed on.

Inside the small nucleus of this tiny egg lies all the information for not only where, when and how to lay its eggs, but also for building and operating a caterpillar. That's not all. The information needed for developing the pupa and the operation and development of the butterfly, all at precisely the proper time and in the correct sequence, are contained in the tiny nucleus. All three stages—caterpillar, pupa and butterfly—have very different forms, functions, behaviors and exact timings.

Caterpillar's leaf-cutting jaws are developed along with intestinal digestive systems suited for a specific plant species. In comparison, the butterfly, without chewing jaws, is equipped with a proboscis, a specially-coiled feeding tube, and digestive and intestinal system enabling it to feed on nectar.

Precise amounts of protein-building substances combine in precise order and time, inside the egg, to form all the complex structures of the caterpillar. The body forms, pre-programmed to begin growing a new skin at precisely

the right time to allow the old skin to shed away as the caterpillar grows too large for the old one. Plant-chewing jaws and small eyes, along with all the infrastructure on how and when to use them. Smell and taste organs, tuned to a specific plant, are made, along with breastplates and short, stubby legs. The legs are equipped with soft, bristly feet that enable them to climb vertically up smooth surfaces like glass.

Complex breathing tubes are formed on its flanks that open and close, containing miniature dust-filtering sleeves.

As if all this is not enough to impress an observer, consider the next few tricks that this humble "bug" can do.

The caterpillar, at the proper time, spins a silk anchor fastened to a twig and sheds its skin one last time into a pupa. Inside this motionless, seemingly lifeless shell without head or legs, something amazing is happening. All the caterpillar's organs except the nervous system begin to dissolve into small groups of cells, then reorganize into very different organs. This "metamorphosis" is played out as a precisely, ingenious, programmed plan.

Without central direction and programmed goal, a random recombination of these million plus cells could never amount to anything viable or capable of survival. But, with the central programmed plan contained within the little nucleus, a beautiful awe-inspiring and very different creature is formed—a butterfly. Wow!

A new creature, beautiful in specific coloration, able to fly almost immediately (took me 2 months!), with new large, faceted compound eyes, retractable feed-

ing tube, and all the know-how to use them.

Equipped with long feelers acting as highly sensitive smelling organs, they are able to locate blossoms from remarkable distances. Their long, finely-jointed legs allow them to land and cling tightly to the blossoms in the wind.

To further realize the degree of organization involved in this transformation of a creeping caterpillar to a flying beauty, we can look to just another small part—the color pattern in its wings. These patterns are mosaic pictures made up of thousands of individual, colored dermal scales. One square millimeter of wing surface contains as many as 600 scales, arranged in straight lines and systematically overlapping like roof shingles. Not only this, but, each scale contains just the right amount and color of substance necessary for a specific species pattern. And, all of this is accomplished in a crowded, cramped compartment with the wings crumpled in the pupal case.

Oh, one other small detail that is worth mentioning. This plane/pilot combo is also capable of mating, then making many of these miracle eggs, that are laid on just the right leaf with a special glue holding them tight!

I encourage you to research these fascinating creatures in detail. I could write hundreds of pages on the detailed wonders of this often unappreciated insect.

One thing seems obvious, considering this extraordinary complex hierarchy of super programs. This marvelous creature was not put together by a "blind watchmaker" as many evolutionists claim.

This creature, I and thousands of scientists assert, has been designed by an awesome and intelligent designer. I hope that as you watch the beautiful butterfly this summer, you get a glimpse of the beauty and majesty of its creator.

In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and

the word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. John 1:1-5.

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Butterflies & Moths; David Carter, DK Publishers 1992.

McCarthy Road improvement project update

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy: —On July 27th approximately 16 folks gathered at the Blackburn Center for a town meeting called by Janet Brown, Engineering Manager for the Department of Transportation (DOT). The purpose of the meeting was to update McCarthy area residents of the status of the McCarthy Road Improvement Project.

On hand to address questions and provide up-to-date information, was Dave Miller and Tim Haah of Juneau and Mike Coffey and Janet Brown of Fairbanks, all of DOT.

Brown assured the attendees that in spite of nearly a dozen other projects on her desk, the McCarthy Road project was still a high priority. Progress on the environmental impact statement (EIS) is proceeding slowly. However, during the last year the following activities have taken place: 2005 visitor survey results have been

tabulated and compared to the survey done in 1995; archeological and historical consultation with tribal organizations and the National Park Service took place in May; a wetland delineation report was completed; a realignment at Mile 57 has been added; and alternatives have been refined.

The alternatives now read: No Build; 35 mph, 40 mph, 50 mph design speeds; or stay within the existing right-of-way. According to Brown each alternative has its own surface option.

Brown stated that every alternative except the “no build,” is looking at “total reconstruction, not just maintenance bandages” and that the EIS design is for a year-round road. One goal is to improve safety and chances of reaching one’s destination without flat tires in summer and getting stuck in winter. Improving maintainability of the roadway, providing a park-like driving experience, supporting the social and economic objectives of the surrounding communities and minimizing im-

pacts to the natural and human environment are other goals of the McCarthy Road improvement project.

At the present time, DOT is progressing towards completing support resource documents, preliminary engineering and realignments and developing criteria for evaluating the alternatives with agencies and the public.

With supporting resource documents and preliminary engineering a draft EIS will be written for public review. Although it had been set to be completed by fall of 2007, Brown commented that “it is not going to happen by then.” Expecting to be promoted, Brown informed us that there would be a new manager of the project but she would be its supervisor.

Any comments or questions can be directed to Janet Brown, Engineering Manager, State of Alaska, DOT/PF, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK. 99709. Phone: (907) 451-2276. Email: janet_brown@dot.state.ak.us

“[D]uring World War II, the Japanese...gave their psychological warfare script to their famous broadcaster 'Tokyo Rose' and every day she would broadcast this same message packaged in different ways, hoping it would have a negative impact on American GI's morale. What was that demoralizing message? It had three main points: 1. Your President is lying to you. 2. This war is illegal. 3. You cannot win the war.” —David Horowitz

“It is almost a miracle that modern teaching methods have not yet entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry.” —Albert Einstein

THE CHITINA LEADER

September 1914 October

OF GENERAL INTEREST

The members of the Cordova Rod and Gun Club donned their slickers this afternoon and participated in the launching of their new house raft, which was later towed to the Copper River flats. Everything is being made ready for the hunting season which opens on Tuesday next for the ducks have begun to fly and the mighty hunters have the correct eye for distances.

After enjoying an automobile ride from Chitina to Valdez Oscar Fish came over from the court headquarters on the steamer Northwestern yesterday. He will return on Thursday morning to Chitina, the metropolis of the interior, where he is one of the leading and progressive boosters.

Sept. 1

OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Bryson Brothers pack train of 30 horses are loading for return trip to Shushanna having arrived here four days ago. Andy Taylor's pack train of 25 head is due tomorrow. S. O. Breedman's big pack train leaves on the 10th of September with supplies for his Shushanna store.

The school at Chitina is again in running order, presided over by the new teacher, Miss Smith, daughter of P. F. Smith, of the Orr Stage Line, and who recently arrived from Seattle. After enrollment, it was found that 10 pupils would start with the school term, others expected later.

In a report made by the grand jury last month at the placer camp on the Kuskokwim, it was stated that Iditarod was the only incorporated town in Alaska that lived without taxation.

Sept. 8

Cordova, September 9

Len Gates, one of the party who made the original discoveries in the Chisana, died in that country on August 31. He had been afflicted with consumption and it finally got the bet-

ter of him. He was buried with appropriate ceremonies in the Chisana. Gates originally went there from Dawson. He was in Cordova last spring, as one of the litigants of the mining cases that were tried here before Judge Brown.

A special train went out this morning as far as Mile 67 returning this afternoon. It took out P. F. Hunt, the official photographer for the Alaska Engineering Commission who took some views of that section.

Sept. 15

OF GENERAL INFORMATION

M. Finkelstein will be a passenger on the morning train to Chitina, where he will arrange to start the sale of the goods in the Finkelstein & Sapiro store, as it is the intention to close out there as soon as possible. In order to do this some great bargains will be offered.

Summer S. Smith, mining inspector for Alaska returned on Saturday from a trip to the camps contiguous to the railroad. He went out as far as Kennecott and from McCarthy went over the Nizina to the Dan Creek and Chittitu districts. He reports that both Mr. Birch and Mr. Esterley are washing a lot of good paying dirt this season, and that their clean-ups will be exceptionally large. Coming back he went up the Kuskulana and inspected the various operations in copper mining in that district. The assessment work was being done on the property of the Great Northern Development Co. by John Amber, Ole Berg and other old timers.

Sept. 22

The first snow of the season fell at Chitina yesterday morning. It was light and did not last very long. There was also some snow farther out the line.

H. J. Watkins, Jr., was a passenger down from Kennecott yesterday. His multitudinous duties of postmaster,

express agent, railroad agent, mining company clerk, etc., will be assumed by his brother, while Henry goes outside and enjoys a few months leave of absence.

Cordova, September 28

Quite an excitement was caused at the athletic park yesterday afternoon shortly after 3 o'clock when Dr. Council, one of the players, was summoned to attend a man who had been shot. The unfortunate fellow had been found on the hillside in a clump of trees, his moans and cries having attracted the attention of passersby. They immediately gave the alarm and Charles Goodall and three others started after him with a stretcher and took him to the hospital. His name is Milt Angelo Velisaris, and he comes from Koumi, Greece, having been in this country three or four years. He charges that he had been shot and robbed by a companion, Toni Papas, as he was known when he recently worked at Juneau, or Toni Lithetakis, which was the name he gave while working at the Jumbo mine, at Kennecott. He is from Krita Island.

These two men left Kennecott a week or more ago, the injured man having \$600 and the other about \$300, with a gold watch and gun. They worked a few days at one of the railroad stations, reaching Cordova on Friday afternoon and later going to Smith's Lodging House. Here they met other Greeks, and to Chris George the injured man told his story this morning. He says that he and Toni had trouble once at Kennecott when Toni threatened to shoot him, but that the differences were fixed up and they afterwards became friends. On Saturday afternoon Toni suggested that they go out and practice target shooting. They went over on the hillside beyond the ball ground and after shooting awhile Toni finally struck him across the head with the gun and demanded his money.

They grappled and the gun went off shooting Velisaris in the hand. Then Toni fired another shot which took effect in his side and affected his spine. Toni rifled his pocket and grabbing the money started on a run across the hill.

It is believed that this occurred between 4 and 5 o'clock, and the wounded man lie there all night and until nearly 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon suffering intense pain. He thinks that Toni was under the impression that he had killed him and thought that the body would not be found for some months, and that in the meantime he would get away possibly going towards Fairbanks. The matter was reported by Deputy Marshal Brightwell to the authorities at Valdez and efforts are now being made to apprehend the man who committed the deed, who is but 23 years of age and who has only been in this country a year past and who cannot speak English.

Velisaris is only 22 years of age but is hardy and has a strong constitution, otherwise he might have died from the loss of blood and exhaustion during his exposure of nearly 24 hours.

Supt. Corser and General Agent Tracey returned last evening from a successful and pleasant hunting expedition to the interior. They went to Chitina where James Rockefeller joined them with a horse and buggy. They went out over the trail as far as Willow Creek and then on to Copper Center, hunting in the nearby woods. They found good game but poor roads.

The people of Chitina have a good view of an eruptive mountain these days. Mr. Wrangell has been throwing out lava for several days, at times a stream being seen that is 2,000 feet in height.

Within the past three days, four autos and trucks arrived at Chitina bringing passengers from the interior most of whom will come to Cordova on the train tomorrow. Bob Sheldon brought several, while the Kelly truck has seven passengers. Buck Hoyt started from Gulkana but his machine broke down and he was compelled to lay up for repairs at Copper Center.

Sept. 29

OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Toni Papas, the Turkish Greek who shot and robbed his partner Milt Angelo Velisaris, was arraigned this morning before U. S. Commissioner Adams and bound over to court. The charge was shooting with attempt to kill. By reason of failure to furnish \$5,000 bail bond, he remains in jail. At the hearing he admitted both the shooting and robbery, but contended that the shooting was done in self defense, claiming that Velisaris first shot at him twice. The arrest was made at Mile 27 yesterday morning about 8 o'clock. It appears that Tom Teets was first on the scene and found the man sleeping in a cabin. After he secured him, Russian Pete came along and both men had the prisoner under guard when Deputy Marshal Brightwell arrived on the motor car and brought the prisoner back to Cordova. The wounded man lies at the hospital in a precarious state, with but little hope for his recovery. In case of his death the prisoner would be remanded to jail, providing he should in the meantime be able to give bail, which is not likely. Papas had \$800 on his person. He contends that \$320 is his own money and that he took the rest, \$480, from Velisaris.

Tom Holland is making a tour to the westward and reports indicate that he is meeting with favor wherever he goes. A recent issue of the *Valdez Prospector* says:

"Tom Holland, the miner and prospector, who is running as the Democratic candidate for representative from the Third division, arrived in Valdez on the Admiral Watson and will remain here until the Northwestern goes to Seward. Mr. Holland is a pioneer of Chitina and located a homestead and townsite in opposition to the Guggenheims at the junction of the government road and the Guggenheim railroad. He spends much of his time in the hills and was prospecting at the time he received the nomination and knew nothing of it for ten days. Mr. Holland is well known in Valdez as he was a mail carrier here ten years ago and operated out of Valdez. He has many friends who have promised him support."

Oct 6.

MOTHER LODE MINE

James J. Godfrey, president of the Mother Lode Copper Mines Company accompanied by his wife, arrived on the steamer Alameda from Seattle, and left on the train this morning for Shushanna Junction, going from there to the company's mines. President Godfrey states that work will be continued through the winter with about 40 men, notwithstanding the effect of the European war on the copper market and the stringency of the money market. He further states that it is the intention to get out about 1,000 tons of copper ore and to sled it out to the railroad for shipment to the smelter. Before his departure for the interior President Godfrey said:

"Since arriving here I have received a telegram from Superintendent Parks, stating that our Pittsburg cross-cut has intersected the main vein, giving us 380-feet of vertical depth on the Mother Lode fissure. The uncovering of this new ore body not only proves the Mother Lode to be a great mine but it also proves the permanency of the chalcocite deposit of the Chitina watershed. It further affirmatively answers the question which has agitated mining engineers since the discovery of this camp, namely, will the phenomenally rich outcroppings of chalcocite or copper glance in this district continue at depth? The result of our recent work practically assures the future of the Copper River valley as the greatest high-grade copper producing section in the world."

Oct 20

Cordova, October 23

Parties returning this afternoon from the interior say that Delegate Wickersham held well attended meetings at Blackburn, McCarthy and Chitina. He left yesterday morning with Bob Sheldon in an automobile and expects to reach Fairbanks on Monday next.

Mrs. Lillian A. Damon, who has been at Blackburn for the past six months came into town this afternoon and will leave for Seattle on the steamer tomorrow.

The Food Lines

BY MARNIE GRAHAM

By this time each spring, snow machine riders have developed miniature networks of temporary trails across the Alaskan landscape, stretching miles and miles into vast, unpopulated environments.

Until recently, few people paid much attention.

Maybe some of our four-footed friends have.

Howard Golden, regional fur-bearer biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) South Central Region, has looked at the wolf population for years in the Nelchina area of the greater Copper River Basin, just east of Eureka. Wolves were collared and data started to come back showing that wolves were using snowmachine trails. Researchers began asking, to what extent are wolves using trails? When? Are wolves increasing their chances of finding moose or caribou by using trails? Are they saving energy by using trails?

These questions led to a cooperative study by Golden, ADF&G biologist Todd Rinaldi, and Dr. Katherine Parker, an associate professor with the University of Northern British Columbia. Their study, *Winter Movement Strategies of Wolves in Relation to Human Activity and Resource Abundance*, funded by BLM and ADF&G, is now in its second and final season. The study is looking at several factors that may affect predation of moose by wolves, with a specific look at human trail systems.

"Most Alaskans know that several passes by a snow machine can create a trail sturdy enough to hold humans," says Rinaldi, the lead researcher on the project. "This research asks whether these hard packed trails have any impacts on wolves, their distribution, or a wolf pack's ability to search for prey."

"Studies have found wolves to travel linearly along established routes in low vegetation areas and

along windswept ridges or frozen waterways to facilitate their ease of travel," Rinaldi explains. "We also know that wolves prefer to travel through shallow snow in single file, creating a hard-packed network of trails that conserves energy across the entire pack. As snow depth increases, wolves have been known to alter travel routes to find hard packed snow to increase travel efficiency."

This study established two areas for analyzing trails and wolf activity in order to look at wolf behavior where very little snow machine activity occurs as well as an area where varying degrees of human activity occur. Originally the two study areas extended north of the Glenn Highway all the way to the Susitna drainages in the Alphabet Hills. But, in response to state-sponsored same-day airborne predator management, the control area had to be moved south of the Glenn Highway. "We were losing too many collared wolves in Game Management Unit 13," remarks Rinaldi. "However, very little snow machine traffic occurs south of the highway, so it actually makes an excellent location to compare the difference in trails on these systems."

Snow machine trails were mapped and identified for their type of use. Counters are placed on some of the most prominent trails to determine the extent of use and to establish which trails receive high, medium or low amounts of traffic each year. This data is then mapped.

The alpha male and female wolves of packs within the study area are collared each season allowing their locations to be recorded every 15 minutes via global positioning system technology. This data helps identify wolf travel routes and patterns of use on routes such as time of day traveled, number of days on a particular route and also allows the detection of any seasonal or weekly patterns of use by wolves at a highly detailed resolution.

Predation events along these routes are mapped as well. In late spring, a blood sample is taken from each wolf to get a signature of what it has been eating. These results can be matched with predation events to develop a better understanding of the seasonal variations in wolves' diets.

Snow characteristics, such as depth, density and hardness, are recorded to determine what may factor into a wolf's ability to move across unpacked snow or its decision to use a trail. Hardness on trails is compared to the hardness of off-trail snow.

All data is layered on top to see if any correlations exist. These data sets could help identify some important behavioral patterns of wolves that biologists can utilize in future research and in making management decisions.

"Subsequent research is needed to further determine the complex relationships at play between human activity and the predator/prey relationship between wolves and moose," cautions Rinaldi. "Presently we are looking at how moose fit in, but not how moose are using trails. Use of trails by moose, particularly in late winter when they tend to be most physically stressed, should be researched."

"Moose may be using trails more to escape predators or they may be avoiding trails to escape both predators and human activity," Rinaldi hypothesizes. "If moose avoid trails in deep snow years, this could benefit wolves. Deep snow precludes moose movement, but deep snow usually acts as an aid for wolves when capturing moose for prey."

The U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with ADF&G, will formally begin a similar study on the northern Kenai Peninsula within the Chugach National Forest next fall.

Reprinted from BLM Frontiers Alaska Winter 2006.

***A Land Gone Lonesome* by Dan O'Neill**

A Land Gone Lonesome, by Alaskan author Dan O'Neill, is a timely read as we consider the second draft of the National Park Service access manual and the future of residents and private landowners within all of Alaska's federal lands, including Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

O'Neill writes of his canoe journey from Dawson to Circle via the Yukon River, chronicling the experiences of its inhabitants, the river people, who are a living archive of North American pioneer values.

Congress mandated that subsistence lifestyles along the Yukon be protected and even encouraged. However, O'Neill records, the complicated regulations adopted by the National Park Service have all but eliminated such lifestyles in the Yukon Charley National Preserve. That, he maintains — and documents through interviews with past

and present Park Service employees — was the objective all along. "The Park Service has a 'no subsistence' attitude," remarked one of the Park Service's chief planners in Alaska.

Some of the Park Service employees predict the same thing will happen in Alaska as in parks in the Lower 48, that after all of the people have been driven out, actors will be brought in to entertain the park visitors. "The day is not so distant, when all the river people will be gone from the river and the Park Service will put GS-5 summer hires in their cabins. They'll be drama majors from colleges in the States. They'll wear red flannel shirts and spit snoose. They'll hang a few fish so the floaters can see people living the old-time way. And come the first frost, they'll head back to school."

O'Neill poignantly concludes, "These stories of the river people are their own kind of argument.

They suggest that it is a thing of value when frontiersmen-women are living out in the country — of value to the people themselves, as they grow in courage and competence; of value to the land, as their deep local knowledge informs our stewardship; of value to our culture, as their residency conserves nearly extinct pioneering ideals. For now, the land is lonesome by decree, artificially empty as if, to enshrine the trees, we banished the birds."

O'Neill's book should be required reading for both those being overburdened with bureaucratic processes and artificial impediments to their access guaranteed under ANILCA and subsistence lifestyles, and those trying to implement them. Perhaps learning from the mistakes of the past, we can as yet save Alaska's most endangered species — its wilderness people.

McCarthy Area Council update

McCarthy: —On June 30th McCarthy Area Council (MAC) held a meeting at the Blackburn Center. There were 17 in attendance.

A treasurer's report was presented with a reminder to the membership that annual fees were due September 1st.

According to Jeremy Keller, president, MAC intends to provide a forum for discussion about potential projects that benefit the community. If a project team needs assistance, the group is available as a forum and will aid in any way appropriate. Possible projects include: McCarthy zip code and contract postal station, a transfer station, and an educational day about what is involved in becoming a second-class city.

The most recent MAC meeting was held on August 18th. Approximately 23 were in attendance. An update on the McCarthy Creek tram project was given by Jeremy. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has agreed to take on ownership of the tram project that was begun 6 years ago by Bob Cook and Fred Dure. The funds for the project have been released and DOT expects to send engineers this fall so that a design and estimate of total cost can be finished by next spring. DOT is also going to work out any and all access issues between the museum and the point at which the tram would land on the south side of McCarthy Creek. At that point, DOT will submit their findings to a new community group created to take on the responsibility of raising additional funding necessary and for ac-

cepting ownership and maintenance of the tram once it is built.

A draft MAC letter commenting on the National Park Service User's Guide to Access (Draft #2) was the primary agenda item. A lengthy discussion and helpful input from various members helped tweak the wording of the letter and brought it to nearer to finalization.

The annual meeting is scheduled for Friday noon, September 29th at the Blackburn Center (Tony Zak's place). On the agenda will be a vote for board members and officers. Possible guests from DOT and the regional office of the National Park Service may be on hand to address the membership. All are welcome to attend.

For further information and updates, please call Jeremy Keller at 907-554-4407.

Mary A. Bomar nominated Director of NPS

WASHINGTON –Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne praised President Bush's nomination of Mary A. Bomar to be Director of the National Park Service. Her nomination is subject to confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

Upon confirmation, Bomar would replace Fran Mainella, who announced in July that she will soon be resigning as National Park Service Director.

Since July 2005, Bomar, a career National Park Service employee, has served as director of the NPS Northeast Region, which covers 13 states.

"I greatly admire the passion that Mary brings to her work in the

Northeast Region," Kempthorne said.

From 2003 to 2005, she served as superintendent of Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. During her tenure, both the Liberty Bell Center and the National Constitution Center opened in the park on Independence Mall as part of the largest urban revitalization project in the nation. Also during her tenure, the NPS reopened the park's Second Bank of the United States after a two-year utilities project and installed a new exhibit, "The People of Independence." Concurrently, the park managed a \$5.2 million rehabilitation of Independence Square, the site of Independence Hall. Spurred by the new construction, park visitation surged by 35 percent.

Previously, Bomar served as the first superintendent at the Oklahoma City National Memorial, the first NPS Oklahoma State Coordinator, acting superintendent at Rocky Mountain National Park and assistant superintendent at the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

Bomar's National Park Service career began in the financial arena at Amistad National Recreation Area in Texas where she served as chief of administration.

Prior to joining the National Park Service, Bomar worked in a managerial capacity at the Department of Defense.

Raised in Leicester, England, Bomar became a U.S. citizen in 1977.

Subsistence hunting permits for WRST available

Federal subsistence registration permits for permit hunts in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve are available at the park's Visitor Center in Copper Center and at the Slana Ranger Station. The Visitor Center is open seven days a week during the summer from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; the Slana Ranger Station is open seven days a week through September, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the McCarthy-Kennecott area, contact the Kennecott Ranger Office at 554-4437 for permit information.

Congress calls

(continued from page 8)

maintaining in Alaska's national parks. Many of these are in critical locations for both natural and cultural resources and it would be in the best interest of the Park Service to secure them, if possible. Many in-holdings in Alaska's parks are available from willing sellers.... One example of a national park in Alaska

Please bring your State of Alaska resident hunting license, a photo ID (such as driver's license), and proof of local address (for your physical address) when you come to get a permit.

Permit applicants must be federally qualified subsistence users and meet special eligibility requirements for lands managed by the National Park Service. They must have their primary permanent residence in rural Alaska, and their community must be listed in the

in need of significant LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) funding is Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve... Nearly \$5 million in LWCF appropriations have been secured over the last three years (\$2.5 million in Fiscal Year 2004, \$1.5 million in Fiscal Year 2005, and \$750,000 in Fiscal Year 2006) toward the acquisition of in-holdings at Wrangell to provide for increased public access and protec-

"Species/Customary & Traditional Use Determination" column of the Federal Subsistence Management Regulations Booklet for Wildlife for the intended species and location. Individuals wanting to hunt on National Park lands (as opposed to in the National Preserve) must additionally have their primary residence in one of the park's 23 resident zone communities.

For more information, contact the park headquarters at (907) 822-5234.

tion of lands. However, future funding needs are estimated at \$175 million to acquire over 730,000 acres within the boundary of Wrangell-St. Elias. (Editors note: There are only 720,000 acres of non-federal land within the boundaries of the park)

Testimonies in full can be found at the following web site: <http://kreig.net/ProBono/ROW/ComGvtReform060814.htm>

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PUBLIC NOTICE

University of Alaska Land Disposal

All Competitive Land Sale Offers must be received at the address below, by no later than **5:00 P.M., October 25, 2006.**

COMPETITIVE LAND SALES

NORTHERN REGION

- ☐ Peregrine III & IV Subd. (Fairbanks: 3 mi. Chena Ridge Rd.)
- ☐ Riverhaven - Phase 2 (North Pole: Little Chena River, Nondale Rd.)
- ☐ Windy Hills Alaska Subd. (Nenana: 30 mi. S of Nenana/Rexana Rd.)

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

- ☐ Arbor Estates Subd. (Downtown Palmer: Residential)
- ☐ Aspen Acres Subd. (Copper Center: at C.C. #2 Airstrip)
- ☐ Cham Gulch (Cham Gulch: 123.7 mi. Sterling Hwy.)
- ☐ Damon Plaza Subd. Nv. 2 (Soldotna: Kalifornsky Beach Rd.)

SOUTHEAST REGION

- ☐ Blacktail Estates Subd. (Coffman Cove: Prince of Wales Island)
- ☐ Petersburg House (Petersburg: 8.5 mi. Mirkof Hwy.)
- ☐ Spruce Point Subd. (Petersburg: 8.5 mi. Mirkof Hwy.)

COMMERCIAL & MINERAL LEASES

- ☐ Badger Road (North Pole: 9.5 mi. Badger Rd.)
- ☐ Chumika (Mineral) (Fairbanks: 45 mi. NE of Fairbanks)
- ☐ Copper Center (Copper Center: Next to NPS Visitor Center)
- ☐ Geist Road (Fairbanks: Lathrop Street, Geist Rd.)
- ☐ McCarthy (McCarthy: Kennicott Rd.)
- ☐ Twin Buttes (Mineral) (Fairbanks: 40 mi. NE of Fairbanks)

MATERIAL SALES

- ☐ Broad Pass (Nenana: MP 305-309 Parks Hwy.)
- ☐ Port MacKenzie (Wasilla: Knik Goose Bay Rd.)
- ☐ Tanana River (North Pole: Bethany Street)

OVER-THE-COUNTER LAND SALES

NORTHERN REGION

- ☐ Aurora Subd. (Fairbanks: Bridgewater Drive)
- ☐ Little Nenana River (Nenana: 3 mi. S of Nenana)
- ☐ Martin (Fairbanks: 6.5 mi. Murphy Dome Rd.)
- ☐ Quona Subd. (Nenana: 30 mi. S of Nenana/Parks Hwy.)
- ☐ South Ferry Subd. (Healy: 10 mi. N of Healy)
- ☐ Wood River (Fairbanks: 40 mi. SW of Fairbanks)

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

- ☐ Kalgin Island Estates (Kenai: N end of Kalgin Island)
- ☐ Kaslof (Kaslof: Crooked Creek Rd.)
- ☐ Mariners Walk Subd. (Homer: Bear Cove, Kachemak Bay)
- ☐ McCarthy Creek Subd. (McCarthy: Kennicott Rd.)
- ☐ Silver Springs Terrace Subd. (Copper Center: Old Richardson Hwy.)
- ☐ Snake Lake (Bristol Bay: 20 mi. NW of Dillingham)

SOUTHEAST REGION

- ☐ Crystal Mountain View Subd. (Petersburg: Wrangell Narrows West)

COMMENTS

All comments regarding Competitive Land Sales, Commercial & Mineral Leases, and Material Sales must be received in writing, at the address below, by no later than **5:00 P.M., October 2, 2006.**

All comments regarding Over-the-Counter Land Sales must be received in writing, at the address below, prior to the acceptance of an offer.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.ualand.com> or check boxes above and return this form, including your name and address, to the address listed below.

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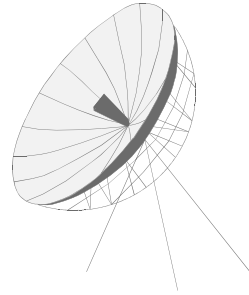
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(Cooking continued from page 33)

The recipe Laurie and Hannah want to share is one that as soon as you mention it to friends and neighbors, everyone tells you how wonderful it is. The Rowland favorite way of eating it is hot out of the oven with a scoop of freshly-cracked ice cream on top!

Rhubarb Crunch

(or "Rebar Crunch" according to the boys)

Mix until crumbly:

- 1 ½ cup flour
- 1 ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 ½ cup oats
- ¾ cup melted butter
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Press half the crumbs into a 9" x 13" pan. Cover with 5 cups rhubarb (chopped). Combine in saucepan:

- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Cook until thick and clear. Pour evenly over rhubarb. Top with remaining crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 min., or until "rebar" is tender.

Please watch for more McCarthy recipes next issue. We'll have another from Nancy Rowland, one from my granddaughter, Anna Wallin, and if there's room, one for Halibut cakes that Jim and I love. Happy fall, everyone.

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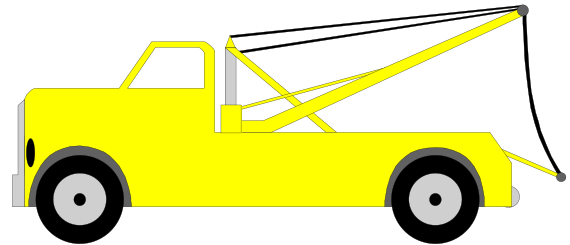
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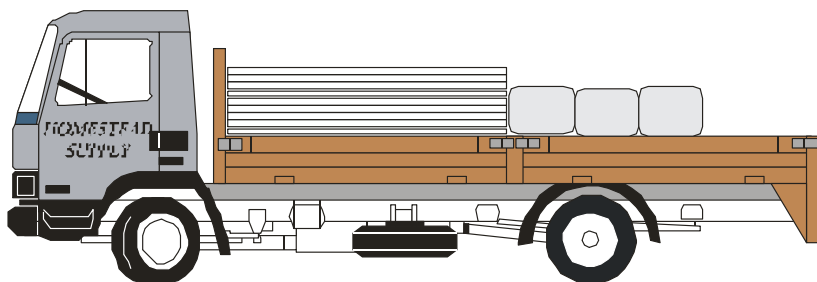
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WSEN rate increase announced

Long-time *Wrangell St. Elias News* readers will remember that the cover price, as well as the cost of a subscription, has remained unchanged over a number of years. (Did you know that *WSEN* is now the longest-running newspaper in the history of the McCarthy area?)

Alas, rising costs of ink, toner, postage and paper have passed our ability to continue to absorb them.

The cover price, starting this issue, has risen half-a-buck to \$2.50. One year subscriptions rose three dollars from \$11 to \$14. For the budget minded, we will offer a two-year subscription for \$25, which saves the subscriber three dollars and saves us added billing expense.

Canadian subscribers will pay \$16 per year or \$28 if they sign up for two years.

Other countries require considerably more postage. One year of *WSEN* for them is now \$23.

WSEN advertisers will notice their next billing will reflect a small increase in advertising rates.

Bonnie and I appreciate your past and continued support. Let us know how we are doing and what improvements you would like to see in future issues!

2006 Cutest Pet Photo Contest

PRESS RELEASE—INTERNATIONAL PET OWNERS CLUB

The International Pet Owners Club is proud to announce that over \$10,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded in the 2006 Fall Cutest Pet Photo Contest.

Pet owners from southcentral Alaska are welcome to win their share of the prizes. The deadline for the contest is October 15th. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free. Dogs, cats, rabbits, etc...are welcome.

"Every pet owner has at least one photo that shows just how cute their pet is," stated Rosa Bonheur, contest chairman. "When people learn about the contest, they get excited about the chance at winning and the potential for national attention," continued Bonheur.

To enter, send one photograph (full color or black and white) size 8" X 10" or smaller. All photo entries must include the photographer's name and address on the back. Photographs should be sent to: 2006 Fall Photo Contest, c/o The International Pet Owners

Club, P.O. Box 1908, Pittsburg, KS 66762. Entries must be postmarked by October 15, 2006. You may also submit your photo directly online at: www.cutestpetcontest.com

The International Pet Owners Club is an organization dedicated to bringing pet owners from around the world together for fun and fellowship. Membership in the club is not necessary to participate. To receive a free copy of the club newsletter via postal mail visit www.IntPetClub.com or send us a letter by mail.

Donoho area closed to camping

McCarthy—Several recent bear-human incidents below Donoho Peak, near the confluence of the Kennicott and Root Glaciers, have led Wrangell-St. Elias to close the area to camping. The strip of land between the Root and Kennicott Glaciers holds two sparkling lakes, and is a popular destination for climbers of Donoho Peak.

In the first incident, a group of campers lost a 2-pound block of cheese to a black bear. Later, another group lost food including string cheese stored in a Kevlar bear-resistant-food-container (BRFC) to the same bear. In a third instance, a camper left food at the entrance to his tent, and after a face-to-face moment, the bear left with a granola bar; this group of 15 people attempted unsuccessfully to

haze the bear out of camp. The one success was a group of hikers who thwarted the bear's attempts to get at their food as they lunched in the area. In the face of the repeated food rewards and increasing boldness of the bear, the area is closed to camping for the remainder of the season, with the hope that the bears will return to their normal wild foraging habits.

"The world is a dangerous place to live—not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it." —Albert Einstein

"Nothing is more destructive of respect for the government and the law of the land than passing laws which cannot be enforced." —Albert Einstein

Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Hi again all you Food Lovers! Here I am in McCarthy and as I promised, I have some great recipes from some of the folks here.

First, I'm sure you've heard about our wonderful new McCarthy Mercantile which is owned and operated by Peggy and Kurt Smith and 13- year old daughter, Kelsey. They became full-time residents of the McCarthy area about five years ago when they moved here from North Pole, Alaska. It is so wonderful to be able to run into town, go to the Mercantile and pick up some homemade bread, fresh tomatoes and other groceries, then sit on the porch with the coffee drinkers while I'm eating a large double-scoop ice cream cone! Both Peggy and Kelsey contributed a recipe for us this time. Enjoy! From Peggy:

Salmon Bread

Bread Dough:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons yeast
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 1/4 cup water

Filling:

- 2 cups smoked salmon, drained and flaked
- 1(8- oz.) pkg. of cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup pepper jack cheese
- 1/2 cup chopped dill pickles
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 cup chopped green olives
- 1 beaten egg (for outside of loaf)

Mix the dry ingredients for dough together, using all but 1 cup of all-purpose flour. Heat water and oil to 125-130 degrees, and then mix thoroughly into the dry ingredients. Add the remaining flour to

make soft dough and knead for 5 minutes.

Mix all filling ingredients together in a bowl.

Grease a large baking sheet and roll dough out approximately 12 x 14 inches. Put filling mixture down the lengthwise center of the dough. Bring the opposite sides together on top of the filling and pinch the dough firmly to close the edges. Roll loaf over onto pan, so that the pinched edge is on the bottom.

Let the dough rise about 20 to 30 minutes.

Brush the dough with the beaten egg and bake at 375 degrees for 35-40 minutes. Slice like bread and serve while warm. Makes 1 loaf.

Kelsey's Pumpkin Custard sounds wonderful. If it's even half as good as her Kranana jam I bought at the McCarthy Farmer's Market, we'll all put it on our "must have" list. I asked Kelsey what her favorite things to do are and she replied, "Sled-dog mushing, skiing, and reading." A girl after my own heart—the reading part! Here is her custard recipe:

Beat the following ingredients together until smooth:

- 1 29- oz. can of pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 12- oz. cans of evaporated milk
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 4 large eggs
- 1 1/2 cups of sugar
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon

Pour into a lightly sprayed pan (7x9). Put this pan into an 8 x13 pan filled about 1/2 full of warm water. Bake at 425 degrees for 10 min. Reduce to 350 degrees for approximately 45 min. more, or until a knife comes out clean. The center will set up as it cools. Remove from pan of water; cool on wire rack. Serve warm or cold.

As many of you know, Natalie and Kelly Bay, along with their 13-year old daughter, Tessa, own and operate Wrangell Mountain Air — one of the two flightseeing companies in McCarthy. The Bays have lived and worked in McCarthy for more than 20 years. When the summer rush ends and they have some free time, Kelly and Natalie like to spend it skiing, flying and reading and Tessa, skiing, skijoring and reading. Is the word skijoring unfamiliar to you? It's cross-country skiing behind one or more dogs. Tessa has submitted two recipes that are family favorites. Hope you like them, too.

Pesto

- 3 cups fresh basil
- 2 large cloves of garlic
- 1/2 cup pine nuts, walnuts or almonds
- 3/4 cup of chopped parsley
- 3/4 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- Generous pinch of salt

Combine all ingredients into a food processor or blender - mix into a thick paste. Serve on pasta or crackers.

Lemon Squares

- 1 cup soft butter
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups un-sifted white flour
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- Grated rind of 1 lemon
- 6 tablespoons lemon juice

Cream the butter, the powdered sugar, and the vanilla in a medium size bowl until fluffy. Mix in flour until well-blended. Spread evenly in a well buttered 13" x 9" baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. In another bowl combine eggs, granulated sugar, lemon rind and lemon juice. Pour egg mixture over baked layer. Bake 16-22 minutes, or

until top is set and lightly browned. While warm, sprinkle with powdered sugar. Cut into squares and serve.

NOTE: Both Kelsey and Tessa received winning ribbons this summer at the county fair for their entries of different kinds of jam.

Next from the Rowland family. First, Nancy. She and her husband Ken have been part-time residents of McCarthy since the late 70s. Nancy is not only a wonderful cook but a beautifully talented quilter. Many of her Alaskan quilting projects are for sale up in Terry and Dee's gift shop in Kennicott and many, having already been purchased, are gracing homes somewhere in the world. I would like to share several of Nancy's recipes with you over the next several issues. This time I'd like to give you one for a cake I baked last

night for a company dessert and also ate with coffee this morning. It's delicious and her grandchildren love it.

Rhubarb Cake

1/2 cup shortening
1 1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon soda in 1 cup sour milk
2 cups plus 1 tablespoon flour
3 cups rhubarb, cut fine
1/4 cup colored candy sprinkle —
non pareil type rather than the
colored sugar

Cream shortening, add sugar and mix well. Add salt and beat in egg. Add soda and milk mixture and the flour alternately. Stir in candy sprinkles and rhubarb and pour into 9" x 13" metal cake pan. Mix topping ingredients and sprinkle over cake batter. Bake 45 min. at 350 degrees.

Topping:

1/3 cup sugar
1/3 cup nuts
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Next is one from her daughter-in-law Laurie and her granddaughter Hannah. Laurie, her husband, Keith, and their five children are permanent residents of McCarthy. As well as helping Keith with their business, Rowcon Services, Laurie homeschools the children, hunts and traps with the family and in her "spare time" plays her piano that Keith had carefully delivered several years ago. Her daughter Hannah is ten years old and you will either find her riding the 4-wheelers with her brothers, skiing, reading, or knitting and sewing. This winter Hannah had misplaced her knitting needles and used pens instead. Now that's resourceful!

(Continued on page 28)

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

So far the summer of 2006 has been good, weather-wise, with June and July temperatures about average and precipitation above average. The high temperature for June was 81 on the 14th (82 on June 17, '05 and 89 on June 19, '04). The low was 29 on June 5th, 8th and 24th (27 on June 2, '05 and 29 on June 3, '04). The average temperature for June was 53.2. This compares to 55.2 in June 2005 and 57.7 in June 2004. There was only 1 day with a high of 80 or above and 3 days with a low of 32 or lower. The total precipitation was 2.14 inches (1.49 inches in June 2005 and 0.62 inches in June 2004). Silver Lake had a high of 78 on June 15th (83 on June 18, '05 and 88 on June 20, '04) and a low of 30 on June 7th (31 on June 2, '05 and 30 on June 3, '04). The average June temperature at Silver Lake was 53.1 (56.1 in 2005 and 57.5 in 2004) and the total precipitation was 1.00 inches (0.78 inches in 2005 and 0.30 inches in 2004).

July was warm, with less than average precipitation. The high for July was 80 on the 6th (80 on July 15, '05 and 82 on July 16, '04). The low was 35 on July 17th (35 on July 22, '05 and 32 on July 26, '04). The July average temperature was 57.1, compared to 56.1 in 2005 and 58.3 in 2004. There was only 1 day with a high of 80 or above and 1 day with a low of 35 or lower. The total July precipitation was 1.21 inches (5.34 inches in 2005 and 1.65 inches in 2004). Silver Lake recorded a high of 80 on the 13th (76 on July 16, '05 and 83 on July 13, '04) and a low of 38 on the 25th (42 on July 24, '05 and 40 on July 26 '04). The average July temperature at Silver Lake was 57.0, compared to 56.9 in 2005 and 59.3 in 2004. The total precipitation recorded at Silver Lake for July was 1.35 inches (3.88 inches in 2005 and 1.76 inches in 2004).

Hidden Creek Lake began releasing its water on July 4th (June 19, '05, July 10, '04, July 3, '03, Aug 2, '02, July 2, '01 and July 26, '00). The water in the Kennicott River began to rise during the morning

of July 4th and crested at 10:00 pm on July 5th. The crest was 31.50 ft. The increase was 6.85 feet in 41 hours. The crest was the highest since 1997 crest of 31.25 ft. There was only minor flooding, but major bank erosion. The river was back to its normal level by the morning of July 8th, but remained around 5 feet lower than before the flood because of 26 feet for the rest of June.

The first week of August saw cool and wet weather with more than 2 inches of rain. The second week was sunny and hot with highs in the low to mid 80s. Then the smoke from the wild fires to the North moved into the area. It's about time to think about covering the plants in the garden. The first frost usually occurs in mid August and lows below 32 are not far behind.

Freezing temperatures will begin to appear by early September and the first snow should arrive by the end of September. Summer is just about over and winter around the next corner.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

BY PAULA EASLEY

Environmental groups are suing to stop recreational ATV use on the few trails in Wrangell-St. Elias where it is currently allowed. They are suing to block the long-awaited access road from Juneau. Farther north, they're suing to prohibit leasing certain prospective lands in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska which, along with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain, was specifically set aside for its petroleum potential.

Come to think of it, there's hardly an activity anywhere off the beaten track these groups haven't sued to stop. One might wonder, "how they can afford the attorneys to file all these lawsuits?"

Wonder no more. We the people bankroll them through the "citizen suit" provisions of major federal environmental laws. The environment doesn't even have to be endangered. Earthjustice recently deposited a check for \$625,600, courtesy of taxpayers, on grounds that a federal agency failed to consult with two others under Endangered Species Act regulations. The settlement was chicken feed. In 1999 alone Earthjustice collected nearly \$3 million for similar efforts.

Between 1995 and 2002, under the Clean Water Act, 1,371 citizen suits were filed. In a study released last month, author Bruce L. Benson concluded financial reward just might be the primary motivation.¹

"Bounty hunters" he wrote, "no longer hound innocent people to death as some did in England in the

mid-18th century, but environmental groups such as the Natural Resources Defense Council have modified the tactic. They use 'citizen suits' to reap rich rewards for themselves with little positive impact on the environment."

Professor Benson documented 4,438 notices of intent to sue during the study period under four federal environmental statutes, 6.6 times more than federal court decisions in citizen suits. Most are settled out of court. Small wonder the citizen-suit provisions have been called "the engine that propels the field of environmental law."

Prosecutions are easiest under the CWA and Resource Conservation Recovery Act because the laws require regulated entities to keep detailed records of their activities. Earthjustice or another group's clerk scouts the government reports for some technical violation and when he finds it, the "gotcha" letter goes out. If you, the "violatee," faced penalties of up to \$25,000 a day for even a trivial error, you too would settle to avoid the litigation nightmare.

Under both the CWA and RCRA, plaintiffs can craft settlements that compensate them well above actual costs and even get money for "supplemental environmental projects," Benson said. Interestingly, very few lawsuits were filed under the Clean Air Act during the period (143), which makes one think environmental groups don't care as much about clean air as they do clean water. The truth is the Clean Air Act doesn't require the detailed

reporting and doesn't mandate the huge fines.

The Fish and Wildlife Service testified before Congress some time ago that two-thirds of its budget for saving species was spent defending itself against lawsuits. It bemoaned the relentless litigation over listings and critical habitat designations. The primary thorn in its side, the Center for Biological Diversity, brags about suing the agency at least weekly, with a 95 percent success rate. When lawsuits keep biologists buried, they can't possibly meet regulatory deadlines.

Most would agree nuisance lawsuits damage legitimate environmental advocacy, but that hasn't slowed the onslaught. How sad that these unfair provisions, meant to help citizens hold companies' and governments' feet to the fire, have largely become obstruction tools that hurt everyone. Yet the groups clogging the legal system bear no responsibility for the consequences of their actions.

Unless influential people and organizations press Congress to change the rules, numerous projects critical to Alaska's—and America's—future will continue to suffer.

¹*Unnatural Bounty: Distorting the Incentives of Major Environmental Groups*; see at www.perc.org

Paula Easley, an Anchorage public policy consultant, serves on the board of the Resource Development Council. Her e-mail address is paulaeasley@yahoo.com.

"[M]ore people are kept from faith by the idea that the Bible was written by an ignorant lot yet to benefit from the advances of science. The accusation that the Bible represents backward thinking is, in reality, an example of backward thinking. The God-inspired writers of the Bible have always been well ahead of the scientists—a scenario that hasn't changed from the days of Moses to the days of Darwin, or even now in the 21st century." —Mike Adams

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

My wife, Robin (sister of Laurie Rowland) and I came to McCarthy recently to visit McCarthy Kennicott Community Church and see family. I want the McCarthy community to know how wonderful we think this church and the Rowlands are for the fantastic reception we received. They made us feel so welcome (it was my first time meeting the folks at the church); we were treated very hospitably in every way. Your community church really understands how to make people feel valued; to someone new to McCarthy, it felt to me like the

sort of place anyone could come and find a sincere welcome.

We've been serving as missionaries in Siberia, Russia for some years now, so when the Rowlands learned we wanted to come visit, Laurie made sure we were introduced to Albina, the Russian gal who's been working in McCarthy all summer. Albina has been coming to the church and was so happy to finally be able to speak to someone in her own language. I know the people in the church were really pleased to finally hear her story, too!

The church supports our work and on top of everything gave us a huge gift

to help us remember our time in McCarthy-a flight seeing trip with Wrangell Mountain Air! Martin was our pilot and did a super job making sure we had a memorable experience. The mountains and glaciers around McCarthy are just incredible, a silent testimony to the majesty of God's creativity. You are truly blessed to live among such beauty!

Robin and I want McCarthy to know how grateful we are for your community's loving church and for the friendliness of everyone we met. Please pass along our appreciation for making our time in McCarthy so refreshing!

Bill and Robin Harris

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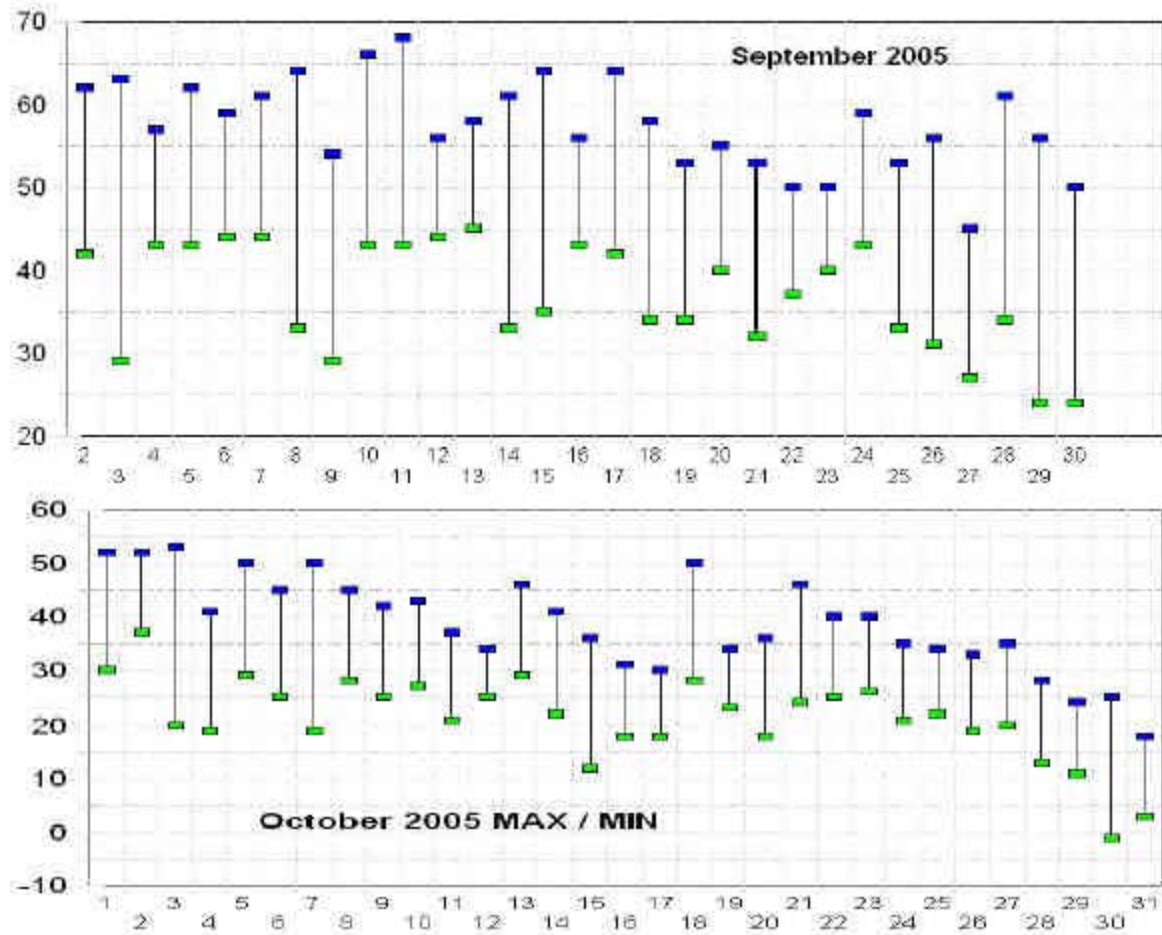
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