

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Eighteen Issue Five

September & October 2009

\$2.50

The Chakina Fire

As we go to press the end of August, the Chakina Fire has been burning nearly two months. Started by lightning on July 2nd, the fire grew to over 50,000 acres before the consistent, persistent rains pretty much put a damper on it.

In this issue of WSEN we present you with three fire stories—all from different points of view.

Tina Boehle, the Fire Communication & Education Specialist for the NPS tells why the Park Service likes to let fires burn. (page 7)

Brian MacMillan, president of the local Volunteer Fire Department, talks about the mechanics of trying to keep dwellings safe. (page 8)

Local Resident Laurie Rowland gives her views and tells how her family got involved. (page 10)

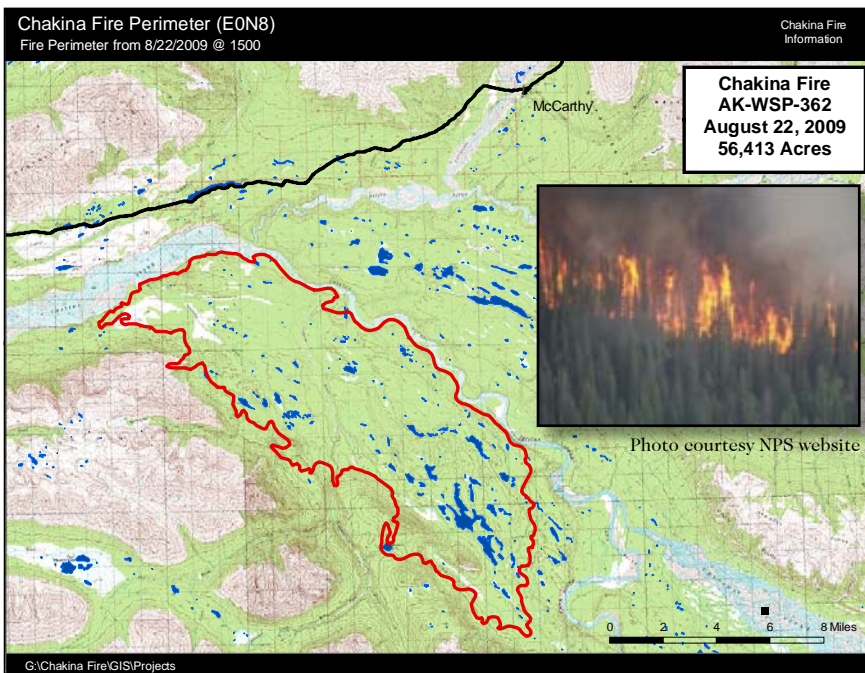


Photo courtesy Laurie Rowland

"The towering smoke plume which resulted looked like a malevolent dirty-brown nuclear mushroom cloud, boiling and seething miles into the sky." Story page 10.



Photo courtesy NPS website

Div. of Forestry & McCarthy Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) representatives introduce Firewise Concepts to students from the Wrangell Mtn. Center.

VFD president Brian MacMillan writes about the Chakina Fire from the perspective of the local fire department. Story page 8.

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Summer 2009 —what a summer to remember! It's challenging to know where to start in sharing the news from the McCarthy area. Thankfully, Rick and I had a lot of help on this issue. Therefore, I want to begin by thanking all our contributors who are bringing you updates, news and stories of this summer's happenings through their eyes.

When the Chakina Fire broke out on July 2nd, McCarthy's summer season began to take on a very different look (and smell). Smoky conditions settled in to stay for a little over a month and then, thankfully, the rains came, settling the smoke and diminishing the threat to our town. Three different articles concerning the fire are written from a slightly different prospective. The Park Service weighs in through Tina Boehle; our own Kennicott McCarthy Volunteer Fire Department who worked side-by-side with the Division of Forestry reports in with Brian MacMillan and Laurie Rowland shares a story from her prospective as a local resident who lives and works in the area alongside her family. Laurie's story was actually a portion of a family newsletter written on August 1st while the fire action was still hot and heavy. Thanks, Laurie, for submitting it for reprint!

Christine Stitts and her family from Willow, Alaska, spent a good part of July in the Kennicott/McCarthy area working on a historic restoration project for landowner, Dave

Syren. As a visitor to our town, she describes their activities, work and play during their stay. Thank you, Christine!

On another note, it was an honor to have Rev. Mark Willhite of Bakersfield, Ca. visiting (for the second year in a row) and imparting a spiritual breath of fresh air to the area. As many of you know, Rick and I often make use of the "Good News from the Wrangells" page to share from our hearts to yours on matters of the heart. This issue we devote this page to Mark's newsletter that he wrote after his trip to Alaska which included our community. Thank you, Mark, for all your kind and encouraging words!

As you will notice, the centerfold's historical portion of this issue is now back to *The Mc-*

Carthy Weekly News. We first began reprinting the "old" news in our November/December 1992 issue. We started with the first volume of the *News* which was their November 3, 1917 newspaper. While I am attempting to purchase a couple of other older papers on microfilm, I decided to revisit *The McCarthy Weekly News* and choose news items I had not printed or pull out some of the world news that was happening during that period of time. We hope you enjoy these historical tid-bits!

Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Steve Stringham, AK; Bob Jonas, ID; Wes and Brenda Walker, OH; and Copper Rail Histories, AK.

Table of Contents	
The Chakina Fire.....	1
A note from the publisher.....	2
Items of Interest.....	3
Fire, an infrequent visitor, comes to the Copper River Basin.....	7
The Chakina Fire and KMVFD update.....	8
Wildfire on the Chakina!.....	10
Just a hop, skip and a jump!.....	12
CVTC hopes to tie McCarthy system into Chitina fiber-optic cable.....	12
July in McCarthy.....	13
Nels Konnerup.....	14
David LaChapelle.....	14
Good News from the Wrangells.....	15
THE McCARTHY WEEKLY NEWS.....	16
Newborn moose calves fight very slim odds.....	18
Subsistence hunting permits for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve available.....	19
Cooking with Peggy.....	28
A LOOK AT THE WEATHER.....	30
Ten Commandments.....	30

Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Cal Ward: Cal hasn't let much grass grow beneath his feet since he returned from a stint at his part-time summer job in Fairbanks. Both of his sons came for a visit. This called for a few outdoor excursions which included rainbow trout fishing at TeBay Lakes and dip-netting in Chitina for salmon. In spite of the smoky conditions in the McCarthy/Kennicott area in July and the first part of August, the guys hiked up to the Bonanza Mines.

Art (Cal's brother) and Ann Ward also have a cabin on the family homestead. Although their home is in Salcha, they visit as often as they can. This summer they brought two of their horses so they could do some family horseback rides.

Cal's other brother, Doran, and his wife Roni try to spend the biggest part of their summer at their Fireweed Mountain cabin.

The Ward family does not know what the word "boredom" means. If they aren't fishing area lakes, they are smoking and/or canning salmon, picking strawberries from the homestead's patch and doing a variety of projects. Cal informed me he had finally completed his wood shed—a summer project just waiting for winter to happen!

Jim and Peggy Guntis: The Guntis' are enjoying their summer months in McCarthy, as usual.

Tucked in-between quiet stretches of book reading days, are family visits, dining out and hiking adventures.

Daughter Kim and grandson Robbie paid another visit as well as Jim's other daughter, Sally Wallin, and her daughter Anna. Many McCarthy locals remember Anna as she spent some quality time living and working in the area a couple years ago. Sally and her husband, Scott, own property on the west side of the Kennicott so have good reason to return. Anna is on a new assignment of being nanny to Robbie so is presently getting settled into her new quarters in Homer.

Jim, Peggy, Rick and I did our annual "dining out" at the Glacier View Campground Grill. Chris Epton did a grand job in barbecuing rib dinners complete with corn-on-the-cob. We did our best to clean our plates but each of us had to take a doggy bag home!

Jim usually makes at least one annual trek up the mountain to Bonanza Mine and he managed to snag a couple other hikers this year — Kaleb and David Rowland. The Rowland boys kept Jim on his feet and all returned safe and sound from a super outing.

This year Jim has taken on a new hobby and is Rick ever glad. Jim acquired a fishing instructor out of Rick and Rick acquired another fishing buddy!

Sonny Asbury: Sonny's birthday rolled around on August 6th which made for a perfect day to have a picnic and help Sonny celebrate. Rick and I called in a few of the neighbors and grilled a batch of hamburgers with several good salads on the side prepared by Peggy Guntis and Barbara Rice. A cake, prepared by Peggy, topped off the party, and a fun time was had by all.



Sonny and dog Mac will soon be heading south to visit family. Daughter Kim is expecting her second child this month so "Dad" is needed to give her a helping hand. Mac will soon have an adventure unlike any he's had before. He'll be flying south in a crate in a plane's cargo section instead of his preferred role as co-pilot in Sonny's Uhaul truck. Too bad I can't get him to write an item of interest for our next issue; it would be most interesting!

Sonny reported a mama bear and cub sighting at his place the other morning. Mac was intrigued

Wrangell St. Elias News (USPS 011301) VOL. Eighteen, Issue Five, September & October 2009.

Published every two months at McCarthy, Alaska. McCarthy, PO Box MXY, Glennallen, AK 99588-8998. Phone (907) 554-4454. FAX 1-866-487-7657. **E-mail: WSEN@wsen.net** "Copyright © 2009 by Wrangell St. Elias News. No part of this publication may be reproduced by any means without the express permission of the publishers."

Contributors to this issue: Peggy Guntis, George Cebula, Ned Rozell, Laurie Rowland, Mark Wilhite, Chris Stitts, Brian MacMillan and Tina Boehle .

Subscription price is \$14 for one year in the USA. Canada \$16. Other countries \$23. Advertising rates upon request. Deadline for publication in next issue is October 15.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT GLENNALLEN, AK. 99588.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Wrangell St. Elias News, McCarthy #42, PO Box MXY, Glennallen AK 99588-8998.

with the cub who scampered up a nearby tree. Sonny spotted “mama” in the woods nearby and thankfully, for all concerned, Mac obeyed his master and returned to the safety of their cabin.

Yes, I think Mac would make quite a storyteller if he could just write his own item of interest.

Chris Epton/Glacier View Campground: Chris either has a spatula or a crescent wrench in his hand, depending on what job assignment he is on at the moment. This afternoon he set aside his cooking apron and spatula to unhook a few empty propane bottles and head to our place for refills. He just returned from his annual week vacation in Anchorage. Chris’ partner Chuck took over the grill chores and Chris’ spatula while Chris took a break in the big city.

I asked Chris how his summer season was going. He replied, “It was fire, flood and famine—all at the same time!” The smoky conditions of the nearby Chakina fire kept many campers at home instead of in McCarthy enjoying what is normally a grand view of the glacier from Chris and Chuck’s campground. Hidden Lake broke loose and caused the Kennicott River to eat away at the parking lot just down the road from Chris. Then there was the instant increase of personnel from forestry and park service who swarmed to the rescue of our community and surrounding areas; thus bringing many more hungry eaters to places like Chris’ outdoor grill. At one point, Chris said he was even low on food supplies.

Things are quieting down now, he said, so he is looking forward to Chuck’s annual trip in with his fellow pilots and the upcoming half-marathon that uses the campground as its jumping off point. And, then, there is the annual deck sale at the end of the season where Chris unloads the excess supplies he still has on hand. It won’t be long

before Chris and Chuck close up shop for 2009 and Glacier View Campground and grill goes into hibernation until next spring.

9th Annual McCarthy-Kennicott Half-Marathon: The American Diabetes Association (ADA) is pleased to announce their 9th annual half-marathon race coming up on Saturday, September 5th. Registration and check-in is from 12 noon - 2 pm at the Glacier View Campground, mile 59 of the McCarthy Road.

The race begins at 2 pm and the registration fee is \$40. You may also register via phone, using a charge card, by calling 1-888-342-2383. The ADA’s office is located at 801 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 103, Anchorage, AK.

Ian Gyori: Ian is enjoying his summer job as a chef for McCarthy Lodge. He lives a short distance from us and manages to stop by every so often for a tank of propane. When I saw his 3 wheeler pull in yesterday, I remembered he was always good for at least one item a year.

I asked him, “What is your favorite meal you get to prepare for guests?” He replied: “Bangers and mash.” Of course I had to ask him what that was and he said it was his own handmade sausage dinner which included mashed potatoes and a sauce. Sounds good to me!!

This fall and early winter, Ian has plans to take a trip down the Grand Canyon with neighbor Nik Merlino and others. Most of us remember Sergio Perez. He’s a former chef for McCarthy Lodge, who is seeking Ian’s assistance in opening a restaurant in Ecuador. Ian hopes to return to McCarthy for the remainder of the winter.

Jim and Audrey Edwards: Jim says there’s an “intruder” in his shop and it will be around for some time. It’s not of human or animal kind but an addition to he and Audrey’s bedroom that is extending out into his shop area. Audrey made a quick trip to Anchorage and

picked up new carpeting for their bedroom.

Speaking of intruders...Jim told me they had quite an interesting encounter with a mid-size black bear the other day. He opened the door of his shop with the intention of walking toward his airstrip when he spotted the bear walking fast in his direction—determined and with purpose. After calling out to Audrey to “come see,” he watched as the bear came right up to the small porch within about 2 ½ feet from the half-opened door.

It was time for Jim to take things into his own hands. So determined and with purpose he slammed the door shut and locked it! The bear got the hint and turned and walked the other direction. Whew! Jim said there would have been “some excitement” had the bear come inside the shop. I guess so!

The Edwards’ passed on the good news that Walter and Ursel Mueller of Switzerland, long-time friends of McCarthy residents, are planning a visit end of August. We are eager to see them and, as in the past, visit warmly over a cup of tea and cinnamon sugar cookies. Welcome back, Ursel and Walter.

Local ladies go dining: When Audrey called the other day, she reminded me summer was quickly coming to a close. Could we go out for lunch and do a round of shopping at Dee and Terry Frady’s gift shop in Kennicott? My answer was



Photo courtesy Audrey Edwards

Left to right: Bonnie Kenyon, Dee Frady, Peggy Guntis, Lindee Satterfield and Audrey Edwards.

yes. I agreed we better just set a time and date so she did.

A few years ago my neighbor Peggy Guntis and I took our 4 wheelers for a spin up the hill to shop, eat and visit. We decided this should be an annual event for us. She and I had not been able to make our trip yet so when Audrey's invitation came, that got the ball rolling. Chores and projects came to an abrupt halt on Wednesday, August 19th when we ladies, along with a new comer to the neighborhood, Lindee Satterfield, climbed into Peggy's truck and headed north!

Dee was expecting us because Audrey had called ahead and invited her to join us for lunch at the Kennicott Glacier Lodge.

We ladies did the usual shopping and "catching up." Before long it was time for lunch. JoAnne Woolever who manages the front desk (and I suspect does much more than that) had reserved a table for us. As we took our seats, Jeannie Miller, long-time Kennicott resident and dinner chef joined us for a few minutes to say hello. Our lunch was delicious and the company was delightful!

On the drive home, we had the pleasure of seeing a black bear amble down the road in front of us. He seemed to think we were following him, when in reality, we ladies were merely headed home —each to our own projects and chores. A great time was had by all.

John and Barbara Rice: It seems like just yesterday that the Rices arrived back in the neighborhood, but actually they've enjoyed a fun packed summer season in the Wrangells. Visits from family and friends kept them on the move over the 4th of July. Barbara's brother Stuart Keck and his wife Susan, enjoyed the McCarthy/Kennicott area for the first time while Chuck and Sally (Barbara's sister) Yates returned for another round of our town's action packed July 4th festivities.

Stuart and Chuck teamed up and took charge of the gas grill at the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church for the second annual free-to-all supper on July 3rd. Hamburgers, hot dogs and freshly-caught Copper River Red Salmon were prepared to perfection for the 53 hungry folks who turned out to sample the excellent fare. Thanks, Stuart and Chuck!

Once the family members returned to their homes in St. Louis, John and Barbara decided to do a trip of their own and see the sights of Cordova for the first time. I'll let John tell you his impression of this small fishing town that certainly has its ties to McCarthy and Kennicott.

"Cordova is about 250 miles south of here and is not on the road system. It is also a rain forest as opposed to the semi arid conditions we seem to have here now. To get there we drove to Valdez, and then took a three hour ferry ride. On the way we passed the infamous Bligh Reef where the Exxon Valdez went aground and ruined the economy of Prince William Sound. Cordova is home to 700,000 acres of wet lands which is the largest contiguous wetlands on the western Pacific coast. It is also home to a large fishing fleet, many wonderful hiking trails, Childs Glacier, the Copper River delta, and the famous million dollar bridge (actually \$1.472M) built in 1910 for the Copper River & Northwest Railroad to carry the copper from the Kennecott mines up by us to the seaport at Cordova. The bridge is at the end of a 50-mile road to nowhere leading out of Cordova. The weather in Cordova is generally rainy, but we had only one evening of rain and two days of mostly cloudy which was a blessing for us."

The Rices enjoyed their last night in a very unique B & B. John continues his account: "The B & B is on a landlocked barge overlooking the tidal basin. The former owner had constructed a ship's mast

and rigging as a very sophisticated piece of yard art. This turned out to be a great place to end our weekend— just sitting on the deck and watching the tide come into the basin."

Soon it was time for Barbara and John to return to McCarthy. "On Sunday, we took the ferry back to Valdez and then drove back home to the smoke. However, there was one bright point when we got home. The garden of our neighbors the Kenyon's had started producing tomatoes and cauliflower while we were gone and they had a big bag of produce waiting for us."

Thanks, John and Barbara, for sharing your summer adventures with our WSEN readers!

The Cebula boys: George was on hand this last mail day to greet brother Ted and Ted's son Mike when they arrived on the "second" mail plane. Copper Valley Air Service, our mail carrier, has two women pilots this year. Both ladies do a fine job for our community. Loren's plane came full of incoming mail. When she taxied up to the mail shack, George eagerly approached the plane fully expecting to see Ted and Mike come bounding out to greet him. Loren must have decided George needed a little more excitement in his day. She explained that the boys never showed up!

Thankfully, Denise (Pilot #2) soon landed and brought in her incoming "males" —Ted and Mike. The Cebula boys, from Milwaukee, were finally reunited with George and ready to celebrate with lunch at the Kennicott Glacier Lodge.

Ted says he and Mike thoroughly enjoyed their flight from Gulkana to McCarthy. Denise gave a very interesting and informative tour, one they'll be glad to repeat.

Welcome back, Ted and Mike, and have a great vacation in the Wrangells!

Larry and Lindee Satterfield: I don't usually ask someone to write their own "item" but when it comes

to the Satterfields, Lindee is always a trooper at giving us a good look into what life looks like for a McCarthy summer resident.

"This was our first full summer stay, out here in the 'woods.' Ok. So the smoke was a definite annoyance. Ok. It was downright scary sometimes. Just to see it rolling through the forest by our cabin was almost suffocating. Yes, it was 'white and smoky' but it reminded us of what we were missing when we couldn't see the clarity of colors in nature surrounding us! When the smoke cleared up for a day depending on the wind pattern, the mountains were such a welcome sight that it brought me back to why I love it here so much. Larry and I continued on with our projects, maybe quitting earlier than usual because of the smoke or because Kobuk, our dog, needed a jump in a pond. You know when he gets annoyed with us when he starts grabbing gloves or tools or paintbrushes in order for us to chase him down to play with him. One wonders if he knows what it means when he holds one of my gloves by the middle finger with his teeth, as he looks up at Larry and I. We still got in our 4 wheeler rides and our hikes through this smoky summer. We have learned to appreciate this life of slow pace and no-schedule days. The peace and tranquility is unsurpassed. The dependence on convenience is eye opening when you have to go without. It is educational in the wilderness. This is where you learn about ingenuity. This is where you learn the difference between wants and needs.

"Now that summer is near its end, autumn is in the air and the stars in the sky are in full view with the oncoming darkness of the Alaskan nights. This may be our favorite time of the year yet!"

By the way, the Satterfields made the most of their long summer days. They now have a real shower "shed" which includes a

washer and a shower, complete with hot running water. This is really living—in the bush!

Neil O'Donnell, Margaret Stock and daughter Catherine:

The O'Donnells usually schedule a visit to their cabin over the 4th of July, but this year their summer trip was delayed to the latter part of the month. Neil convinced the ladies to take a special fly-in backpacking trip with him and hike the infamous Goat Trail. I've never done the "trail," but since I've recently discovered Facebook, I was able to view Margaret and Catherine's beautiful photo albums of their trip.

Margaret said the trip could be done in 4 days, but they chose to allow 5 days. The extra day gave them plenty of time to search for fossils, watch a variety of wildlife and give more of their attention to the awesome country which they traveled through.

After leaving the McCarthy airstrip with Kelly Bay of Wrangell Mountain Air, they flew to an estimated elevation of 4,500' and landed on the Wolverine airstrip. A resident fox was living nearby who seemed quite taken with their arrival.

Catherine was impressed with the scenery. A grand view of the Mile-High Cliffs awaited them along with waterfalls, glaciers, Dall sheep, and a caribou herd in Chitistone Pass. They spotted some grizzlies on the far side of the Skolai River, but they were too far away for photographing.

Margaret commented that she didn't recommend this particular hike if you are afraid of heights. After viewing her photos, I agreed!

"The one-mile stretch in the middle is indeed described accurately as 'the gully of death' in one guidebook, and one air service person told me that about 50% of the people who get up there decide to turn back. It is definitely a disconcerting stretch of trail. Unfortunately, you are indeed out there all by

yourself and there's no easy way 'out' if you change your mind in the middle of the hike. But we are happy and pleased that we did it!"

Catherine, 12, was a real trooper throughout the challenging portions of the trail and commented that she was not afraid. Good going, Catherine; maybe one day you will be a wilderness guide taking other folks in to view the magnificent scenery of this fine backcountry paradise.

Trig Trigiano: Although Trig is recuperating slowly but surely from a fall he took earlier this year, he isn't exactly ready to do the Goat Trail. At the 4th of July parade he still had a slight limp but he has since shed that side effect. In spite of the slower start to his summer, he is continuing his work on siding the outside of his house. The project is coming along just fine.

Thankfully, he has a perfect mode of transportation for our area—a 4 wheeler with a canvas cab over it. I can always pick Trig out if he is out and about in the neighborhood.

The other night he took a ride down to our place and we enjoyed a nice catch-up visit over spaghetti made with ground bear meat. Trig has become quite fond of black bear meat so I'm putting the word out to all marauding bears. "If you don't want to end up in the stew pot at Trig's house, you might want to think twice about getting into trouble in his neck of the woods!"

Cross Road Medical Center Clinic: The Cross Road Medical Center will be having another one day clinic to provide routine health care in the McCarthy area. It will be held on September 18th at 10:30 am - 12 noon and 1:00-3:30 pm.

Call Cross Road Medical Center in Glennallen at 822-3203 to make an appointment. Walk ins will be seen on space available basis.

Routine physical exams include: Adult physicals, ICC physicals, well child checks (with Immunizations), blood work and tetanus shots.

Fire, an infrequent visitor, comes to the Copper River Basin

BY TINA BOEHLE

FIRE COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION SPECIALIST, NPS

The Copper River Basin of Alaska, appropriately named after the 1900 discovery of copper in the Kennecott Valley, once teemed with mining activity. Now a quiet and remote area within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, it's been nearly a century since the last known large wildfires burned in the basin. The infrequent occurrence of wildland fire is largely due to the influence of maritime weather patterns on this region and incomplete historical and scientific records. Two fires were recorded in 1915, and now, nearly a century later, the Chakina Fire is clearing out some of the mature vegetation and beginning the cycle of renewal needed for the boreal forest to thrive.

In 1915, two fires burned in the Copper River Basin and likely created a smoky environment for people living in the area. The Sourdough Hill Fire—probably ignited by sparks from the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad—burned 384,000 acres from Chitina to the Kennecott River and from the Chitina River to the mountains to the north. The second fire of 1915 also burned near the Sourdough Hill Fire area. The Kennecott Fire was presumably set on a windy day by a man using oil-soaked rags. The

fire burned all the timbered country between the Kennecott and Nizina Rivers and was reportedly set to provide fuelwood for sale at the Kennecott mine. About 64,000 acres were burned.

By comparison, the Chakina Fire—ignited by lightning on July 2, 2009—is about half the size of the Kennecott Fire. 56,915 acres have burned near the confluence of the Chakina, Chitina, and Nizina rivers. It appears that the fires of 1915 burned near the current Chakina Fire, however they have not intersected. Burning in black

and wildflowers, grasses, and sedges may grow from seeds and sprout from roots. Over time, shrubs and tree seedlings grow larger, shade grasses and offer good cover for many animals. Foods for wildlife including berries, seeds, buds and leaves will be plentiful for the next twenty-five years.

It is possible that other fires have burned in the area in the past 100 years. We don't yet know the full extent of the area's fire history and new discoveries are made each year—old fire records are re-found and placed in digital format, and park personnel note observations of burnt trees and differing vegetation in the surrounding area. As the record becomes more complete, a better picture of the fire history of the Copper River Basin emerges from the story written in the landscape.

Meanwhile in 2009, fire managers on the Chakina Fire balanced the risk and benefits. The Copper River Basin, a fire dependent forest, is home to people living in McCarthy and developed areas along the McCarthy

Road. Given the proximity of the Chakina Fire to residences, Chakina Fire managers worked with members of the community to make private property in the area fire resistant so that the Chakina Fire was allowed to continue the good work of fuel reduction in the area. As history has shown, it may be another century before fire again visits the Copper River Basin.



Photo courtesy of University of Washington, Special Collections, Uw9348

Gilahina Trestle, McCarthy Road, 1916. Bridge was rebuilt the fall after the fire in 1915.

spruce and beetle killed white spruce from the past twenty years, the Chakina Fire consumed dead and down trees, beginning the cycle of forest regeneration.

Black spruce has semi-serotinous cones that need heat from a fire to open and release an abundance of seeds. Deciduous trees such as birch and aspen come back quickly after a fire

The Chakina Fire and KMVFD update

BY BRIAN MACMILLAN

KMVFD PRESIDENT

The Mapping Project

For years we, as a volunteer fire department, have been talking about the need to get site maps from homeowners in the community in order to aid in emergency situations. It's nice to know what you are going to encounter if you have to go in and try to save someone's home. We knew we needed to have cohesive maps of the area in order to aid outside agencies with protecting our homes in the event of a fire, but we had no idea how to organize and store this sort of information. Then the Chakina River fire occurred.

It started small enough on July 2nd with a dry lightning strike some 12 miles south of McCarthy in the Chakina River drainage. July's dry weather and a steady easterly wind quickly started raising the acreage and pushing the fire towards the Chitina River and Long Lake. Soon, McCarthy was host to almost 90 fire personnel from the National Park Service (NPS) and government contracted Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF) sent to monitor the fire. Some backfiring occurred to reduce fuels along the Chitina River corridor, but most personnel stayed on the north side of the river waiting for action.

DOF's Brian Carver from Sutton along with the incident commander Tim Whitesell thought it would be a good idea to initiate a mapping project for the valley to identify all the private homes in the region starting with the

ones in the most direct risk areas. Teams were sent out to GPS driveways to homes and in the cases of more remote cabins to take a reading from the home as well in order to establish a map for protecting these sites. The project started in the Crystal Creek area and moved along the roadway up through Lakina and Long Lake into the Fireweed subdivision at mile 50.5. KMVFD followed Mark Vail from Fireweed around the subdivision and worked with Robert Hurst of Willow Mountain doing site assessments of all the homes out there.

A site assessment is a simple map of a homeowner's property that includes such vital information as where the propane and fuels are kept, the location of all outbuildings and main structures, and what sort of natural fuels and firefighting conditions you will encounter (ie. uphill slope below cabin, lots of beetle-kill spruce in the area, dry grass and light fuels up to cabin). CJ, one of the Pioneer Peak boys, standardized the maps early on in the game with a legend and informational lines so that each map has the GPS coordinates, description of location, items of interest, work that needs to be done by the homeowner to improve their fire preparedness and a line of fire suppression supply needs. That line is probably the most important to anyone who has a home out here.

For example, I got to draw the site map for my property with two out-buildings, a structure and a bus. CJ wrote down my property needs a 3,000 gal-

lon foldatank (look down the alley at the McCarthy lodge, Brad's hostel, or in front of Bob Cook's house in the McCarthy Creek subdivision for a live example), 2 Mark 3 pumps and 2 kits, 600 feet of 1.5," and 300 feet of 1" hose to protect it. That's a bit overkill but it is now on a piece of paper so that if ever there was an emergency threatening my neighborhood, somebody somewhere would be ticking that off for fire suppression needs of the Kiagna subdivision.

All of the crews were demobilized in the last week of July and turned in their reports. Brian Carver returned the first of August with 3 three-ring binders full of the consolidated effort covering almost all of the cabins between Crystal Creek and the Westside of the Kennecott River including the McCarthy Creek subdivision (University). With this much information at stake KMVFD decided to finish the mapping task and enlisted Jen Ellen from NPS and John Hutchinson from Tazlina Forestry to help finish the effort, after borrowing our own Matt Smith's GPS device. Together we mapped McCarthy proper (utilizing the street names from the original town plat), Millers Crossing and Kennicott from Main Street to the Mill site and all the way up the hill. This information will be compiled with the rest and we should have a complete set of maps by the start of fire season 2010.

We have asked the folks down in the Nizina River area at the end of the southside road to site map

their own places and Greg Runyan has volunteered to get the coordinates of anyone who doesn't have a GPS down that way. We are hoping to have copies of these site maps available in the spring for any homeowner in the area who cares to leave us a self-addressed, stamped (if it needs to be mailed elsewhere) envelope in our mail box 8-B. Please feel free to help us update and/or correct any details to these site maps as well as contact us with anyone who we may have missed in our research. Any questions about this project can be addressed to me at the same mailbox.

Brushing Detail

While crews were out mapping sites, other crews were standing by to assist homeowners with brushing and clearing their homes to a Firewise standard. Firewise standards eliminate all fuels within 30' of a structure and limit the amount of fuels within a 100' radius to make a home more defensible against fire. Hotshot crews from outside as well as from around Alaska roamed all over the grounds between Crystal Creek and McCarthy eliminating all sorts of fuels as they rolled along.

Teams of up to 20 attacked home sites dropping troubled trees and eliminating ground fuels, stacking logs and taking out dead willows. One person on a saw and up to four people following either stacking small armload piles neatly behind or hauling off the brush and limbs to the huge chipper rented from Sapa in Kenny Lake. The piles of chips you might notice along the roadway near Long Lake are courtesy of these crews.

After taking care of the homes most threatened by the Chakina fire, the full detail crossed McCa-

rthy Creek to work in the subdivision to the south. Unable to bring the chipper over, the crews stacked tidy piles around the property with instructions to burn after snowfall.

Both the Strelna VFD and KM-VFD had followed along with the chipper during the height of the brushing and continued to brush on the Westside of the Kennecott River after everyone else got demobilized. The number one note for work to be done around 95% of the structures we encountered was brushing and clearing. We would like to encourage anyone who needs more instruction on Firewise to pick up a brochure at the mail shack.

Grant Rundown

As many of you know KMVFD has had a Community Economic Development Grant that was given to us by the late Chamber of Commerce. We have been renewing it for years while we figured out how to spend it wisely. In March we received a phone call from the administrator of the grant saying that we needed to spend the remainder by the end of the fiscal year, June 30th. Up until this time we had only spent around \$10,000 of the original grant, here is a laundry list as to how the other \$68, 000 was spent.

Up until 2008: 80' well at the Tony Zak community center, Honda 3,000 EU generator, parking pad and fuel tank relocation next to Zak (thank you again Paul Barrett), a slew of PPE and gear from the Tazlina Hotshot crew cache, and 1 winter's storage for the Code Red unit in RowCon's shop.

2009: 3-10'x12' caches to be built by John Adams and placed in the Kennicott, McCarthy Creek, and Westside subdivisions, 6 Stihl 361 chainsaws, 6-3,000 gallon por-

table tanks and 1-6,000 gallon, 6 pumps including 1 self-priming Flotopump, 3 Bendix radios, line packs, protective gear, hose packs, hand tools, fixtures, a 1,550 gallon Greer water tank, and 3 Klaxons from the UK (slightly disappointed with their performance, but they will work in conjunction with a phone tree plan for each area).

We also received a McCarthy Area Council Revenue Share grant this past July for a pump, power source and well house for the Tony Zak.

To paraphrase a comic book quote, "With great resources comes great responsibility for your friendly neighborhood volunteer fire department." We now need to fill these new tanks with 24,000 gallons of water in the late spring and empty them in the fall. We need to do maintenance and logging of all our new gear and equipment so as to keep it in a state of preparedness. While we did make an income this year from our brush truck being deployed, we will need to work on further grants to help pay for future VFD needs including land and a potential firehouse/ EMS building. We also need to work on our emergency community response plans including phone trees and information dissemination.

So, all in all, now is a great time to get involved with your local VFD. We have pump training on Tuesday nights at the Zak at 6pm. You do not have to be a current red card holder and all members of the community are welcome to attend. The more people we have prepared in the event of an emergency can spell the difference between a safe fire and disaster.

Thanks for your support!

Wildfire on the Chakina!

BY LAURIE ROWLAND

By the time July 2 dawned, yet another bright sunny day, the woods were tinder dry and just waiting for a stray spark—or a stray lightning bolt, as it turned out—to make things lively. The fire started small (don't they all?) about seven miles directly south of our house, between Louise Lake and the Chakina River. It quickly grew in the sweltering early-July heat, and was several thousand acres after only a few days.

The fire is located in an NPS Wilderness area, which is considered a “No-Suppression Zone.” With this in mind, a ranger called to inform me that, should the fire expand to our nearby trapping tent platform, their decision was to just let it burn, with the possibility of replacing our building supplies later. No mention about our thousands of denarii worth of tools and traps, however. I ask you, what is it with these federal park people, that they don't recognize the inestimable value of an authentic Alaskan family trapline?

Seriously, though, the NPS does have a point here. In our ecosystem, burning is actually a healthy part of the natural cycle, and helps to improve habitat and browse for all the critters that we like to hunt and trap, or just look at. So, even though losing most of our trapline *does* make us cringe, the effects of the fire—as long as it stays away from people—are actually a blessing in the long run.

Before too many days had passed, our Alaska Department of Forestry had arrived on the local scene, complete with more helicopters, planes, trucks and men, ready and rarin' to fight that fire. They immediately set up their headquarters in the old Tony Zak house in McCarthy and held a public meeting, where they gave us fire informa-

tion, maps, updates, plan of attack, helpful hints, etc. This, in my view, was where the ideological and philosophical differences between the feds and the state really started coming to light. Putting it succinctly, the NPS opinion is: “A fire? Let it burn!” In contrast, the State's philosophy is: “A fire? We'll put it out!” Since the NPS is the managing agency where the fire is burning, it is their call on how the fire is managed. However, it's the State Forestry crew who actually does the front-lines firefighting work. And so began the interagency negotiations. NPS said, “Don't touch it until it crosses to the north side of the Chitina. Then...we'll see.” The State countered with, “If it gets that far, it may be too big to handle. People and houses will be in danger! Please, allow us to get it under control *before* it reaches the river.” Eventually an uneasy compromise was struck, and the line of defense was moved back to about a mile south of the Chitina. Well, limited defense, anyway. They weren't really allowed to *fight* the fire there, only *manage* it.

Within our community, the Forestry folks quickly began making themselves popular by utilizing as many local resources as possible. They are sleeping in local cabins, B&Bs and lodges; eating at local restaurants; getting 50+ sack lunches a day and who-knows-how-many ice cream cones from Peggy at the local Mercantile; buying bridge passes from the local Bridge Troll; hiring local “gofer” drivers; having trucks, tires and equipment fixed at John's Tire Shop; buying fuel from the local fuel shack; flying with local pilots; renting local ATVs, trailers, boats, parking & camping space—you name it, they're getting it from the locals! And all this massive influx of business during a season when all the experts say the economy is in the toilet!

Only a few days later on Sunday afternoon, the 19th, the Chakina Fire (as it was now being called), which had been growing and burning at a moderate rate south of the Chitina, encountered some of that infamous Chitina valley wind, causing it to go on a rushing 3-mile rampage directly toward our friends at Long Lake, just across the Chitina. Because of the heat and wind, the fire was throwing embers up to a half mile ahead of itself and starting new fires. The towering smoke plume which resulted looked like a malevolent dirty-brown nuclear mushroom cloud, boiling and seething miles into the sky. By evening, the northwest perimeter of the inferno was dangerously near the Chitina River—but not across it yet, thank the Lord!

And then, unexpectedly, a favorable wind sprang up, turning the fire back on itself and halting its progress toward the Chitina River and Long Lake.

Somewhere in all this (I think it was Saturday, the day before the fire's “3-Mile Run”), Kaleb and David managed to get themselves hired as powerboat operators on the frontlines of the fire. Their job was to shuttle the 20-or-so Augusta Hotshots up and down the Chitina River between the various heli-spots so the firefighters could do their work of monitoring and managing the fire. They gathered together their boats (our Zodiac and a 21-foot aluminum riverboat belonging to our friend, Wade), all their boating and camping gear, and headed down the Nizina, then up the Chitina to Jake's Bar, where the Augusta men were camped. In the two weeks since then, it's been a boy's paradise, being on the front lines of the action, doing something that feels important, barking out directives on the radio, camping out under a summery sky, and cruising up and down the wide river like a modern-day



Photo courtesy Laurie Rowland

Keith and Daniel Rowland searching for the source of the leak.

Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn! And my-oh-my, you should see the boys' chests swell when those tough, hard-bitten forestry men refer to them as "Cap'n" Kaleb or "Cap'n" Dave. Heady stuff, I assure you. And they're getting *paid* for this!

On Thursday, Keith received a call from Forestry. "Mr. Rowland, sir, there's been an incident with the boat." It seems Kaleb had been shuttling his boatload of hotshots down the Chitina when his (actually Wade's) aluminum riverboat hit something under the river's murky surface and began taking on water. Kaleb hurriedly off-loaded the firemen at the Chitina-Nizina confluence, leaving them to the mercy of the helicopter crew. Then, hastily checking the fastenings on his life vest, he made the snap decision to head for home. No time to think about the danger, just point toward home and squeeze the throttle before the icy water gets deeper than the boat! Boy and boat shot into the notoriously treacherous Nizina Canyon, the boy trying hard not to think about the fact that if he sank his little craft here, between these sheer rock walls, there wouldn't be

much help—or hope—for him or the boat.

Only a few miles after he finally emerged from the perilously narrow confines of the canyon and into a more open area, the boat began to come "off step," having taken on

too much water to plane any longer. Kaleb pointed his nose toward shore, and then, with a thump, a bump, and a scrape, the struggling craft made contact with blessed shore! After his bow tilted up and was safely grounded on the rocky riverbank, he stepped ashore and dejectedly watched as the stern of his craft slowly took on water until it sank to the river bottom. Frigid, silty water filled the engine, but it did not quite go over the gunwales. And—most importantly—throughout the whole incident, it didn't go over Kaleb!

The rest of the day was spent retrieving the riverboat with Ol' Blue and our loader, drying boat and motor out, and welding the cracks shut so it would float again. By next morning, Kaleb was back on the river and heading happily toward the fire.

Yes, it's been a memorable summer. Who would have thought that so much excitement could have come from such a little spark?



Photo courtesy Laurie Rowland

Augusta Hotshot crew at Jake's Bar cabin on the Chitina River—near the frontlines of the fire. David and Kaleb Rowland on the left.

Just a hop, skip and a jump!

CVTC hopes to tie McCarthy system into Chitina fiber-optic cable

Designing, installing and maintaining communications systems in Bush Alaska is a task met with many challenges. McCarthy area residents have enjoyed basic telephone communication for some time now, but long-distance calls are often marred by echoes or long delays, and internet service is somewhat slow and “iffy.”

Satellites have made telephone service in rural areas possible, but are also responsible for much of the above-mentioned irritations.

Copper Valley Telephone and Copper Valley Wireless have been exploring ways to enhance telephone and internet communications to McCarthy and along the McCarthy Road.

Two specific alternatives to the satellite based service have been evaluated by Copper Valley. The first alternative is fiber optic

cable along the road corridor. Unfortunately, fiber optic is extremely expensive to install, particularly due to the pioneer nature of the road, and this option has been dismissed.

The second, more feasible alternative is a microwave network from the end of Copper Valley's fiber cable in Chitina to the Copper Valley site in McCarthy. This alternative would bypass the current satellite uplinks, and would provide carrier grade services for both voice and high-speed data and internet access.

A microwave network would also provide continuous wireless telephone and data services along the McCarthy Road, an important safety enhancement for the entire area.

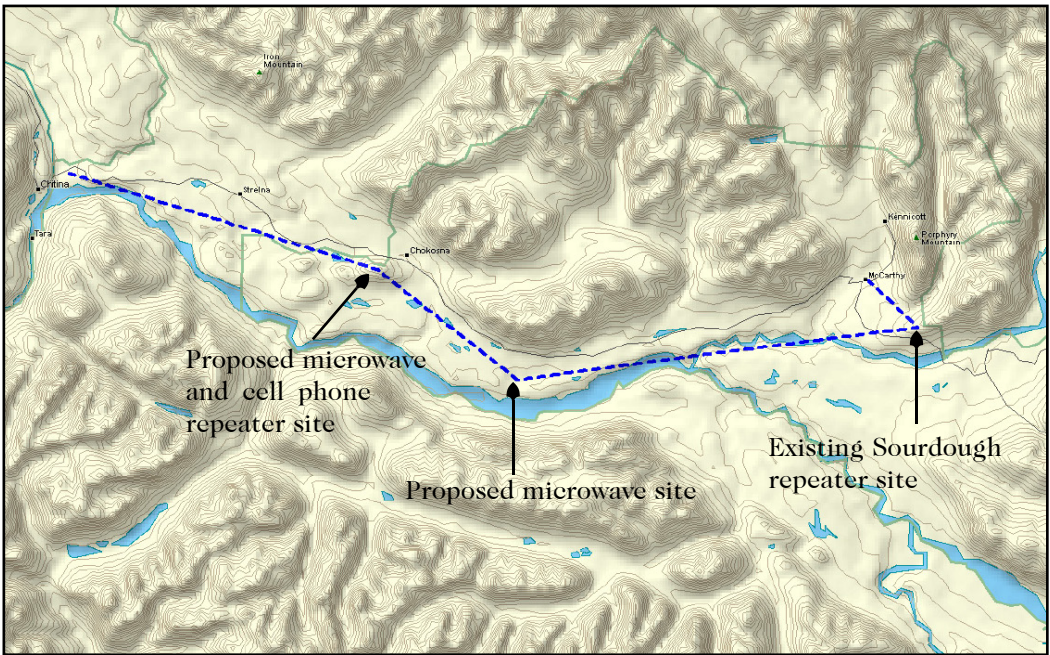
A microwave system would require two new communications sites along the road system, one of which would also incorporate a repeater

which would allow for wireless access along much of the road corridor.

Copper Valley says the system would be designed and built in such a manner that the sites would not be visible or impact the view along the McCarthy road system. Special attention and sensitivity would be taken to ensure compliance with National Park Service requirements, minimizing impact to the Park and its users. The sites would be primarily powered by solar with propane back-up systems for winter operations.

Copper Valley has applied for stimulus funds to construct this important telecommunications infrastructure which will benefit all of the residents, visitors and businesses in this region. If Copper Valley is successful in funding of the Microwave network, the project would move forward with completion by 2011.

Preliminary engineering studies have shown that a microwave network could connect McCarthy to the existing fiber optic system at Chitina with only two additional sites. One microwave link which would also incorporate a repeater site would be located on the hills just south of Chokosna. The second link would be south of the Crystalline Hills near the Chitina River.



July in McCarthy

BY CHRISTINE STITTS

What a beautiful time of the year to spend at the remote ghost town which was the richest copper mine in the world back in the early 1900's. My husband, myself, our two sons Skeeter (15), Skipper (13), our two daughters Miranda (17), Ruthan (10), and our grandson Danny Ackerberg were hired by Dave Syren to restore what was the first Blacksmith Shop and then turned storage shed due to the fact that the blacksmith business grew and a larger building was required. This building is directly next to the mill in lovely downtown Kennecott or Kennicott; I like both spellings. Our family heritage takes us back four generations and my husband with over 35 years of experience in the restoration and preservation of historical buildings, both timber and log framed. So, as you could see we were in our element there in Kennecott and had a great time with the job.

We started our voyage on July 1st, arriving in McCarthy around 11:00 PM, after a two-hour delay of digging our trailer out of an embankment—thank the Lord we did not tip over or head down the cliff—and then arrived at our camp site at 11:30PM. We were exhausted. It was a beautiful day for the trip and we were able to view the beautiful mountains and glaciers. We were not due to start our work project until the 6th of July so during the few days we had there we enjoyed the walks, climbs and of course the 4th of July parade and festivities. During the July fun time there was what was called the Monkey Log Climb put on by the Rowland family and what a fun time. Our son arrived there just in time to watch a few people

attempt it and then Skeeter decided he would give it a try, and successfully made the climb for a free ice cream cone at the McCarthy Mercantile. Now he wants to put one up at home and get all the neighbor kids involved.

Well, the 6th of July sneaked up on us and we went to work. Our job was to jack up, move the building, pour footings and walls, move the building back onto the walls, replace the flooring and install new rafters and roofing. The first day there the work crew had to take everything out of the building which was an interesting time as there were many old antiques and things from the past such as Copper Ore, copper bags that were used to transport the copper with and many other items that really brought you back in time. The job went very well and smoothly, everything fell into place, and the final days of roofing were accomplished with our sons Skeeter, Skipper, and our grandson putting the roof on in a total of 6-7 hours between two days of play and work. This was an experience of a lifetime and we were all pleased to be making history as the town of Kennecott has been deteriorating over the last 60-70 years and has recently been undergoing major restoration by the park service. Which by the way we would like to say are doing a wonderful job of it.

While we worked very hard during the month of July we also found time to play as well. We were able to explore the area with the family and friends, the mill, the mines, glacier walks and climbs. What a time we had. We met some wonderful people there as well. The work crew for the bridge that was being replaced due to the dam breaking were fun to get to know, Andy and his crew, great guys and ladies. The Kennecott Wilderness Guides and owners of the business, we really had a fun time getting to know them. During our

time there we were able to witness the beginning of the forest fire and able to actually fly over the fire itself and observed the Kennicott River rise due to Hidden Lake breaking loose as it does every year. This year there was no damage, thank the Lord. We were wondering if we should at least take out our equipment, but, we decided to wait and all was well. The forestry division had their "Pack Test" during the time we were there and our son Skeeter, who is very interested in becoming a fire fighter in the forestry division, was able to qualify for his red card being the first person to complete the test in record time for him. We are very proud of him. At the age of 15, he is putting his goals in order and looking for a future in forestry. And our final experience was eating our ice cream cone at the McCarthy Mercantile and saw a black bear in its environment.

We want to thank all the wonderful people that we were able to meet for their hospitality and kindness during our stay there. To the Rowland family, you guys are great and thank you for the wonderful meals, and bread making afternoon. Yum, Yum.

We want to thank Rick and Bonnie Kenyon for a wonderful Spirit filled service at the McCarthy-Kennicott Church. Thank you for your prayers during our stay there; we know He kept His hand on us the whole time.

Well, we hope to return some day to the Kennecott or McCarthy area. We enjoyed our stay there and would actually consider looking for property if work surfaced in the near future. Hope to see you all again some day. The Stitts — Michael, Christine, Miranda, Skeeter, Skipper, Ruthie and Danny Ackerberg.

(The Stitts family makes their home in Willow, Alaska.)

Nels Konnerup

December 4, 1916-July 21, 2009

Nels Konnerup, beloved husband, dad, grandpa and great grandpa, died at his home on Camano, July 21, 2009.

He was born in Everett on Dec. 4, 1916, and was raised in Kennicott, Alaska. He became a copper miner at 17, then decided to attend Washington State University and graduated as a veterinarian in 1942. He had an illustrious career working in Europe, Africa, Asia and Central and South America. He married his wife of 47 years in China in 1947. His government work on animal diseases helped many areas of the world.

He "retired" to Camano in 1982 and continued working in the embryo transfer business. He

co-authored a book with Dr. Warsinski.

He is preceded in death by his wife Magdalene and son Thomas.

He is survived by his children Madeleine (John) Mercier, Valerie Konnerup, Martin (Debra) Konnerup and Christopher Konnerup. He had eight grandchildren: Nelsa, Luke, Bridget, Erik, Katie, Juston, Travers and Ricki Anne; seven great grandchildren: Mark, Elisabeth, Ian, Andrew, Wesley, Britta and Caison Nels.

He is also survived by his sister Yvonne Lahte.

Mass of Christian burial took place on Saturday, July 25 at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, Stanwood.

Editor's Note: Rick and I received a note from Nels' daughter, Madeleine (Konnerup) Mercier of Farmington, NM. She writes, "Nels Konnerup died on July 21st. He always loved Alaska and especially his time spent in Kennicott as a kid and later as a miner when he was 17-19 years old.

"He considered you friends and really enjoyed bunking at your place.

"He died with all 4 kids around and one grandchild at 5 a.m. —his favorite time of day. He was always telling us we were wasting the best part of the day by sleeping 'til 6:30 or 7 a.m.

"Thanks for some happy memories of Alaska."

David LaChapelle

1952-2009

Editor's note: Many folks in the McCarthy area knew David, the son of former long-time resident Ed LaChapelle. The following are excerpts from an obituary written by Heather Lende and published in the Chilkat Valley News serving Haines and Klukwan.

Former resident David R. La Chapelle, who worked as a spiritual teacher, counselor, and healer for over 25 years, died July 21 in Durango, Co. of throat cancer. He was 56.

The poet, author, and essayist was a regular contributor to The Institute of Noetic Sciences Magazine, an instructor at the Naropa Institute in Boulder, trained peer counselors for Boulder Youth Services, was a core presenter at annual conferences

of the Association for Humanistic Psychology and trained staff at the Colorado Outward Bound School.

He led over 200 spiritual workshops and wilderness quest groups in Alaska, Colorado and elsewhere, and authored half a dozen books.

He moved to Haines in 2002 and shared a home here with his pet guinea pig Farrah until about 2005, when he moved to Silverton, Colo. to care for his mother.

La Chapelle was born in Denver Oct. 8, 1952, the only child of Edward and Mary LaChapelle. David was raised on the Blue Glacier in the Olympic National Park and at the ski resort of Alta, Utah. His family had a cabin in McCarthy, Alaska. He attend-

ed the University of Washington, although he didn't graduate. Instead, LaChapelle taught skiing, explored the natural world, apprenticed with a Lakota medicine man and stayed in an Ashram in India. He independently studied Native American spirituality, yoga, healing modalities, and psychology. In 1981 he co-founded Wellspring Partners in Health, a holistic medical clinic in Boulder where he worked as a transpersonal psychotherapist and spiritual counselor.

LaChapelle married Shar Fox in Haines in 1988. They divorced in 1993. A previous marriage to Amy Stevenson also ended in divorce. His parents preceded him in death. He leaves three aunts and his partner Ananda Elise Foley.

Good News from the Wrangells

Editors Note: The following is from Evangelist Mark Wilhite's recent newsletter regarding his trip to Alaska.

Dear Partners, Pastors, and Special Friends,

I have recently returned from a three week trip in Alaska. Although it is one of the United States, it surely seems like being on an international trip, and in the case of Kennecott—a town built around the richest copper find ever in 1907—it gives one the feeling of being on another planet because it is placed high in the mountains right next to a huge glacier, and even the “lighting” seems different. There are breathtaking views, and people from all over the world visit.

In the neighboring town of McCarthy (which takes 20 minutes by shuttle to go 4 miles over the dirt roads) is the church which my missionary friends, Pastors Rick and Bonnie Kenyon, founded, built, and pastor.

They have a hospitality book that visitors can sign, and at the time I was there, on the “opened-up” two pages in view there were 16 people that had signed their names, and of the 16, 11 were from Europe—Poland, the Netherlands, and Germany.

So Alaska is a very interesting place—it brings out the “adventure” in us—“Adventures in God.”

By the way, at its closest point, Russia is only 36 miles away—so it's great to know Alaska is awakening to God!

My trip started by flying to Anchorage and to be picked up by pastors from Wasilla whom I have known and where I started going over ten years ago. This is a praying church, and after I had shared about supernatural connections during my first trip to Ukraine, they contacted me and said that God had put the Ukrainian folks I had spoken about on their hearts, and they wanted their family picture and details so they could continue to pray

for them on a regular basis as a prayer assignment.

What an awesome thing.

We always have special times in the Lord at this church in Wasilla. Pastors Steve and Tonia and some from the church went with me on the following Wednesday to the town of McCarthy (already mentioned) for meetings at the only church in that 2 town area. There was to be a special barbeque for the community and a “big” 4th of July parade that has been going on there for 100 yrs. A special friend of mine, Pastor Joe Pescini from Mendocino, CA, joined me at this point along with Pastor Bill Ferguson from North Pole. There were seven pastors plus others together for this event in this remote little community—but God moved mightily in our prayer time, ministry, and fellowship. WOW—we were ALL blessed and encouraged—surely a magnificent time in His refreshing presence.

It was said 700 people turned out to see the “around the block” parade in this town where 54 people live in the winter and between 200-300 people live in the area in the summer.

Pastors Rick and Bonnie—the missionaries here in McCarthy—work 6 jobs and businesses between the two of them in order to stay there and pastor the church from which they receive no money. However they are the only light there and have a heart for the people and the place. We will be doing this again next year for the 4th of July so plan to join us and meet them and have an experience of a lifetime.

Since Pastor Bill came to join us, Pastor Joe and I traveled with him the seven hours to North Pole—going north of course—to his church. On Wednesday night we had

a meeting where Pastor Joe shared his power-point testimony [as he did in McCarthy] of 18 months in Iraq when he and his company walked and lived in the miraculous protective power of God because “THEY PRAYED.” Every morning Pastor Joe would have 5:00am prayer. Eventually a 2 star general came to see them wondering what they were doing because they were the only ones without mishap and casualties. Their commanding officer said, “Well all I know is that Pastor Joe prays every morning at 5:00am.” He said, “Keep it up.”

Later when Pastor Joe tells of the supernatural protection for the baptism venture, it was like something out of the Bible! Awesome report—everybody should hear it!

The next five meetings there were most glorious—each meeting different but complete, Holy Ghost meetings!

God brought great repentance and restoration to families, individual lives, and fullness in the hearts of the people and the church.

In moves of God like this, the Lord so knits hearts together and so preciously that it seems life changing. When God knits hearts together in glorious connections, it is for His plan and purposes. So we must stay together, flow together, pray together, and move in God together and in Love for this great awakening to God that is taking place.

I ask for you to pray for these in Alaska, and also for our September trip back to Ukraine.

I am so VERY GRATEFUL for your love, friendship, and partnership to help us do the part God has for us as we GO TO THE NATIONS!

Much Love and Appreciation,
Mark Willhite and family

Joshua, Joseph, Gina and Elijah,
and Grandmama Irene

THE McCARTHY WEEKLY NEWS

1918 September and October editions

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Good progress is being made by the Road commission crew with Gus Johnson in charge on sourdough trail. They are now nearly three miles out on the newly surveyed trail, but are camped on the banks of McCarthy Creek with Mrs. Woodin in charge of the kitchen.

Al Doze stopped in today and showed us some of his fine new potatoes.

Fine wheat grown on the Lubbe ranch has been on display this week. Mr. Lubbe has an acre and a half of this. His crop of potatoes is also very good.

SCHOOL NOTES

The enrollment of pupils at the McCarthy School to date is seventeen, nine boys and eight girls.

Attendance for the week was perfect, a record which we hope to maintain, except in cases where absence is unavoidable.

Sept. 7

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Pete Smith and Chas. Hurdning were arrivals from Chisana yesterday.

The two story building occupied by the McCarthy Laundry has received a new coat of paint this week. Nevins and Rielly were the artists.

Nick Blum sustained some injuries at the Mother Lode on Wednesday, when he fell from a wagon, the wheel passing over his chest. Mr. W.B. Hancock rendered first aid and Nick is mending fast.

Mrs. Grant Reed left for Cordova this morning where she will take dental treatment.

Dog musher Peterson had an experience yesterday after which he decided that driving dogs to Chisana is lots easier than driving pigs.

Following the passing of the Bill for the drafting of men between the ages of eighteen and forty five, comes the new draft for women.

There is no age limit. All who can hold a needle are eligible, cutters, baster, machine workers, pressers and button holers are in demand for service in McCarthy.

Report to the McCarthy officers of the American Red Cross.

The names of those claiming exemption will be placed on record with their reasons.

Sept. 14

RED CROSS NOTES

This weeks mail from Chisana brought a letter from Mrs. N.P. Nelson enclosing \$219.50 for the Red Cross Funds which she has collected from Chisana residents.

Considering the few people in that district the list is a handsome one, and we appreciate Mrs. Nelson as a member of the Executive committee.

At a special meeting of the Executive committee held Friday evening, a resolution was passed to purchase Mrs. Faddis sewing machine, to be used for Red Cross sewing.

Mrs. John Barrett, John Amber and Pete Johnson were elected members of the committee, to replace those who have left this district.

Sept. 24

HONOR ROLL

Pupils of McCarthy School, having an average standing of 90 per cent or above in school work, and who were neither absent nor tardy during the month ending Sept. 27.

Victor Marshall, William Faddis, Eudoxia and Mary MacDonnell, Lawrence Barrett, Elizabeth Murie, Arthur MacDonnell, Marion Wells,

Allen Huntington, Ted and Fred Seltenreich.

18 pupils, 9 boys and 9 girls enrolled to date.

May G. Refior Teacher

McCarthy sends more Boys to War

Numbers of our boys leave on Wednesday next to embark on the great adventure. A big send off for them Monday night to speed them on their way and wish success.

The Navy comfort kits were finished this week, and went out to headquarters. Work is progressing well on the pinafores, but more volunteers will be appreciated.

A petition signed by 100 residents has been sent to Commissioner Wilson asking that the road from the bridge over Sourdough Hill be graded for one mile out of town.

SHOW AT KENNECOTT

On Tuesday evening next the Red Cross Show "Somewhere in Alaska" will be reproduced at Kennecott. There will be an excursion train and another immense success is predicted. Profits will be divided between the two Chapters.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Otto Lubbe brought in a fine cabbage from his ranch this week—it weighs over 20 pounds and is on exhibition at Fred Cope's restaurant.

Mrs. Roberts, of Blackburn, is displaying a monster turnip from her garden; every one is making a guess at its weight.

Mrs. Aron Erickson has purchased the Faddis piano, and is now applying herself diligently to the task of becoming an accomplished performer.

Olaf Loveseth arrived in town yesterday. He and Charley Jacobson

have been working a day on the lower end of 13 Rex and are well pleased with their season's work.

Warren Nelson and Fred Cope have returned from a trip to Dan Creek, where they witnessed several clean-ups. Klopfer & Co. have cleaned up over \$3,000 to-date, and Cliff Cayouette is also doing well.

HOW DEMOCRACY WORKS

Early in the summer Secretary Baker announced that there are 1,200,000 troops in Europe. Immediately, a German war official proclaimed to the German people that this statement of Mr. Bakers was not true, because it could not be true.

He said we didn't have an army of that size, and that if we had it would have been impossible for us to have sent the men to Europe because of our lack of ships, and that even had we boats enough to carry them, the German submarines would have sent them to the bottom before they reached their ports of destination.

He concluded this remarkable house-that-Jack-built statement with the assurance that German soldiers would never have anything to fear from American soldiers.

As to the cost, it is to be noted that the bill for the draft is far less per man than for volunteering. In 1914 it cost \$24.48 for recruiting a man into the volunteer system. In 1915 it was \$19.14, and for nine months just before we went to war it was \$28.95.

During the first year of the war down to the seventh of April 1918, official reports show that the cost for registering each man was 54 cents. The cost for each man called was \$1.69, and the cost for each man accepted for service came to \$4.63.

Our Army is, every American believes, the finest body of human beings the sun ever shone on.

It is fit to fight that the world may be made safe for democracy and it is built strictly on the lines of democracy.

The millionaire and the humblest laborer march side by side.

Officers are drawn from every walk of life. No man is exempted because he is rich. None are drafted because they are poor.

Men are measured by their willingness or their capacity.

Past, or caste, or creeds are not taken into account.

Thus the selective draft has become a badge of honorable service.

Sept. 28

SCHOOL NEWS

The schoolhouse and grounds now present a very attractive appearance; the grounds have been leveled and enclosed in a neat fence. Both schoolhouse and fence are painted white with green facings. The work was performed by Herman Keterer and A.A. McCrimmon and is a credit to the school board.

Oct. 5

ITEMS OF INTEREST

R. R. Stewart, Al Jackson, Ed Bassett, Oscar Magnussen, Fred Stoter are Nizina visitors this week.

Frank Kernan, the Nizina operator, is in town this week. He has had an extremely good season but complains of the shortage of labor.

O. Gommere and Pete Peterson will leave very shortly for Canyon Creek where they will do considerable drifting on Roe and Moore's molybdenum property, on which Monty has a two year lease. At a dollar or more a pound this will be some money getter.

Oct. 12

GEM POTATO

Reports received on a test given the Native Gem potato grown by J.E. Barrett from native seed, rate his product at 100 per cent.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Letters and cards received this week from all parts, show that our McCarthy boys are holding up their end. Pete Miller and Harry Boyden write from San Francisco, Driss So-scieff from a troop-train crossing Nevada, Martin Hansen from Camp Fremont, Calif., and Richard Malm-borg from Fort Liscum.

They are unanimous in praising their new employer, Uncle Sam, and the Red Cross, and all send their regards to McCarthy folks.

The many friends of Fred Erickson will regret to learn that he sustained a serious injury at Kennecott yesterday.

While making repairs he was struck by a piece of cable, his leg being crushed and the kneecap injured. The doctor fears he is in for a long siege at the hospital. Mr. Pete Erickson, who visited his son today, found him resting easy.

Miss Nellie Underwood, who visited her father, John Underwood, last year and made many friends here, writes him that she is a Red Cross nurse at Camp Jackson, South Carolina.

A.A. McCrimmon has accepted a position in the C.R.&N.W. car shops in Cordova.

D.C. Sargent, Inspector of Explosives, arrived on yesterday's train to give this section the once over.

ROAD COMMISSION

Much good work has been done by the Road Commission on Sour-dough Hill, so as soon as sleighing commences, a team can make the trip to the Lubbe ranch in 1 hour. The matter of the grading from McCarthy Bridge has been taken under advisement by Road Commissioner Wilson and a favorable reply is expected.

Pete Johnson has just finished building a good barn and chicken house so that his livestock will have comfortable winter quarters.

Oct. 19

PERSONAL NEWS

Another little Alaskan reported at Kennecott on Tuesday morning, and Mr. Carl Anderson of Strelna is accepting the congratulations of his friends on the birth of a son and heir.

After spending a few days here, Mr. Anderson returned on Thursday and the family will follow in a few weeks, to spend the winter at the North Midas.

Oct. 26

Newborn moose calves fight very slim odds

BY NED ROZELL

Any moose calf alive in mid-summer is a lucky animal. If the calf was born a twin, it has probably seen its sibling pulled down and eaten by a bear. If the calf was born alone, it probably stood close to its mother as she reared on her hind legs and pounded a predator with her hooves.

In late May all over Alaska, female moose find a secluded spot to birth a calf, twin calves or sometimes triplets. In the weeks that follow, many of these gangly newborns fall prey to bears and wolves. In most areas of Alaska, more moose calves die than survive.

Mark Bertram is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife biologist at Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. In a study he did more than a decade ago, while a helicopter pilot distracted cow moose from the air, Bertram and others scrambled to birthing sites and attached radio collars to newborn calves. By following radio signals after the calves stopped moving, the biologists were able to find dead calves and determine what killed them.

In the study at Yukon Flats, an area larger than Maryland where Alaska's longest river reaches north of the Arctic Circle, Bertram has found the remains of a majority of the 29 moose he collared. Fifty-five percent died in one month. Three-quarters of those baby moose were killed by either black bears, which are abundant in Yukon Flats, or grizzly bears.

When Bertram approaches a kill site, there's usually not much left to identify the carcass as a moose calf. He said bears generally crush a calf's skull to first eat the brain, tongue and other soft tissue, and then work their way back to consume the entire carcass. A moose calf is a major score for a bear or a wolf, as is seen in the woeful numbers of calves that reach their first birthday.

"It's real common for just 30 percent of calves to survive their first year," Bertram said.

In studies done elsewhere in Alaska and the Yukon, the numbers agree. North of Tok, 25 percent of calves collared survived their first year. Just 19 percent survived in a study performed in southwest Yukon. Around 30

percent made it through a year in two studies done around Galeana and Nelchina. Terry Bowyer, a biologist formerly with the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Institute of Arctic Biology, collared cow moose in Denali National Park and kept track of her young for four years. Only five calves out of 44 made it through their first summers. A vast majority of those were killed by grizzly bears.

Moose calves are often easy prey for bears and wolves until they gain some agility, Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist Rod Boertje said. "Caribou calves can outrun bears in 10 days," he said. "It takes moose calves about five weeks until they can outrun a bear. They're vulnerable for a lot longer."

Boertje said the moose calves that survive are probably the ones that stick close to the cow no matter how frightened by an attacking bear or wolf. Those that let their mothers fight their battles for them are probably the moose that survive to be adults in a struggle that is lost more often than not.

This column is provided as a public service by the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, in cooperation with the UAF research community. Ned Rozell is a science writer at the institute. This column originally appeared in 1998.

"You cannot legislate the poor into prosperity by legislating the wealthy out of prosperity. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend, is the beginning of the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it." —Adrian Rogers

PUBLIC NOTICE
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
DEVELOPMENT AND
DISPOSAL PLAN
MCCARTHY, ALASKA

The University of Alaska ("University") is seeking public comments regarding the sale of gravel, sand, rock and other materials ("Material") from an approximately 41 acre parcel of land located at approximately 52 Mile McCarthy Road, within a portion of Section 35, T5S, R12E, CRM. The University intends to sell the Material at or above fair market value. Additional information concerning this Development and Disposal Plan is available for review online at www.ualand.com or upon written request at the address listed below. Parties interested in commenting on the Development and Disposal Plan must submit written comments to the University of Alaska at the following address, by **no later than 5:00 PM on Thursday, September 10, 2009:**

University of Alaska
Land Management
1815 Braġaw Street, Suite 101
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3438

Contact: Laurie Swartz at
(907) 450-8133.

Subsistence hunting permits for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve available

Federal subsistence registration permits for permit hunts in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve will be available starting Monday, July 27, 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 9 a.m. to 7 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.

Permits will be available for moose in Unit 11, goat in Unit 11, and a late season sheep hunt in Units 11 and 12 for persons 60 years of age or older.

There is no federal registration permit for the regular season sheep hunts in Units 11 and 12. Federally qualified hunters wishing to harvest sheep in Units 11 and 12 during the regular season can do so under the federal harvest limit, but must obtain a state harvest ticket and comply with the state's reporting and sealing requirements. Note that the state sealing requirement for Unit 11 now applies to all rams, even rams with less than full-curl

horns. Sealing is not required for sheep harvested under a federal registration permit during the late season elder hunt.

Please bring your State of Alaska resident hunting license, a photo ID (such as a drivers license), and proof of local physical address when you come to get a permit. Documentation of physical address can include a voter registration card or a utility bill listing your physical address.

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 "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.

THANK YOU MCCARTHY LODGE!

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve would like to thank the McCarthy Lodge for gifting back to the Kennecott Mill Town Historic Landmark the General Store's Cash Register. This generous gift brings home another piece of history for all to see and appreciate.

THANK YOU

“When the people fear their government, there is Tyranny; when the government fears the people, there is Liberty.”

~ Thomas Jefferson

MOTHER LODE COPPER MINES COMPANY OF ALASKA LLC
201 Barrow Street #1 • Anchorage, AK 99501

COPPER RIVER RECORD

Community Newspaper
for the Copper Valley
Subscribe * Advertise * Contribute!
P.O. Box 277 Glennallen, AK 99588
907-822-3727 phone and fax
mail@copperriverrecord.com

Wrangell St. Elias News

Subscriptions \$14/year

Online-only \$11/year

PO Box MXY, Glennallen AK 99588

907-554-4454

MARY KAY

stress-free
holiday **Shopping**

This season, get **fabulous gifts** for everyone on your list...all from the comfort of your home. Just call me or visit my **Web site**. You'll find pampering products, fragrances and more at your **convenience!**

Tammy Rowland
Independent Beauty Consultant
www.marykay.com/trowland1
(907) 581-5881



Valdez Realty

“The Dirt Merchant”

WALTER M. WOOD - BROKER (907)835-2408
Cor. EGAN & HAZLET P.O. BOX 868 VALDEZ, AK 99686
vldzrlty@evalaska.net

Invest in your own recreation lot at Mi. 27 McCarthy Hwy. 23 lots available in accessible small & large parcels at Chokosna River Tracts.
Broker is Owner.

Sourdough Drilling WATER WELLS

Paul Barr
Sourdough Drilling
PO Box 721
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-262-5494 or cell 907-398-7898

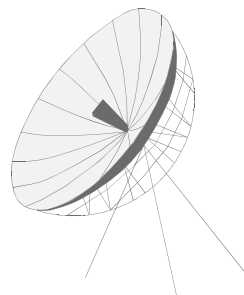
www.PropertyRightsResearch.org

Julie Smithson, Researcher
213 Thorn Locust Lane
London, Ohio 43140-8844
propertyrights@earthlink.net
740-857-1239 (voice/no fax)

Be sure to visit mccarthy-kennicott.com or www.wsen.net for current conditions on the McCarthy Road, weather information, breaking news and more.

The New **Caribou Hotel**

*Getting tired?
Stop at the Caribou Hotel!
The coffee pot's always on!*



**Warm atmosphere — Hot Tubs — Satellite TV
Full Menu Restaurant**

Mile 187 Glenn Hwy. 822-3302 Glennallen, AK

**First in Fuel, First in
Service; Family
Owned Since 1892.**



Residential & Commercial
Heating Oil
Gasoline
Diesel Fuel
AvGas and Jet Fuel
Chevron Lube Oils and Greases
Tanks/Accessories

Call Us: 822-3375
Mile 188.5 Glenn Highway
Box 276
Glennallen, AK 99588

CROWLEY®

**WELLS
FARGO**

We've Been A Part
Of The Local Scenery
Since 1852[®]



Wells Fargo was one of the first companies to do business around here. So, you might say we've grown up together.

Thanks for all your support over the years.

Glennallen Team

Mile 187.5 Glenn Highway

© 2008 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Member FDIC. AS-3216 9551

wellsfargo.com

RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY AT KENNECOTT

Please Join Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Celebrating the newly restored General Manager's Office at the Kennecott Mill Town National Historic Landmark, on Sunday, September 6, 2009.

The Ceremony will begin at the General Manager's office at 2:00p.m. National Park Service staff will be on hand to

discuss restoration and stabilization efforts.

Free shuttle service from the foot bridge will be provided from
12:00pm - 2:00pm.



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

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

www.coppervalleyair.com

Copper Valley Air

Ellis Air Taxi, Inc.

DBA Copper Valley
Air Service, LLC

Phone 822-4200

Or toll-free 866-570-4200

Gulkana Airfield Box 234, Glennallen, AK 99588

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEPARTURES, ARRIVALS, CONNECTIONS.

Ellis Air will not be responsible for damages resulting from the failure of flights to depart or arrive at times stated in this timetable, nor for errors herein, nor for failure to make connections to other airlines or of this company. Schedules are subject to change without notice. Schedules shown are based on expected flying times. Because weather and other factors may affect operating conditions, departures and arrivals cannot be guaranteed.

HOMESTEAD SUPPLY

*Lumber, building materials and hardware delivered
to the McCarthy area at Anchorage prices!*

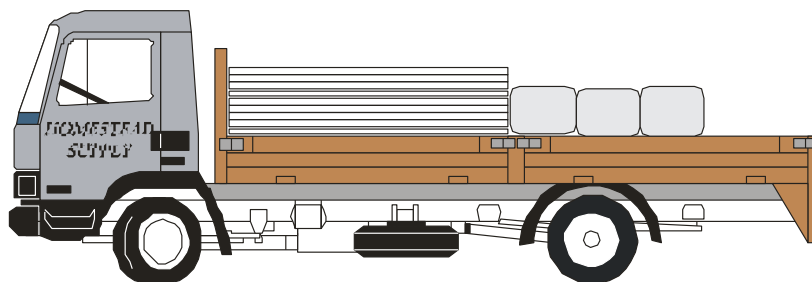
Give us a call or come in and browse our new ACE
Hardware store.

NEW! Greenhouse and potting supplies!

907-822-3987

or

FAX 822-5209



Mile 115.5 Richardson Highway (Box 49) Glennallen

FOR SALE

**5 acres in Fireweed Subdivision, Mile 51 McCarthy Road
1/4 mile off the road with easy, road accessibility.**

**16' x 24' cabin with two porches, good and sound, just
needs some limited TLC**

Large, two-story barn, well, good outhouse

White spruce and aspen trees

50' mobile home with 3 beds, cooking and heating stove

\$70,000 asking price but willing to negotiate

Sellers: Harold and Carol Michal.

Contact information: Box MXY, Glennallen, AK. 99588. 907 554-4428.

Or 101 Frank Smith Way #207, Wasilla, AK. 99654. 907 373-4193.

*McCarthy Mercantile would like to
thank all of our patrons for another great
season.*

*Be sure to stop by next year and check out our
expanding grocery and hardware sections, and
have a hand dipped ice cream cone!!*

See you in 2010!!

Kurt and Peggy Smith

To watch us grow: [www.facebook.com McCarthy Mercantile](http://www.facebook.com/McCarthyMercantile)

The Church on the Island

says
Thanks

to every one who helped make this summer a
glorious one.

You are greatly loved!

Telling of the Goodness of God

McCarthy Kennicott Community Church

Pastors Rick and Bonnie Kenyon

*Those who enter into Christ's being-here-
for-us no longer have to live under a con-
tinuous, low-lying black cloud.*

Romans 8:1 Message

<http://wsen.net/mkcc/>

WSEN Mini- Storage

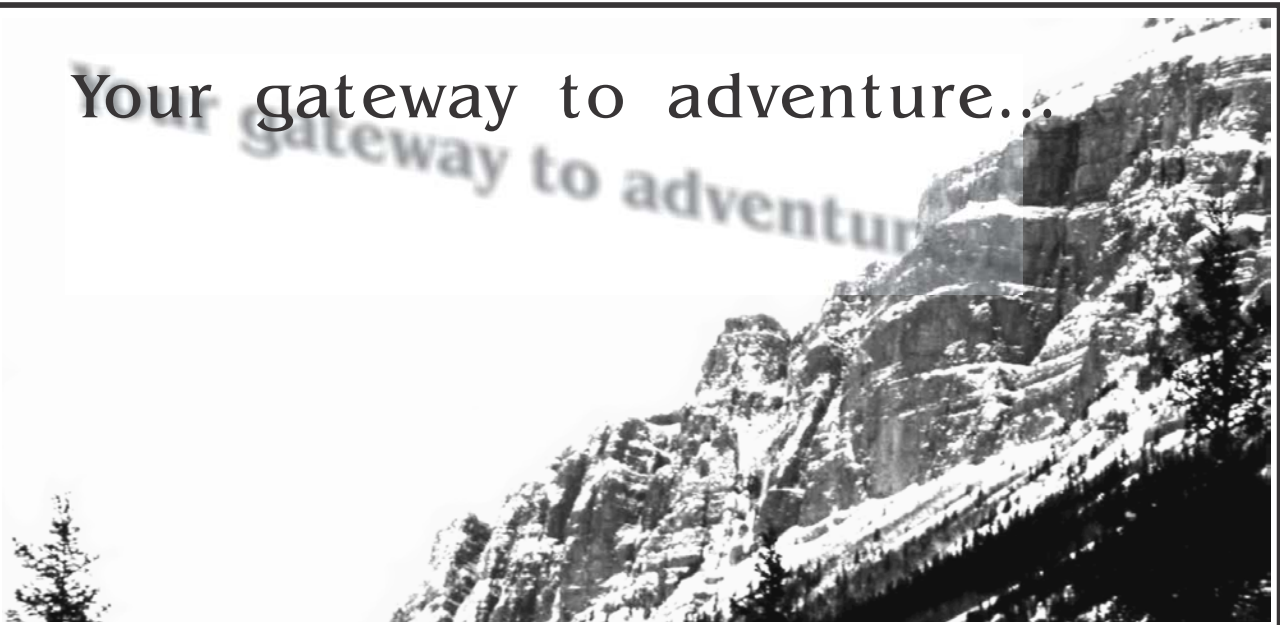


One 5'x12' unit available. Perfect for snowmachine, 4-wheeler, chainsaws, generators, furniture, you name it!

Located on the "west-side" of the Kennicott River.

Contact Rick & Bonnie Kenyon at 907-554-4454 or WSEN@wsen.net

Your gateway to adventure...



McCarthy Lodge • Ma Johnson's Hotel

Explore the possibilities at www.mccarthy lodge.com

1-907- 554 4402

Aspen Meadows



of McCarthy

formerly **Wrangell B & St. Elias News B**

- ◆ Private cabins for 2 to 4.
- ◆ Convenient access by automobile.
- ◆ Historic homestead setting. Enjoy Alaskan bush living.
- ◆ Quiet, Peaceful location away from the crowds!

Phone (907)554-4454 or Email WSEN@starband.net

See us on the WEB at <http://mccarthy-kennicott.com/WSENBB.htm>

ROWCON SERVICES

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
McCarthy, Alaska 554-4498

Keith Rowland, Owner
Lifetime Alaskan

Excavation & Gravel Products
DEC-approved septics

♪ Over the river and
through the woods, ♪
a-freighting we will go.

Lowboy & Heavy Freight Service



McCarthy



Bed & Breakfast

Cozy, quiet cabins, all with private bathrooms & showers. Pull into our conveniently located homestead on the McCarthy Road, 1/2 mile from the Kennicott River footbridge.

- Continental breakfast & fresh coffee
- Private baths
- Gazebo kitchen
- Picnic area
- Tire repair

Jwadam@starband.net
PO Box MXY Glennallen, AK 99588-8998
(907) 554-4433

WRANGELL MOUNTAIN TECHNICAL SERVICES

Providing Civil Engineering and
Land Survey Services

Serving the Copper Basin and throughout Alaska

On-Site Water and Wastewater Designs
Engineering Consultation
Residential Home Inspections
Construction Inspection and Management
As-built Surveys, Boundary Surveys, Sub-
divisions, Construction Surveys

ALLEN MINISH, PE PLS

Mile 32.1 Edgerton Hwy
P. O. Box 118, Chitina, AK 99566

907-823-2280

Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Hi Cooking Friends. As usual when I am writing for this particular issue, I am sitting at the window of our McCarthy home and looking out over the gorgeous horizon. This year it is somewhat blocked by the smoke of our nearby fire but fortunately, the danger has mostly passed. The firemen have been absolutely wonderful and McCarthy is not damaged. This is the issue that I try to have all the recipes come from local people so get prepared, everybody, for GOOD FOOD!

I had several salad recipes offered to me so I'll give those to you first.

The first one was offered to me by Candy Seltenreich. *She lives in Anchorage with her husband Bill, a 3rd generation Alaskan. They have a cabin on the Nizina (right across the river from McCarthy) and are building a small cabin in McCarthy. Summers are spent on the Nizina and winters are spent traveling in their motor home through-out the U.S. Candy always makes the potato salad for our beloved Peggy Smith (McCarthy Mercantile) who claims it's the Best! Bonnie and I were sitting on the Merc's porch one morning having our ice cream after mail and overheard Candy and Peggy talking about the potato salad. Of course, nose you had to run over to the table and ask for the recipe. She says it's a little unusual because there are so many eggs which make the salad more yellow*

than you may be used to seeing but Peggy couldn't praise it enough. Thanks, Candy for sharing.

CANDY'S POTATO SALAD

5-6 new potatoes (red may be used)

½ to 1 onion, diced

Clausen pickles—dill

8 hard boiled eggs—chopped

Best Foods mayonaisse

Boil the potatoes whole until done—cool and quarter or dice

Boil eggs—Cool and dice

Cut up pickles—chunky

Dice onions

Toss with salt and pepper with mayonnaise until you like the consistency. Chill, adjust seasonings and enjoy.

The next one is for a cauliflower salad. It was given to me by Majbritt Logan. Interestingly enough, I met her at the Mercantile also. You could say, I love the store and the socializing, or you could say I just can't stay away from the Ice Cream! Majbritt was born and raised in Denmark and said she always felt there was something bigger and more adventurous for her somewhere in the world so she moved to the USA in 1988 and settled down in Hartford, CT. Since then she has moved to Katy, Texas, and has lived in Anchorage twice. Now, fortunately for us, she has landed in McCarthy and wishes to stay. Here, she says, she has a connection with the natural beauty of nature and the people she has met. This is Majbritt's fourth summer back. Because food allergies, mainly to dairy, soy and

gluten, run in her family she has had to change her way of cooking. In doing so she has discovered that she likes living a "healthier" lifestyle.

CAULIFLOWER SALAD

Majbritt says, "This exceptional salad is made with all of the ingredients traditionally found in a potato salad. Since potatoes are high in carbohydrates, you can still indulge in this all-American favorite by substituting with cauliflower. This recipe for 4 can be doubled or tripled."

2 lbs. cauliflower (or 3 cups cauliflower florets)

½ cup (or more) mayonnaise

1 teaspoon white wine vinegar

1 teaspoon yellow mustard

¼ teaspoon coarse salt

3 hard-boiled eggs, chopped

1/3 cup diced red onion

1 red bell pepper, diced

Place a steamer in a large saucepan filled with about 2 inches of water. Bring the water to a boil over medium-high heat. Place the cauliflower in the steamer, cover and cook/steam for 8-10 minutes or until crisp-tender. Drain well, set aside and cool to room temperature.

Combine mayonnaise, white wine vinegar, mustard and salt in a small bowl and blend well. Combine cauliflower, eggs, red onion and red pepper in a large bowl and lightly blend. Add the mayonnaise mixture and blend until all salad components are coated. Cover bowl and refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Thanks, Majbritt, the next

time I have a cauliflower, this is exactly what I'm going to make.

I've given you several recipes in the past that were contributed by Barbara Rice. As many of you know, Barbara and John have a winter home in St. Louis and a beautiful summer home here in McCarthy. She operates the gift shop for Neil at the McCarthy Lodge, cooks lunch for the McCarthy Community Church every Sunday and helps with anyone or anything else in the community that needs a hand. In 2006 she and John went to Camp Hope in Deiverville, Miss. to help with the Katrina victims. There were about 80 people in the Camp that year and she elected to help with the cooking. For me the thought of hundreds of people dropping by for breakfast, lunch, and dinner is overwhelming but Barbara just takes it in stride. She shared both a breakfast and a salad recipe with me to give to all you WSEN readers.

KATRINA MARINATED VEGETABLE SALAD

3 cans green beans, rinsed and drained
1 can corn
Chopped onion
2 chopped carrots
1- 4 ounce jar pimentos or chopped red pepper
1 can pinto or black beans
Chopped celery
1 can diced tomatoes, drained
1 cup Italian Salad dressing
1 tablespoon dried basil

1 teaspoon garlic powder

Mix together the dressing ingredients, pour over the salad ingredients, and marinate.

Barbara served this salad one Sunday at lunch and it was delicious.

KATRINA FRENCH TOAST

Grease a 9 X 13 pan with oil.
1 ½ sticks of butter - melt in oven (Barbara likes to reduce the butter and brown sugar to 1 cup each)
1 ½ cup brown sugar
3 tablespoons corn syrup

Pour into pan.
20 slices thin white bread

Cover the bottom of the pan and then layer.

Mix 8 eggs
2 ½ cups milk
3 teaspoons vanilla
Nutmeg

Pour over the bread (don't let it overflow) — let it sit 8 hours or overnight.

Bake 45-60 minutes at 350 degrees. Should be brown on top and egg mixture should be like custard. Put a cookie sheet over the top and invert to your platter.

Now, how about dessert! Kyan Kirby, from Millersview, Texas—and visiting us in McCarthy for the second summer—shared this recipe with me. Kyan, a retired teacher, has spent most of her life in Texas. She says she's retired but when you listen to everything she does it's not the

“inactive” type of retirement some people look forward to! She's taught every grade from 4th and 5th to college. For several years she taught within the state prison system. For the state she has been hired to teach motivation and techniques to teachers and the same for Simon and Schuster, except for those classes she traveled all over the U.S. It's a wonder she found any time to cook! I would like to share her recipe for

BANANA PUDDING

Combine:

1 can Eagle Brand condensed milk

1 ½ cup cold water

Add and beat:

1 - 4 serving size vanilla instant pudding

Fold in:

2 cups Cool Whip

In a 10 X 10 clear Pyrex dish, layer sliced bananas, Mini Nilla wafers (Kyan says she likes to use the mini vanilla wafers because they are easier to use and if she is making the dessert for children she can make a smiley face or something on top. Any type of vanilla wafer will do.) and pudding mix. Crumble Nilla wafers on top and chill.

Kyan also said that she may also divide everything so that she has 2 layers of each thing instead of just the one.

Until next time when I'll be writing you from back in Arizona, have fun and eat well.

“The Supreme Court will allow the theology of the Declaration to be taught in the classroom as long as it is understood that it belongs to a ‘world that is dead and gone,’ that it has nothing to do with the world that we live in here and now, that it is not a living faith that holds God to be the source of our rights, the author of the laws of nature, and the protector and Supreme Judge of America.” — Thomas G. West (University of Dallas professor)

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

The summer of 2009 has been hot and dry .

June temperatures and precipitation were about average. The high temperature for June was 83 on the 10th (78 on June 21, '08 and 82 on June 28, '07). The low was 28 on June 24th and 27th (29 on June 11, '08 and 27 on June 9, '07). The average temperature for June was 54.2. This compares to 52.6 in June '08, 60.0 in June '07, 53.2 in June '06, 55.2 in June '05 and 57.7 in June '04. There were 6 days with a high of 80 or above and 5 days with a low of 32 or lower. The total precipitation was 0.96 inches (1.49 inches in June '08, 0.28 inches in June '07, 2.14 inches in June '06 and 1.49 inches in June '05). At Kennicott the high was 82 on June 4th , the low was 31 on June 27th and the average was 56.6. Total precipitation was 1.00 inch.

July was above average in temperature and well below average in precipitation. The high for July was 88 on the 8th (81 on July 4, '08 and 80 on July 29

'07). This was the all time high recorded at McCarthy. The old record was 87 on June 21, 1991. The low was 34 on July 25th (29 on July 29, '08 and 35 on July 15, '07). The July average temperature 60.1, compared to 53.0 in '08, 58.1 in '07, 57.1 in '06 and 56.1 in '05. There were 17 days with a high of 80 or above and 1 day with a low of 35 or lower. The total July precipitation was 0.22 inches (4.48 inches in '08, 1.39 inches in July '07, 1.21 inches in July '06, 5.34 inches in '05 and 1.65 inches in '04). Kennicott recorded a high of 86 on July 8th, a low 38 on the 25th and an average temperature of 61.4. Total precipitation was 0.25 inch.

Hidden Creek Lake began releasing its water on July 11th (Aug 9, '08, July 22, '07, July 4, '06, 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 afternoon of July 11th and crested at 2:00 am on July 14th. The crest was only

25.65 ft. compared to 22.75 ft. in '08, 23.00 ft. in '07 and 31.50 ft. in '06. The increase was 4.32 feet in 60 hours. The water had been rising slowly for 2 days and finally took off the morning of the 13th. There was no flooding and no water on the road across the East channel, but part of the parking lot on the west side was washed away. The river was back to its normal level by the morning of July 17th.

The first 5 days of August were warm and dry, then we finally got some rain. By the morning of the 14th there was 1.40 inches recorded. The high was 84 on the 5th, with 7 days of 70 or higher. The low was 34 on the 1st. It's about time to think about covering the plants in the garden. The first frost usually occurs in mid August and lows below 30 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.

Ten Commandments

Some people have trouble with all those 'shall's' and 'shall not's' in the Ten Commandments. Folks just aren't used to talking in those terms. So, in middle Tennessee they translated the 'King James' into ' Jackson County ' language... no joke (posted on the wall at Cross Trails Church in Gainesboro, TN).

(Thanks to WSEN subscriber Trig Trigliano who sent us this in email form.)

01. Just one God
02. Put nothin' before God
03. Watch yer mouth
04. Git yourself to Sunday meetin'
05. Honor yer Ma & Pa
06. No killin'
07. No foolin' around with another fellow's gal
08. Don't take what ain't yers
09. No tellin' tales or gossipin'
10. Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff!



WSEEN staff photo



WSEEN staff photo

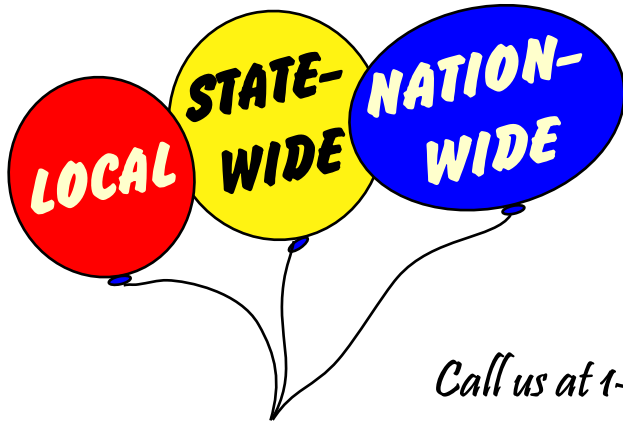
The Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative Customer Appreciation Picnic took place in McCarthy on July 17. Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs were prepared and served by CVTC staff and enjoyed by McCarthy area locals.

The picnic was held at the “Zak House,” and fire personnel took the opportunity to brief picnickers about the status of the fire and precautions they could take to make their dwelling “firewise.”

McCarthy Road travelers experienced short delays during the month of August while a Department of Transportation bridge inspection team gave the Kuskulana Bridge structure a close look.

DOT&PF is responsible for inspecting all state-owned and local government owned public bridges every two years.

A maintenance crew also replaced the decking on the bridge.



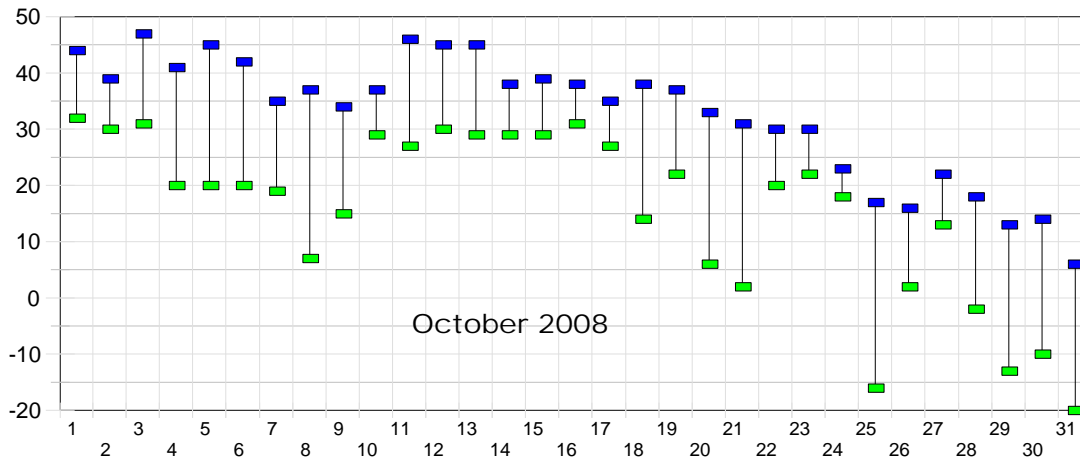
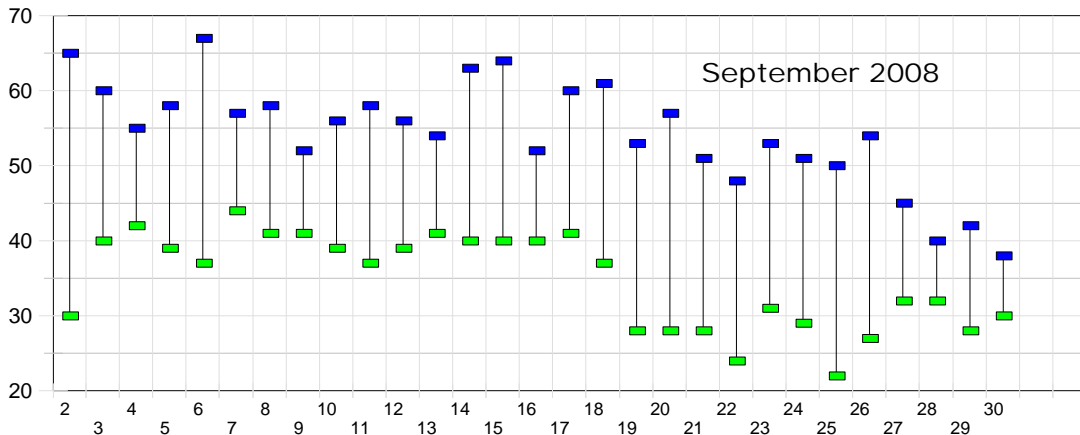
A CALLING PLAN TO FIT YOUR NEEDS!

Call us at 1-800-478-6612 for more information on how affordable the convenience and security of cellular phone service can be.



www.cvtc.org

WIRELESS INTERNET LOCAL LONG DISTANCE DISH TV



is proud to be serving you again this year with exceptional wood products.

- T&G house logs
- Rough cut beams
- Log siding
- Interior T&G paneling & flooring

822-5745

NEW this year: Sheathing & kiln dried commercial grade studs.



Mile 13 Edgerton Hwy

Email: woodstacker@hotmail.com