

# Wrangell St. Elias News

VOL. ONE ISSUE ONE

JULY & AUGUST 1992

ONE DOLLAR

## After 54 Years...

### McCarthy area gets "New News"

The Copper Bee, the McCarthy Avalanche, McCarthy Weekly, The Kennicott Star. Back in the days of the Kennicott mine there was no shortage of written news in the area. There was no shortage of people to read those publications, either. Several thousand people populated the valley to serve the mining community and the railroad. Blackburn, and later McCarthy sprang up with hotels, restaurants, a photo shop and many other businesses. Homesteads along the railway provided vegetables, milk, lumber and

other necessities of life. While Anchorage was still just a small tent city, the Chitina River Valley was bustling with activity.

Then came the famous "last train" in November of 1938. The mine shut down, and the people left. For 54 years there was no real need of a local newspaper as only a few hardy souls remained.

Now in 1992 with modern technology such as radio and satellite TV there is no shortage of World, National or State news available to the few local residents in the area. But the same technology that brought satellite TV and cellular phones brought the computer and laser printer.

Rather than the 12 hours it took the students at Blackburn School to hand-set a page of type for the Kennicott Star, the computer can do it in less than one. And while we as a community are well informed on worldwide issues, sometimes we don't know when there is a meeting in town about something important to all of us.

Wrangell St. Elias News is an attempt to provide local news items of interest both to the full-time residents of the area and also to the increasing numbers of people who are coming to enjoy their leisure time in this area.

In this first issue we have part one of an exclusive in-

terview with Karen Wade, the Superintendent of the Wrangell St. Elias National Park. Mrs. Wade discusses the Park Service and plans to acquire Kennicott. Mrs. Wade also talked about other subjects such as NPS involvement with the State in upgrading the McCarthy road which we will cover in future issues.

Most of you have been wondering about all of the helicopter activity from the McCarthy airstrip in early June. Sara Glass covers the "BIA" story. An insight into some of the scientific studies being conducted in the area is provided by Ed LaChapelle.

McCarthy has a long history of 4th of July festivities. Look on page 12 for this year's plans.

Our hope is that Wrangell St. Elias News will be both informative and entertaining. Your input is needed if this publication is to be successful. If you have items that you believe would be of interest to others, please jot them down and give them to Rick or Bonnie Kenyon. (P.O. Box MXV, Glennallen AK 99588 if you are out of town) Suggestions and comments are welcome also.

We will attempt to publish WSEN bi-monthly, with small, special editions when needed to inform of events that are of interest to the community.

*Rick Kenyon*

### Local Explorer returns from Northwest Passage Expedition

BY BONNIE KENYON

Christmas 1991 - Paulatuk, Northwest Territories - Malcolm Vance, 29 year old resident of McCarthy, Alaska

While some were writing hate letters, McCarthy residents signed Christmas cards, wrote special notes of encouragement, and even slipped in a little money. All to let a young man named Malcolm Vance know we cared where he was on that particular Christmas. (cont. pg 2)



Malcolm with Greenland Husky

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While some dropped their support, Cambridge Bay residents flew in a cache of dog food. Paulatuk natives donated fish, seal, caribou, and whale blubber to strengthen the remaining dog teams that would carry the 1991 Northwest Passage Expedition to their final destination - Churchill, Manitoba. People up North showed compassion because they know what kind of country Malcolm and his fellow travelers had just come through! These Arctic natives encouraged them to keep going.

Malcolm Vance and three other adventurers set out to recreate the trek made in 1923 by Danish explorer, Knud Rasmussen. Malcolm's own dog team of Alaskan Huskies were raised right here in McCarthy. The findings of both expeditions will be compared. The changes to the Arctic since 1923 were seen and noted. Scientists in Winnipeg and at the University of Fairbanks looked forward to receiving snow and lichen samples.

Lonnie Dupre and Tom Viren, of Minnesota, and Jon Nierenberg and Malcolm of Alaska left Prudhoe Bay October 29, 1991, with a total of 3,250 miles still ahead. By November 21st the sun had disappeared. They faced 63 days of total darkness.

By using maps, compasses, a GPS (Global Position Satellite), they made their way over tundra, pack ice, portaged over rivers, having to break their own trails. At times the terrain would look all the same. Nothing but pure, white expanse. One's mind would start to think of yesterday's happenings - old conversations, grandparents, situations you hadn't thought of in years. Somehow, though, at the end of the day those thoughts had vanished.

Late November trouble set in. Expecting to travel about 20 miles a day, the 4 men with their dogs were only able to do

about 8-10 miles. Three different blizzards pinned them down for 2-3 days at a time. Weather and terrain conditions slowed down their pace considerably and caused them to run short on dog food.

Nasty winds bringing a wind chill factor of -85 degrees sapped the strength of the dogs. The average temperature was -35 degrees. Provisions would have been enough under ordinary weather conditions. These travelers, however, were experiencing fierce and unrelenting weather.

Going ten days without dog food took a heavy toll - especially on Jon Nierenberg's dogs. Out of the 12 he started with, ten died.

Paulatuk, the news media had preceeded their arrival. Phone calls to the RCMP from animal rights people tried to get the Canadian government to put an end to the expedition and kick them out.

The main sponsors of the expedition were receiving heavy pressure to withdraw their support. Dupont - the largest financial sponsor - backed out after giving about half the amount promised. Natural Life Pet Products - the second largest sponsor - though donating about 8,000 lbs. of specially made dog food asked for the removal of their name. Malcolm spoke highly of the special mix of dog food they had received and didn't feel that the product was at

Lonnie chose to finish. They spent a month in Paulatuk preparing for the last part of their trek. The 180 villagers welcomed them, kept them fed, and helped them get going again.

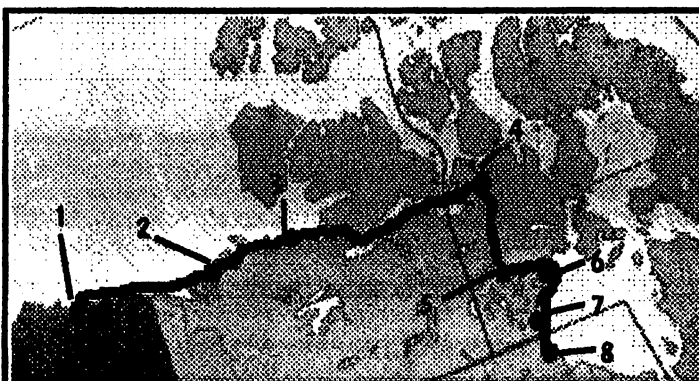
Malcolm left Paulatuk with 9 dogs, George, his lead dog, taking the lead all the way. Lonnie had 8 dogs. The 570 miles between Paulatuk and Cambridge Bay was beautiful country - the longest stretch between communities. Every 200 miles, a cache of dog food awaited them. Thanks to the residents of Cambridge Bay!

They arrived in Cambridge Bay in February and stayed 3 or 4 days before heading on to Gjoa Haven. By this time, the Northwest Passage was completed. The date was March 3, 1992.

The last leg of their journey ended at Churchill, Manitoba. A couple of villages were bypassed shortening it to 3,059 miles. No matter how you cut it, that's a long way to trek!

Has Malcolm changed? In his own words: "That'll probably be something that in a lot of ways will take time to even notice. It gives you a lot of confidence to know you can go 3,000 miles across the Canadian Arctic. Gives you that feeling you can go anywhere overcoming problems. You know, it's a neat feeling to be standing in a place like that. You look around and you think there is not another living soul within miles. You just look around and there is nothing. Complete silence. And you just go 'Wow!'"

What about Malcolm's dogs? Because there wasn't any money to get home on, he sold them. Churchill, Baker Lake, Chesterfield, and Eskimo Point have at least one thing in common. They each have at least one true Alaskan Huskie. A team of dogs that certainly saw more than their share of adventure. Says Malcolm, "I was real proud of those dogs. They pulled hard the whole way." (cont. on page 8)



*Route of the Northwest Passage Expedition*

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Prudhoe Bay | 5. Baker Lake   |
| 2. Tuktoyaktuk | 6. Chesterfield |
| 3. Paulatuk    | 7. Eskimo Point |
| 4. Gjoa Haven  | 8. Churchill    |

Lonnie lost 3 of his dogs. One was due to a dog fight. Malcolm lost two.

On December 7th Tom Viren set out on skis to find help. They were about 35 miles from Paulatuk. By the 8th Viren met the RCMP coming out to search for them as they were overdue. The same day several hunters out searching for caribou discovered the others. They must have been a most welcome sight- though they were traveling on snowmachines! The rescued party was taken to Paulatuk.

By the time they reached

fault.

The expedition members agree to some human error. They do not see themselves as uncaring or cruel. Certainly, they have learned a lot and felt responsible for their dogs' wellbeing. Starting a trip like this, in mid-January - the first day the sun appears - instead of in October, is one change Malcolm would make. Traveling through the polar night is not something he would want to repeat.

Two of the four men chose to leave the expedition at Paulatuk. Malcolm and

# Park Service to acquire Kennicott?

**Wrangell St. Elias  
News talks with  
NPS  
Superintendent  
Karen Wade**

May 29, 1992

**Question:** My first question is this: just briefly and in broad terms what is the Park doing or want to do or in other words, what's happening with Kennicott and the Park?

**Karen:** The Kennicott property which is owned by the Kennicott Land Company was offered to the Park Service in 1986 or so and then a team of people came out from the Regional Office and did an evaluation of the suitability of the property being added to the National Park Service and the decision was made to recommend acquisition provided things could be taken care of.

Those things were the con-

***"...the decision was made to recommend acquisition provided things could be taken care of."***

cerns that everyone had about hazardous substances that were on this property and also the surface and the subsurface were owned by different parties. The surface is owned by the Greater Kennicott Land Company and the subsurface is owned by the Kennicott Corporation. So those were two major obstacles prior to the time that the property could be considered for acquisition.

Then the third thing was the Park Service felt very strongly that if the property was acquired it had to be a manageable unit so it had to be entire property not just the townsite but the whole 3,000 acre property minus the lots

that have been sold off by the Kennicott Land Company.

So, when I got here two years ago, we were in a situation where things were still very much in limbo - no one had yet agreed to clean up the site, to remove the hazardous substances and we really didn't have any negotiations going on related to the purchase of the subsurface. So, I contacted the Kennicott Corporation in Salt Lake City, asked them if they were interested in cooperating to take care of those two matters - the clean up and the ownership of the subsurface and they got back to me and said that they were interested in working with us and they sent their representatives to Alaska and agreed to contract with a company in Anchorage called the American North, an environmental engineering company to do an evaluation of the hazardous substances on the property.

So, this past year, in June

'91, the American North did the evaluation. That report is just about finished. They're doing some testing - some dye testing - to determine the hydrology of the area and where runoff waters go - off of these tailings this summer. And that will be the final stage of the work they agreed to do to evaluate the hazardous substances.

That final report will then be followed by a plan that will describe what they would do to clean up the property or what the owners would propose to do to clean up the property. At the present time, they haven't made a commitment to go that next step but they have made a com-



mitment to work with us to assure that our concerns related to the cultural structures themselves - the values of the structures themselves - are considered when they do this cleanup plan. So that will be this summer's work, looking at the historical concerns - the concerns related to the historical structures at the same time we are looking at how a cleanup might be accomplished.

**WSEN:** This American North - they're involved in that part of it too? The historic?

**Karen:** Yes, yes.

**WSEN:** Ok, I didn't know about the Kennicott Corporation having the subsurface. So does that have to be bought too?

**Karen:** We have to own both the surface and the subsurface and Kennicott Corporation has - there are a couple of ways that they that we may go with that. They have some holdings that are a part of a mining property that they own outside of Salt Lake City that are under the surface of some Federal land. We talked about an exchange between our - the Department of Interior - and the Kennicott

Corporation for those properties. The other way would be for them to donate or sell their interest. And we haven't gone through much further with those discussions.

**WSEN:** Ok let me ask you this. Does the 3,000 acres that you mentioned, do you know about how far down would that come. Down the hill. In other words, there is a gate. .

**Karen:** The gate is the edge of the original property. There are pieces of land that have been sold off in there. Jim Millers and some others so ..

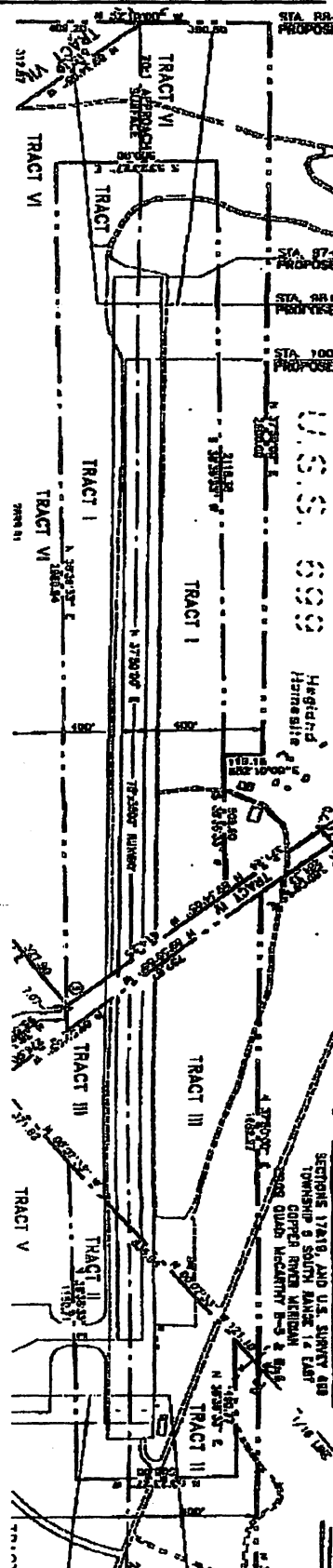
**WSEN:** What would happen to those private in-holdings - would you try to buy those?

**Karen:** No, in most cases, those properties would be managed compatibly with the kinds of things we would like to see done and there wouldn't be any need to acquire those. There may be some ..

**WSEN:** What if Jim Miller wanted to put in a gas station?

**Karen:** Well, I can't tell you right now. I just don't know, I mean the first objective on the part of everyone that is associated with this has been

(cont. next page)



## ***A Busy Summer for Science in the Park***

by Ed LaChapelle

Several scientific research projects are presently underway in the McCarthy area of the Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

### **Glacier Changes**

A volunteer worker, Bernd Peters, will be assisting Park mining geologist Danny Rosenkrans, with a project to record recent glacier advances and retreats. This will be done by comparing recent aerial photography with maps based on photography taken 30 to 40 years ago. Where significant changes are observed, the original mapping photography will be consulted for more detailed information. The aim is to build up a comprehensive overview of both the extent of glaciation in the Park and the behavior of the ever-changing glaciers. Peters is a German geography student with an active interest in glaciers.

The terminal area of the retreating Kennicott Glacier is serving as a test area for the mapping techniques because easy access from the McCarthy roadhead allows on-the-ground checking of the positions measured from aerial photos.

### **Stream Flow Tracer Study**

America North, Inc., contractor with the Kennicott Corp. for hazardous waste studies at the Kennicott Mill Site, is presently examining the role of National Creek in leaching soluble materials from the mill site tailings. Information to date suggests there has been very little leaching. Two of ANI's environmental scientists, Bret Berglund and Laura Fox,

have been working in the McCarthy-Kennicott area early in June to check the routing of National Creek water in and around the Kennicott Glacier. With a sampling fluorometer stationed at the north end of Tram Island, they introduced rhodamine dye into National Creek at the Kennicott railroad bridge. Rhodamine is a harmless red dye that fluoresces under ultra-violet light and can be detected with sensitive equipment at concentration levels of a few parts per billion. Initial visual observations showed that a substantial part of National Creek goes to feed the system of ponds and connecting streams along the east margin of the Kennicott Glacier. Final results will be known following analysis of digitally recorded data from the fluorometer.

### **Kennicott River Floods**

A new addition to the parking area at the McCarthy roadhead is a cylindrical steel structure housing a water level recorder. This was installed late in May by the Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. Hydrologist Stan Jones of the Division started collecting water level records from the East branch of the Kennicott River and from McCarthy Creek in 1991 with the aid of volunteer local observers. This year the observation program had been upgraded to include a continuous water level record from the main branch of the Kennicott River.

Unlike old style recorders which required a vulnerable stilling well adjacent to the river bank, the kind in use here is located in a shelter set well back from the river and connected to the water by an underground tube. The recorder measures the pressure required to bubble nitrogen gas through the tube against the depth of

water in the river. The information is recorded on a strip chart.

Jones is interested in records from this site because the annual out-break flood from ice-dammed Hidden Creek Lake provides an excellent and accessible opportunity to study the nature of catastrophic floods. On most rivers a hydrologist might have to wait for years to get such data, but a glacier-fed river with an annual outbreak flood serves up this scientific feast on a frequently refilled platter. If some additional funding can be obtained, a similar recorder (without the 800-lb. steel shelter) will be installed at Hidden Creek Lake.

### **Rock Glacier Research**

The Wrangell Mountains are famous throughout the geological world for their extensive and well-developed rock glaciers, features which depend in one way or another on alpine permafrost to maintain enough ice among the rocks to insure a downhill flow. A prominent rock glacier in the Kennicott area is one located at the headwaters of National Creek where it is readily visible to area visitors. Roger Elconin, a local McCarthy resident, completed his geology major at Humboldt State University this past year with a Bachelor's Thesis based on his 1991 study of the National Creek rock Glacier. He found extensive evidence of motion in the upper part of the rock glacier indicating a possible variation of effective viscosity with depth. Some massive inclusions of straight ice were found high in the cirque. These will be examined during the 1992 summer for structure and crystallographic fabric to seek more information on their origin. This may throw light on a long-standing debate among geologists

about the relative roles of remnant glacier ice and constantly regenerated permafrost in promoting rock glacier formation.

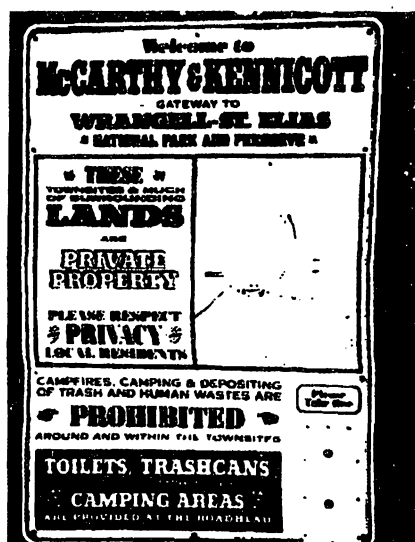
### **Periglacial Bug Study**

Pat Doak, a graduate student in the Department of Ecology at Cornell University, has found an ideal location for her doctoral thesis research along the retreating margins of the Kennicott Glacier. She is examining the effects of broken and detached habitats on insect populations. Dryas mats, a pioneering plant form that follows glacier retreats, provide scattered and broken monoculture communities on a conveniently small scale among the rocks and gravel of the morainal material deposited by the glacier. A type of moth that hatches among the dryas leaves and its parasites are the insects used for the study.

### **Fireweed Mountain Ecology Study**

An undergraduate study group from Oxford University will spend approximately two months examining the relationships of altitude and slope orientation to plant communities and the related populations of small mammals such as voles and shrews. The chosen study site is the southwest quadrant of Fireweed Mountain from 2000 ft. to 4900 ft. elevation.

Local residents of the Swift Creek area, Jim and Pat Edwards, are assisting the group with logistic support and siting of the base camp on their property. Leader of the five-person team is Richard Clemants, a member of the well-known group of "Brits" who recently spent a winter in the McCarthy-Kennicott area under the auspices of the British Schools Exploring Society.



**New sign near tram welcomes visitors to the McCarthy - Kennicott area**

A group of employees and volunteers of the National Park Service were in McCarthy the week of May 25 for training. The group of 20+ people interviewed local business people during their stay.

On Thursday evening a sign was erected on the East side of the Kennicott River. The sign was one of 4 that were provided by the Park Service and the Alaska Natural

History Association. The other 3 are apparently spares to be used in case of vandalism to the original. There is a holder for free brochures which according to NPS officials will be a "low impact camping" brochure written by students of the Wildlands Studies Program.

Some of the local residents were involved in the planning of the signs, which reportedly cost a total of \$3,500.

## Controversial Prescribed Burn on hold

For the third year in a row the National Park Service has had to postpone a "prescribed burn" at their May Creek Operation Center. According to an environmental assessment and subsistence evaluation published by the NPS, the purpose of the burn is to create a fuel break at the Center, and also to serve as a training burn for personnel needing Prescribed Burn Boss qualification. Park Superintendent Karen Wade added in an interview that another purpose for the burn would be to gain information as to what effects a prescribed fire would have on the growth and the "qualities" in an area.

According to the assessment, there were two alternatives considered. One is to do nothing, and a second is to cut the trees that constitute the fire hazard, buck them into variable lengths and scatter them to "reduce unnatural

visual impacts and fuel jackpots".

According to Mrs. Wade the window of opportunity is very short and so far things have not worked out to accomplish the burn. She suggested that perhaps a winter burn would be considered.

There has been some opposition to the burn by area residents. Reasons stated have been fear that the fire may get out of control, and concerns that the burn may be more politically than ecologically motivated.

Questions and comments should be directed to the Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias NP/P, P.O. Box 29, Glennallen, AK 99588, (907) 822-5234.



## BIA was here

BY SARA GLASS

If you are wondering what all the commotion in the sky is these first 2 weeks of June, the BIA, (Bureau of Indian Affairs) with the cooperation of the National Park Service, is here looking for and studying the remains of Indian campsites.

They arrived June 1st and departed from McCarthy June 16th. Their leader, Ken Pratt, says that so far they have located several cabins and some artifacts throughout the Federal land in the Wrangell Mountains, but it hasn't turned out to be as "fertile" as they had hoped. These 3 women and 6 men take to the air early in the morning and do 3 or 4 flights daily. They have 5 sites each ranging

about 3.5 square miles that they visit, taking aerial photos and jotting down notes while they comb the rugged valleys by foot. Their "biggest" discovery so far has been the Nicole cabin in the Dan Creek area where an Indian chief resided. (Nothing has been removed from any of the sites.)

This Anchorage-based team have degrees in Archeology ranging from BA to PHD's and are paid employees with the BIA. This project is being funded by Federal money and is under the "Native Claims Settlement Act."

After their stay in McCarthy, they move onto Chistochina for the better part of the summer - forever chasing the mystery of the "Indian" that roamed these splendid mountains of Alaska!

## News of the Tate Family

Did you know that the Tate family is the largest family in the McCarthy area?

First, there is old man DIC TATE who wants to run everything, while Uncle RO TATE tries to change everything.

Their sister AGI TATE stirs up plenty of trouble, with help from her husband IRRI TATE. Whenever new projects are suggested, HESI TATE and VEGE TATE want to wait until next time. Then there is Mr. IMI TATE who wants our town to be like all the others. DEVAS TATE

provides the voice of doom while POTEN TATE wants to be the big shot.

Not all the members of the TATE family are bad. FACILI TATE is quite helpful in community matters, and a happy resident is FELICI TATE, while cousins COGI TATE and MEDI TATE always think things over and lend a helpful, and steady hand.

Then, of course, there is the black sheep, AMPU TATE who has completely cut himself off from the rest.

Can you locate yourself?



# Dan Creek - a History

BY RANDY ELLIOT

In 1899 two members of the Rueben F. McClellan group of prospectors discovered the fabulous deposits of copper at Kennicott while eating lunch. One of the partners they staked on behalf of was Daniel L. Kain.

Dan was hardy but in the manner of most prospectors rather desperate in terms of capitol. The arduous trek into the country and back left little time for mining or other gainful employment and Dan soon found himself ready to sell half of his 1/11th interest in the "poor mans gold" at Kennicott. He found a willing and shrewd taker in Steven Birch the hard driving mining engineer whose hard work founded the Kennicott Copper Company. In their agreement Birch acquired half of all Daniels future locations for the next three years for \$2500.00. After the sale of his claims Daniel returned to Seattle to get a new outfit together for the 1900 summer season. On the return voyage he lost everything when the steamer Bertha grounded in the inside passage. Steven Birch advanced him more cash and was well paid when Daniel subsequently discovered the rich placer on a little tributary of the Nizina river seventeen miles from McCarthy. The creek was named Dan Creek in his honor.

Original workings consisted of numerous open cuts which allowed the miners to highgrade the easy ground. These were laboriously shoveled by hand into ground sluices leaving exposed the bedrock which was cleaned of gold. It was only the richest paying and easiest ground that supported this

work. Tunnels were started on many of the bench gravel "contacts" high above the creek bed itself where the Klondike veterans knew the ancient stream had flowed. These were often as rich as the creek and the "adits" allowed them to evaluate the discovery as well as work through the harsh winter months. The temperature underground was a balmy 45 degrees.

The availability of ample water was a blessing for the sluicing, and plans were made to construct hydraulic works as the small hand mining encountered deeper gravels farther downstream. The capitol for work of this scale was far beyond the means of the miners and most sold their claims to money men and promoters who raised the necessary money outside. By 1907 the entire creek had been staked and mapped to the glaciers.

The consolidations began, resulting in a large holding called the Westover group. Forming a company known as Dan Creek Mining Company they constructed a 36 inch waterline and a dam at a narrow spot in the canyon to commence the hydraulicing. A second dam and 30 inch line was built on Boulder Creek later the same year. This setup was used for three years after completion with good results and the land went to patent in 1910.

By this time 20 people were employed in the workings and a large and modern camp was built for them on the south side of the creek a few hundred yards from the present

camp. They ate fresh sheep and moose provided by professional hunters servicing the various camps in the district sold at thirty cents per pound and grew vegetables and fodder for the horses used in the workings. The road from the railroad at McCarthy was rapidly completed in 1911 vastly improving the availability of supplies and labor to the disgust of the old-timers who had struggled so mightily before "the city" arrived. The camp had ample amenities. The miners had running water



and electricity from a gasoline powered dynamo. A large steam engine powered a sawmill and the forest around Dan Creek was clear cut to obtain the necessary raw materials for pipeline and camp. Then the decision was made to improve the plant and a new line was constructed but washed away in a flood in July of 1912 before it could be used. Life was still hard for the miners and risky for the investors.

The flood caused other changes of a more political nature and Daniel Kain was replaced by Steven Birch's brother Howard. Howard repaired and improved the plant which operated unchanged until 1924. During the intervening years Howard had consolidated the bench claims, sometimes by denying access to the water below. At the time of sale Howard surveyed and patented another mile of Dan Creek to allow for the eventual construction of a new longer water-line giving greater pressure. This was needed to wash the ancient

stream channels he had worked so hard to obtain. It took a long time for the new owners to secure the capitol and it wasn't until 1934 that a hard rock mining company from Washington built the line. Their investment didn't pay enough to cover the lease and the construction and it was abandoned after only one season. The owners happily operated that line with fair results until the war powers act shut them down in 1941.

Dan Creek has the distinction of having opened for work during the second world war in order to obtain a source of pure copper. Nuggets weighing up to two tons have been found there. The season paid 4000 lbs. of copper and 2300 Ozs. of gold which was a by product. The results were deemed too costly for the manpower used and the mothballs returned until 1946. The cost of labor and frozen price of gold prevented all but a few attempts to mine with the waterlines after the war. They fell into disrepair and were scavenged to try new schemes around the property. These met with fair results but the heyday of hydraulic mining had passed. Various entrepreneurs and would be miners worked the land until it was purchased by the current owners in 1974.

Using new caterpillar and hydraulic equipment they have restored the creek to productivity. The property was leased in 1982 and over a million dollars has been taken from Dan Creek in the ten years since by the current operator. Current operations are conducted from May until October of each season. Dan Creek is available to recrea-

(continued next page)

tional miners who must, however, gain access through Wrangell Mt. Air of McCarthy or by private invitation of the operator. The camp provides guided panining, hiking, and tours of the hydraulicing works in the valley. Overnight accommodations are also available along with camping sites. Trips may be booked with both lodges and Wrangell Mt Air.

"JUDGE EACH DAY  
NOT BY THE HARVEST YOU  
REAP, BUT BY THE SEEDS  
YOU PLANT."

-ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

### Explorer - cont. from page 2

Perhaps you would think this story over, but it has an interesting ending. Upon reaching Cambridge Bay, Malcolm and Lonnie learned the news that two Inuit travelers were coming down to do the Northwest Passage. Ono Fleisher and Jens Danielson were from Thule, Greenland, from which they had started their own trek. A lot of the Inuit don't travel far so this was unique and daring for them.

Ono was Knud Rasmussen's great-nephew. Starting in the end of January, they managed to get to Barrow by May. Meeting the Greenlanders was the icing on the cake for Malcolm. He offered to help them with their dogs. Because they couldn't afford to take their dogs back to Greenland, Malcolm received a call from them. Ono Fleisher and Jens

Danielson presented Malcolm with their 7 full-blooded Greenland Huskies - an opportunity of a lifetime. They were beautiful, purebred animals!

"For me to call up Thule, Greenland, and say, 'Could you send me 7 Greenland Huskies from Thule, Greenland?' would cost me \$1500 per dog just for shipping. This was an unbelievable lifetime opportunity. They gave 7 of their best dogs as a gift."

Mark Air flew them down for free. Now that Malcolm has another team of dogs, just what are his future plans? This is what he had to say: "If I can get it all together, I'm going to stay home for awhile. I have that new piece of land to build a cabin on. Then in March of next year when the snow leaves here, if I can work it, I'm going to drive back up to Prudoe Bay again and go

West and travel all the way down to Kotzebue and do Wainwright, Point Lake . . . To have done the whole North American continent above the Arctic Circle. Across the whole top of the North American continent. Then, in the long range plans, Lonnie Dupre and I are working on trying to go do Baffin Island. Circumnavigate Baffin Island."

When asked if his priorities were any different from 6 months ago, he answered with: "A little bit. I don't think I could put a cap on it right now as to really what. I came back to a son that was just crawling when I left. Now, all of a sudden, he is calling out words, running around, jumping on the couch. Seven months brings a big change in a baby. There's an old saying that things don't change but we do and so inside - internally - I've learned a lot."

**Guest Editorial** - From time to time Wrangell St. Elias may run guest editorials. This time the name of the author will be withheld until the next edition. It was written by a "local", so take your best guess and be sure to join us next time to see if you were right!

**What an occasion!**  
**McCarthy's first**  
**newspaper and on the**  
**fourth of July. The**  
**struggle for in-**  
**dependence rode on**  
**the newspaper written**  
**by Ben Franklin and**  
**other patriots in 1765.**  
**They STARTED SMALL**  
**too.**

Once a month handbills asking why the government of George III could do and say such ridiculous things. How they could be regulated unnecessarily and contrary to the natural order of the land they struggled to subdue.

Imagine. The citizens could be accused of plotting against the English homeland and tried in absentia by an English judge. The governor was warned to use this power judiciously but, of course, he

was only human. Many a rich landowner found himself accused of some infraction under the law because he was politically "incorrect". If the pioneer couldn't afford to travel for his own defense, well, he lost the trial, his land, and sometimes his life.

Citizens could be kidnapped and pressed into the military for life, since life was short in those institutions. These dragooned soldiers could be housed in any citizen's house without compensation at the whim of the governor - often to the ruination of the owner.

Taxes were imposed without questions to the taxpayers and the money collected used to finance the empire far from the struggling population in the colonies. Land was appropriated for the use of the king's governors without payment.

There were laws passed to

prevent any citizen from making money without a government permit and the permit system used to create monopolies for loyalists. The government ran roughshod over the men who fed them, housed them, and provided the wealth they enjoyed.

The desperate colonists banded together but found their lack of communication kept them weak and divided. The newspapers of the time provided the means to weld popular thoughts into the machine of change. The papers were banned, of course, and that only led to their appeal and the eventual success of the revolution. When you read the Declaration of Independence, you can see the oppression that guided the formation of our current government.

The founding fathers wanted certain rights

guaranteed and the articles of the Constitution reflect their times. Free speech was first. The lesson of the papers was fresh in their minds. The right to bear arms and have a militia was next. Elimination of the privately quartered army was third. Private property was established protection from search and seizure of that property established by the fourth article. The famous Fifth Amendment made it illegal to compel anyone to incriminate himself or have his property taken without compensation. No man could be accused of a crime and convicted without a fair trial before his peers and within a reasonable time.

Today the struggle for independence continues and once again it is communication that defines the struggle.



IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.  
A DECLARATION By the REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA, In GENERAL CONGRESS assembled

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security.

Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant

from the Depository of their Public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harrass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of, and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For Cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.



He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

Nor have we been wanting in Attention to our British Brethren.

We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence.

They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity.

We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces

our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

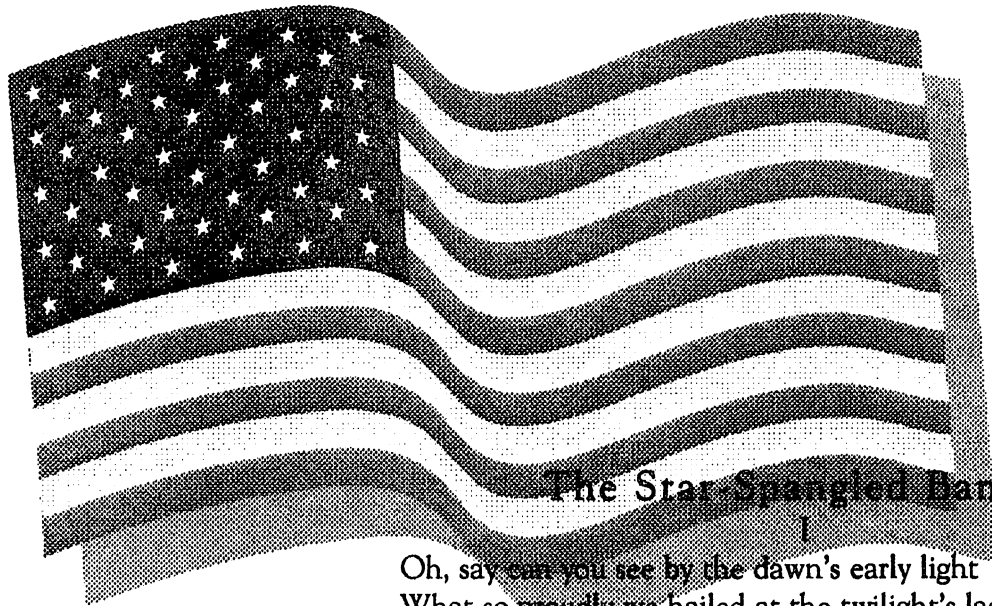
JOHN HANCOCK, President

Attest.  
CHARLES THOMSON,  
Secretary.



## SIGNERS

Adams, John	MA	Lawyer
Adams, Samuel	MA	Political leader
Bartlett, Josiah	NH	Physician, Judge
Braxton, Carter	VA	Farmer
Carroll, Charles of Carrollton	MD	Lawyer
Chase, Samuel	MD	Judge
Clark, Abraham	NF	Surveyor
Clymer, George	PA	Merchant
Ellery, William	RJ	Lawyer
Floyd, William	NY	Soldier
Franklin, Benjamin	PA	Printer, Publisher
Gerry, Elbridge	MA	Merchant
Gwinnett, Button	GA	Merchant
Hall, Lyman	GA	Physician
Hancock, John	MA	Merchant
Harrison, Benjamin	VA	Farmer
Hart, John	NF	Farmer
Howes, Joseph	NC	Merchant
Heyward, Thomas Jr.	SC	Lawyer, Farmer
Hooper, William	NC	Lawyer
Hopkins, Stephen	RJ	Judge, Educator
Hopkinson, Francis	NF	Judge, Author
Huntington, Samuel	CT	Judge
Jefferson, Thomas	VA	Lawyer
Lee, Francis Lightfoot	VA	Farmer
Lee, Richard Henry	VA	Farmer
Lewis, Francis	NY	Merchant
Livingston, Philip	NY	Merchant
Lynch, Thomas Jr.	SC	Farmer
McKean, Thomas	DE	Lawyer
Middleton, Arthur	SC	Farmer
Morris, Lewis	NY	Farmer
Morris, Robert	PA	Merchant
Morton, John	PA	Judge
Nelson, Thomas Jr.	VA	Farmer
Paca, William	MD	Judge
Paine, Robert Treat	MA	Judge
Penn, John	NC	Lawyer
Read, George	DE	Judge
Rodney, Caesar	DE	Judge
Ross, George	PA	Judge
Rush, Benjamin	PA	Physician
Rutledge, Edward	SC	Lawyer
Sherman, Roger	CT	Lawyer
Smith, James	PA	Lawyer
Stockton, Richard	NF	Lawyer
Stone, Thomas	MD	Lawyer
Taylor, George	PA	Ironmaster
Thornton, Matthew	NH	Physician
Walter, George	GA	Judge
Whipple, William	NH	Merchant, Judge
Williams, William	CT	Merchant
Wilson, James	PA	Judge
Witherspoon, John	NF	Educator
Wolcott, Oliver	CT	Judge
Wythe, George	VA	Lawyer



## The Star-Spangled Banner

I

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

II

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:  
'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

III

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,  
A home and a country should leave us no more!  
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

IV

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Fort McHenry, September 14, 1814.

Francis Scott Key is aboard a British ship negotiating the release of his friend, William Beanes. The British are there to take the fort by bombardment, and though the captain is willing to release Beanes, they will have to wait.

As twilight deepens, the American flag is seen flying over Fort McHenry. Through the long night the British ship sends cannon, rocket, and bombs hurling towards the fort. Toward morning the bombardment ceases, and a dread silence falls. Key and his friend stare out at the fort, trying to see if "old glory" still flies, or whether it had been replaced by the British flag, indicating the fort had surrendered.

They must have asked each other over and over, "Can you see the flag?"

Shortly after this incident Key wrote a four-stanza poem telling the events of the night. It was originally called "The Defence of Fort M'Henry". The poem was published in the newspapers and swept the nation. Someone noted that the words fit an old English tune, "To Anacreon in Heaven". The words and the melody were joined, and became known as "The Star-Spangled Banner". In 1931 Congress declared it the official anthem of the United States.



**12:00 noon - Parade in  
McCarthy**

**Starting at 1:00PM - Games**

- ★ Egg Toss
- ★ 3-legged race
- ★ Little kids race
- ★ Watermelon seed-spitting contest
- ★ Nail driving contest
- ★ Soda contest
- ★ Pie eating contest for kids and adults
- ★ Others

**Volley Ball Games**

**Fireworks at 10:30PM at the  
Kennicott Lodge**

## **Dinners**

### **Kennicott Glacier Lodge**

**5:00PM - 8:00PM  
BBQ: Ribs & Chicken  
with watermelon,  
coleslaw, and "all the  
fixin's" \$15.00**

### **McCarthy Lodge**

**Starting at 4:00PM  
BBQ Ribs & Chicken  
with Potato Salad  
\$9.95**

## Reader Survey

We would appreciate your opinions concerning the Kennicott project. Please fill out and put in our box or mail to:

Wrangell St. Elias News  
PO Box MX  
Glennallen, AK 99588-8998



Thanks!

### Public Opinion Concerning Kennicott, AK

☐ ☐  
YES NO

Do you favor the acquisition of Kennicott by the National Park Service?

☐ ☐  
YES NO

Do you favor the acquisition of Kennicott by the State of Alaska?

☐ ☐  
YES NO

Do you favor the acquisition of Kennicott by a private non - profit organization?

☐ ☐  
YES NO

Do you favor the current work being done to preserve Kennicott?

☐ ☐  
YES NO

Do you favor a "hands - off" policy of letting nature take it's course?

☐ ☐  
YES NO

Would you favor a major restoration of Kennicott?

Please check one of the following:

- ☐ I live in Kennicott
- ☐ I live in the McCarthy area
- ☐ I live in Alaska
- ☐ I live in the lower 48
- ☐ I live in another country

Comments?

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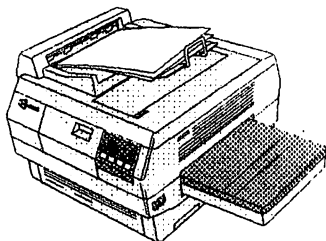
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See Bonnie or Rick, or write:  
PO Box MXY  
Glennallen, AK 99588-8998

## **Lots**

To all our friends in the Wrangells. The parent company has begun to sell lots on the Dan Creek runway. Prices are set and staking begun. If you're interested come and visit and take a look. Unfortunately the runway will be closed to traffic not relating to lot sales. If you want to go mining at the new digs or take a tour please contact me personally or make arrangements with Natalie and Kelly who are handling this aspect of the development program. I am available before eight o'clock and after six PM. each day at the camp. - Randy Elliot

## **Classified Ads**

20 cents per word

### **For Sale**

McCarthy General Store and land. Inquire at store or write:  
Jim Miller  
PO Box MXY  
Glennallen, AK 99588

### **For Sale**

12" Black & White Sharp TV  
\$25  
Rick Kenyon  
Box MXY  
Glennallen, AK 99588

**Freight.** Tired of the tram on freight day? Ride the elephant for 4c a pound. Trips made as necessary or once a week. \$100.00 minimum with a twenty thousand pound limit. Delivery to the main street addresses possible for 5c per pound. We load and unload for 7c a pound delivered. See Randy Elliot

### **Airplane Parts:**

Piper PA-12 landing gear, 4" wheels & tires, brakes, lift struts, tailfeathers, and new fiberglass nose bowl. No reasonable offer refused. Rick Kenyon - PO Box MXY - Glennallen, AK 99588-8998

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