

Wrangell St. Elias News

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

VOL. TWO ISSUE FOUR

JULY & AUGUST 1993

ONE DOLLAR

Celebration — bush style

Memorial Day — 4th of July — Labor Day. These, and other holidays are cause for celebration all over the nation, but perhaps nowhere more fervently than in Alaska's "bush." Normal chores are laid aside for a day or two to gather with friends and neighbors for food and fellowship.

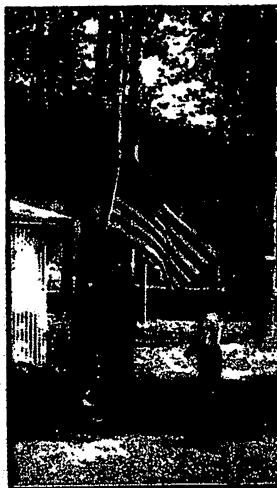
This year the summer season started for many of us with the annual "Fly-In breakfast" at Long Lake. About 120 people gathered near the shore of Long Lake where hosts Cliff and Jewel Collins have their summer home. There were 33 airplanes at last count, and

many came by car, truck, 4-wheeler or on foot. The event started at 10 A.M.

with the flag-raising and pledge of allegiance. Al Gagnon of May Creek and Al Fulton of Cordova were the main cooks and provided the hungry hoards with plenty of delicious ham, potatoes, and scrambled eggs. There were plenty of

other goodies as well, and no one went away hungry.

Many friendships were renewed as people from all over Alaska came at the invitation of the Collins'. Cliff said they had been having the breakfast annually for 30 years, only missing 2 years during that time. We suspect this



year the breakfast may get international attention, as photographer George Mobley was busy taking photos for National Geographic.

McCarthy has a long history of parades and games on the 4th of July. Last year the Kennecott Marching Band started the festivities in downtown McCarthy, led by Meg Hunt on the snare drum. One of the main attractions in the parade was a jeep station wagon with 17 occupants (!) pulling a trailer with Ken Roland and his 1920 vintage Fairbanks Morse engine.



Is this airplane number 32, or 33?



Cliff and Jewel Collins at Long Lake Breakfast

In This Issue

Senator Stevens says new residents also eligible for subsistence in park

King Floyd

part three
Floyd vacations with Maureen

OUR TOWN

July & August 1918





WSEN staff photo

Contestants toss water balloons on 4th of July



WSEN staff photo

Pull, with all your might!

Gary Hickling hosted the games in the afternoon. Prizes were donated by local businesses and given to winners. Prizes ranged from model airplanes for the kids, to a flightseeing trip with McCarthy Air for the winning volleyball team.

Both of the Lodges had BBQ's in the afternoon, and "fireworks" were displayed at Kennicott late in the evening.



WSEN staff photo

Come join the parade!

Last year the weather was near perfect, with highs in the low 80's and lows near 40. Someone counted 162 cars at the trams, and more than 25 airplanes on the McCarthy airstrip.

This year the lodges again plan barbecue dinners. There will be a dance in McCarthy the evening of the 3rd, with the "Blues Flyers" providing live music. On the 4th, don't miss the parade and games in front of the McCarthy Lodge. In the evening, Gary Hickling says he will make his new "Performing Arts Center" available for an outdoor concert. Kennicott will have the fireworks display near dark. (As dark as it gets on July 4th!)

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Rick and Bonnie Kenyon:
NEWS FLASH—Rick and Bonnie are proud to announce to our readers and to the whole world that they are grandparents for the first time!



Jonathan David Kenyon was born on May 1 to Rick Jr. and Maria. He weighed 9 pounds, 10 ounces. Father, mother, baby, and grandparents are doing just fine!

Kelly and Natalie Bay:
Another NEWS FLASH—Speaking of babies, Kelly and Natalie are pleased to announce they are parents of a beautiful



baby girl. "Baby" Bay was born May 5 in Anchorage and weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces. Kelly says he is so proud of Natalie and doesn't seem at all disappointed that "baby" looks like her! As of press time, the two parents are still searching for the perfect name.

Lois Ann Holmes: Lois Ann, who spent the winter in the McCarthy area, left May 3. She is working for the Chugach State Park this summer. Claiming her winter stay wasn't quite long enough, Lois Ann assured us she will be back to visit. We expect to see her drive up on her motorcycle during one of her 4-day breaks from work.

Adam Adams: Adam may not be into motorcycles but he sure had his hands full of

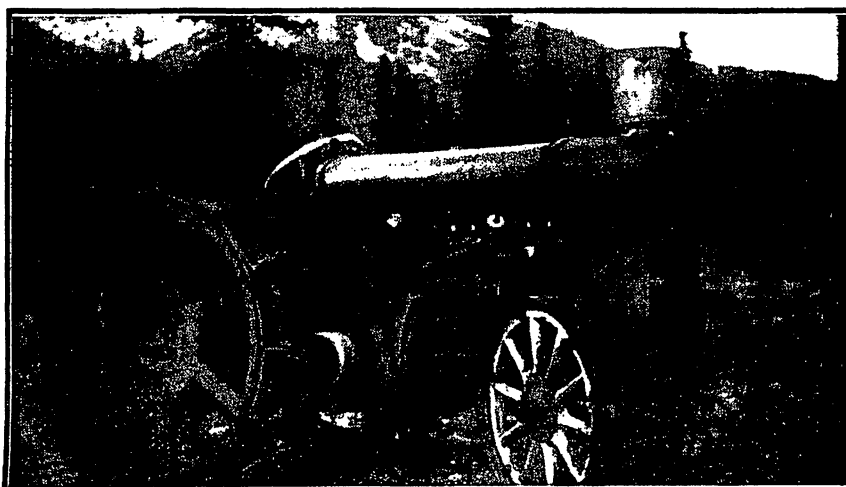
Adam didn't have any trouble retrieving the animals. "Just shake a horse feed bag where they can see it, and they come," he says. Adam had his first ride "bare back" that day.

Ken Rowland: Ken made a special trip to the area in May. His mission was to pick up the Ford and Son tractor that Randy Elliott of Dan Creek had delivered to the Chitina side of the Kennicott River. (See Jan./Feb. issue) Ken brought in a flatbed to haul this fine

expansion these days. Roland and Joy are pleased to announce the arrival of two new colts. Their names are Prince Wrangell and Ellie Mae.

Malcolm Vance and Gary Hickling: The two Arctic travelers returned to McCarthy safe and sound in early May. We understand Gary has a "whale" of a story to tell our readers so be sure to get the next issue of WSEN!

Stacie Miller: Miss Miller



"horses" on the 6th of May. Seems he and his dad's three horses thought the grass looked greener on the other side of the Kennicott River. Unknown to the Kenyons, the horses passed through their yard during the night and even bedded down in their freshly-tilled garden. Bonnie was relieved she didn't run into them while doing her 5:30 a.m. weather observation. Rick was glad he hadn't planted anything in the garden! Jim Edwards must have thought he was seeing things when the horses meandered down his grass runway towards him as he worked on one of his planes. (After all, it was 6:00 a.m.)

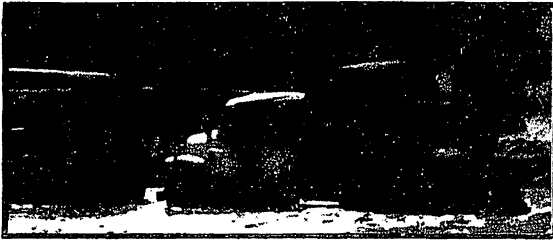
piece of machinery to its final resting place—the Alaska Museum of Transportation Industry in Palmer. According to Ken, if there are volunteers and enough money, the tractor will, hopefully, be restored.

Thom, Catie, and Frances Bursch: The Bursch family is expanding in all directions these days! A year old Border Collie that loves Frances, 3 ducks, and, last but not least, a new baby due in August! They have left for their fish camp near Pilot Point.

Roland and Joy Hammack: Speaking of

is in Republic, Washington, visiting grandparents and other family members. She was quick to "clatter" home that she arrived to 80 degree temperatures and had a safe flight. We are wondering who got Stacie's share of the chores—Matt or Aaron!

Chris Richards and Tim Mischel: Guess these two fellas are gearing up for a prosperous summer. On mail day May 12, both arrived with fresh new haircuts! Chris is busy giving people tours of Kennicott and Tim just left for Bristol Bay.



Randy Elliott: Randy has added another piece of equipment to his fleet. The latest is a flatbed truck which saw its share of McCarthy Road miles in May and June. Freighting supplies for McCarthy Lodge, Kennicott Glacier Lodge and Copper Oar kept Randy going and coming!

Ed LaChapelle and Meg Hunt: Ed and Meg are back. Ed returned on May 12 ahead of Meg who arrived in McCarthy mid June. Ed had the "honor" this year of planting Meg's greenhouse. Checking up on Ed's green thumb, I found out he did a wonderful job. In fact, Meg says they ate their first ripe tomato on June 23!

Carly Kritchen and Nancy Cook: There were quite a number of birthdays celebrated these last two months. One party—in particular—was for Carly and Nancy. At least 65 people showed up to wish the ladies well but also to sample Jim and Jeannie Miller's fabulous pizza. Guess they're practicing for the day Tailor-Made Pizza opens its door to the public!

Jurgen Ogrodnik: Jurgen is back from fishing but his work is hardly over! He is busy canning halibut these days and is glad to be off the boat and on dry land again. Welcome home, Jurgen.

Mark Vail: Speaking of fish...Mark did real well dipnetting at Chitina this year. Just how much of his delicious smoked fish he'll have left for winter use is questionable,

however. Hungry neighbors and inquisitive bears are either sampling his wares or would like to!

Livingston Hickling: And last but certainly not least is Livingston or "Liv" as most family and friends call him. He is back working at McCarthy Lodge for the summer. Liv shared with us a good piece of advise that we would like to pass on to our readers as well as return to him.



"Use thy brain and thou will become wiser." Livingston Hickling

Business News

Clear Creek Coffee Company is open for business. June 2 was Andy Shidner's first official day on the job. Anyone walking into the Kennicott-McCarthy Museum is certain to smell fresh coffee brewing and may find it hard to make a decision on what to try first. Kennicott Cappuccino, McCarthy Mocha, Lakina Latte...

Kennicott Glacier Lodge reports a full house on

Memorial Day weekend. The expansion project is pretty much completed; the decorating was done by Mr. & Mrs. Don Sheets and with excellent taste. Rich Kirkwood announces a July 4th Barbecue from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. To top off the evening of celebration will be a fireworks display at approximately 10:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Terry and Dee Frady of Willow Herb Mountain Depot report record sales on Memorial Day. A gravel parking lot is a new addition for the gift shop this year. In Terry's "spare" time, you can find him fixing a flat tire (he says he averages about one a day!) and/or painting a sign for a new business. Take a good look around town and you'll see his handiwork. Clear Creek Coffee Company and Tailor-Make Pizza are two such examples. Great work, Terry!

Fourteen employees of McCarthy Lodge and nine local businesses met and got further acquainted on June 23. Owners Betty and Gary Hickling and Kim Northrup, Assistant Manager, find it helpful for all concerned if their summer employees are familiar with the various services available for their guests. Anything from rafting trips, glacier hikes, flightseeing, gold panning to historic tours, fancy coffees and horseback rides were

explained. Hope Betty and Kim can keep their eager workers from taking time off to sample all these adventures for themselves!

Just before arriving at the tram, you see a new sign and office offering visitors to the area an opportunity to raft our nearby rivers. Howard Mozen, owner and guide for Copper Oar, has his gear and guides together and ready to go! Liz Maloney—Catie Bursch's sister—is managing the operation and we hear she runs a pretty tight ship. Hope the guys can keep her in the office, though; she just returned from one of their 3 day raft trips to Chitina and could hardly stop selling the trip to anyone who would listen.

Correction: In last issue I introduced Wrangell Mountain Air's employee of the month as Greg Donely. His last name was misspelled and should read—Greg Denlea. Even though Greg works for Kelly and Natalie Bay, he really is more involved with the Bay's latest venture—Wrangell Mountain Bus—a shuttle bus service between McCarthy and Kennicott. Greg is putting a lot of miles on the vans these days and can be heard regularly on CB channel 5 as he gives his location and daily schedules. Please accept my apology, Greg, and keep those vans rolling!

NPS visits area

Margie Steigerwald, Interpretive Specialist for the National Park Service, visited the McCarthy/Kennicott area the last week in May. She headed up a group of three NPS employees, two Student Conservation Association Volunteers (SCA's) and four Volunteers in Parks (VIP's).

According to Steigerwald: "The purpose of our trip was to orient these volunteers and employees to the McCarthy area businesses and recreational opportunities. These folks are stationed at various places in the Park including Slana, Gulkana, Copper Center, Chitina and May Creek."

Congressman says all local residents should be eligible for subsistence

BY RICK KENYON

Senator Ted Stevens says that all local residents of the Wrangell St. Elias National Park are eligible for subsistence uses in the park, not just those who have lived here for more than 13 years.

At a meeting in McCarthy on March 10 area residents were briefed on subsistence issues by Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Superintendent Karen Wade. One of the main issues discussed was eligibility for subsistence. "Congress specifically allowed for the continuation of subsistence for local rural residents who had established patterns of use of park resources prior to the establishment of the park," said Superintendent Wade. "These

people should be allowed to continue to practice subsistence after the establishment of the park. No one else should do so," she said. Superintendent Wade said that she used the "pre 1980" criteria (Wrangell-St. Elias became a park in 1980) to determine if local people could hunt in the park. "If someone walks into my office and asks if they can hunt in the park, I ask them if they were around using the park for subsistence prior to 1980, and where do they live. If they live roughly in the Copper River Basin and they were around prior to 1980, and they used those resources without flying in... we let them hunt."

Since that meeting, local concern over the issue has grown. When Chief Ranger Jay

Wells came to McCarthy for another meeting on the subsistence subject, he was confronted with the importance of the pre-1980 interpretation. One local resident said that if that interpretation was left to stand, the resident zone issue was mute since in time no one would be left who had been here before the area became a park. Wells said that the "before 1980 interpretation" was "being debated" within the National Park Service.

Since the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (The Act which caused Wrangell-St. Elias to become a national park) seemed to clearly indicate that Congress actually intended for the subsistence lifestyle to be protected, rather than only

those people who were here before the area became a park, we wrote Senator Stevens and asked him which local residents Congress intended to cover. In a letter dated May 8, 1993, the Senator replied "I agree with you -- Congress intended to cover all local residents regardless of when they moved into the park."

We sent a copy of the letter to Superintendent Wade. Her response? "The policy issue of whether a person must have been using park resources prior to 1980 in order to qualify for subsistence has not yet been addressed by the National Park Service. This policy call would not be made at the local level." Regional Director Jack Morehead has been asked to respond.

Kennicott Special Resource Study group coming to McCarthy

According to Laura Rotegard, Team Captain of the Kennicott Special Resource Study (KSRS), a group of 7 National Park Service officials from Washington, Denver and Alaska will be in McCarthy for two days in late July. In a letter written to MALA, Laura said that the purpose of the trip is to "decide what questions the study should answer, and then how big the study area should be." Jack Morehead, the NPS Regional Director for Alaska, is scheduled to be part of the group.

Laura said that the KSRS was not funded by Congress for 1993, but that the study effort would continue anyway, with funds from "park/region sources," and with funds

designated for the McCarthy Road Study.

Rotegard was in McCarthy in late February and early March of this year. She talked with 21 winter residents, and came to several conclusions. One conclusion was that the majority of local residents are opposed to NPS acquisition of Kennicott. Another, "Three of the four major businesses and their staffs of up to 15 persons live elsewhere during the winter." And, "Constant rain/fog/sleet/slush in Anchorage lead to the conclusion that it is just a matter of time and air access before year round pressure is felt on the three lodges, as more people discover the beauty of the interior sunshine, night skies, northern lights, and good

snowpack for cross-country, dogsled, and snowmobile travel."

The trip report contains 6 suggested alternatives for future development and ownership, ranging from "nature's way" ("benign neglect") to a National Heritage Area that would include not only Kennicott, but also McCarthy and the surrounding "farmlands west of the river," and "adjacent mining districts like May Creek." None of the alternatives call for more than minimal ownership by NPS. ("NPS acquisition of core structures and rights of way,") and several call for no NPS ownership at all. Laura added a cautionary note to the most far reaching of the proposals. "The Heritage Area idea or an historic district has one caution.

Preliminary response to real expansion of NPS ownership and control was not favored by the residents. (So far, this idea has launched a round of negative criticism.)"

Laura is planning another summer trip, but it was not clear whether this would be in addition to the group trip planned for late July. She said the group may not have much time to talk with local residents. "Knowing how dazed I felt the first time into this area, no doubt these travelers will be overwhelmed also, which means that real conversation may be more effective in follow up letters or in quieter moments, after the first meetings."

Current publisher meets former publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Rick Kenyon, publisher of Wrangell St. Elias News, had the honor of meeting Jim Busey, the man who published The Kennecott Star during the one year of its existence (1937-1938).

Jim and his wife, Mary Ann, visited the McCarthy & Kennicott areas in May, staying at the McCarthy Lodge. Kim Northrup, Asst. Manager of the lodge, brought the Buseys over to the Kenyon's residence where talk quickly got around to the former newspaperman's recollection of the area.

Jim came to Kennicott, Alaska in 1937 after finishing his Sophomore year at what is now known as the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. He was the schoolteacher at Blackburn School in Kennicott for one school year, and received his paycheck from the Territory for 8 months and from the Kennecott Copper Corporation for the other month. Because the Social Security had just come into effect, Jim has a Social Security card which was turned out by the Kennecott Copper Corporation in 1937.

By the time he arrived, the town wasn't near the boom town it had been in the early 1900's. Even McCarthy had evidently quieted down, too. "My experience was that McCarthy at that time even then was not regarded as being anything in the same league as Anchorage. Anchorage was already getting to be the biggest town in Alaska with 3,000 people... Also, you hear about how the miners all came down to McCarthy to meet women and all getting drunk and gambling. When I was there it

wasn't like that. Maybe I was just a naive kid and didn't notice," says Jim.

Jim and his students—about 9—took on a challenging project. "It was just a kind of exercise in printing, writing, reading, composition and things of that sort. Also learning something about the mechanics of it, which is not really a part of the course. These kids and I just got a paper going. That's all there was to it. It was four to six pages. Tabloid size," explains Jim.

Whether it is in 1938 or 1993, publishing a small newspaper requires a certain amount of equipment. For Rick it is computers, a laser printer and a good copier. Jim, on the other hand, was loaned a big printing press. The type had to be set by hand. Jim is quite sure the press he used to print The Kennecott Star was the same press used to print The McCarthy Weekly News (1917-1927).

Fortunately for Jim, he had worked for the Seldovia Herald and gained experience on the same type of printing press. In the basement of his home now at Manitoo Springs, Colorado sits a reminder of those early days—a similiar press that is hand fed and hand set using a foot treadle.

Jim's interest in newspaper work is understandable. According to him, his dad was one of a group of men who started up the Anchorage Daily News. The original group disbanded but the "News" continued its operation. In 1986 Jim became aware that the newspaper was still going strong. He contacted the paper telling them he had in his possession the very first



WSEN staff photo

Long Lake Hill gets new culvert

State Department of Transportation workers Cal Datta and Sam Taylor put the finishing touches on a new culvert at the bottom of Long Lake Hill. The new culvert is much larger than the one it replaces, and should make for easier travel during spring break-up.

copy—Volume 1 No. 1. They did not know it even existed and had never seen it. Now it is under glass in the publisher's office in Anchorage, says Jim.

In 1992 Jim and Mary Ann visited the McCarthy/Kennicott area—looking for the school building where Jim had taught. They found it and were even able to get inside. "It was just the same as when Jim was there all those years ago," recalls Mary Ann. "The desks are gone, but other than that it's the same."

The Buseys did more than just reminiscence at Kennicott last year. In 1942 they were married in a Fairbank's church. Fifty years later (1992) they returned to that same church, on the same day of the week—a Thursday—the same month and time of day to repeat their marriage vows.

In May of this year the couple returned to the

McCarthy/Kennicott area for yet another look around. Though Jim didn't play up his part in the publishing of The Kennecott Star, people like Rick Kenyon can certainly appreciate the work that went into that fine newspaper. Many thanks to men such as Jim Busey who pioneered a service and a genuine piece of history to those who would follow!

Chitina Ranger Station Opens

The Chitina Ranger Station is open for the season. Folks wishing to stop by the station for information or to inspect the local craftsmanship that went into restoring the cabin, must do so on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Two NPS volunteers are available during those hours.

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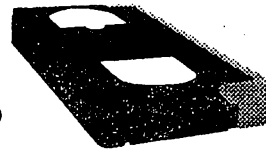
25 lb. Buttermilk Biscuit Mix \$16.11
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Thank You

BY BONNIE KENYON

From time to time someone does something thoughtful and helpful for you and all you can think to say is "Thank you." That's what this article is about.

Due to the kindness of Tony Zak and Jim and Pat Edwards, McCarthy and Kennicott residents enjoy and will continue to enjoy a roof over their heads on mail day.

Several years ago area landowner, Tony Zak, donated a building for use as a "mail shack"—as it is commonly called. The community has slowly grown and mail volume increased which makes the existing building crowded.

This came to the attention of local residents, Jim and Pat Edwards, and they decided to follow in Tony's footsteps, so to speak, and provide the community with a new mail shack. After drawing up a floor plan, they presented it to the residents on, of course, a mail day. Needless to say, the idea was overwhelmingly accepted.

Jim and Pat are supplying the community with the building materials to erect and furnish a 12'X18' mail room. They will see that the materials are brought in and reach the town side of the Kennicott River. After that, they say, the project will be in the hands of the other locals to complete.

The inside will be equipped with 60 mail bins, a sorting bench and sitting benches in case people need to get in out of the weather. The cold winter temperatures haven't been forgotten either. A propane heater will be donated as well—to warm up the chilly hands of the mail sorters.

The building itself will be on "wheels" until the community can find a more permanent place for it. Today the present mail shack sits next to the McCarthy airstrip.

Mail delivery is twice a week—Wednesdays and Fridays—and flown in from Glennallen by Lynn Ellis of Ellis Air Taxi.

Thank you, Tony, Jim and Pat from all of us in the McCarthy and Kennicott area.

Two die when vehicle rolls into Long Lake

Two men were killed when their vehicle went off the McCarthy Road and rolled into Long Lake on May 26. The accident happened during the early morning hours, about a quarter mile from the west end of the lake. Gary Scott Orris, 29, of Fairbanks, and Michael Warne, 30, of Valdez, were killed in the accident. Cal Datta and Sam Taylor, of DOT/PF, found signs of the accident Wednesday morning and notified the Alaska State Troopers. A gas slick kept

forming on the lake's surface during the day, and floating debris was found along the shore of the lake. That evening Orris' father reported the two missing, according to Glennallen troopers. A trooper dive team went to the area on Thursday morning and found a 1985 Dodge Ramcharger in 20' to 30' of water with the two men inside. The vehicle was resting on the lake bottom on its tires. Troopers were uncertain why the men were unable to escape.

Kennicott -- pristine, or Superfund site?

Representatives from the Kennicott Copper Corporation, America North and Intera were in McCarthy on June 9 to inform residents of a possible asbestos removal at Kennicott later this fall.

During the summers of 1991 and 1992, America North did an environmental site investigation on the Kennicott mine property. As one of the country's richest copper mines, developed in the early 1900's, at a time when environmental controls were almost nonexistent, the site seemed a prime candidate for extensive environmental damage. The study was done at the request of the National Park Service, who has been pursuing the acquisition of the Kennicott property for the past several years.

What America North found out was in fact just the opposite. Other than the asbestos, very little remedial action needs to be taken to come up to modern day standards for hazardous materials. And, concerning the asbestos, Jerry Schurtz of Kennecott Corp., had this to say: "Now I want to make it clear there is to our best knowledge no asbestos problem in the air here. Only when government forces us to take it off then we create the problem." Mr. Schurtz said that the major impacts of the asbestos removal for people who live nearby would be the

number of people required for the project, and the potential hazard of asbestos in the air during the cleanup. "It's going to take maybe a month of work of which there will be a crew of 10-15 people to do this. They will have to bring in temporary living quarters for that short period of time, then we have to find a place to dispose of the asbestos."

And where will the removed asbestos go? "The logical and best place," Schurtz explained, "is here locally in a fully designed and fully permitted specialized landfill for asbestos. The alternative is we have to carry it out and take it either to Anchorage or the lower 48."

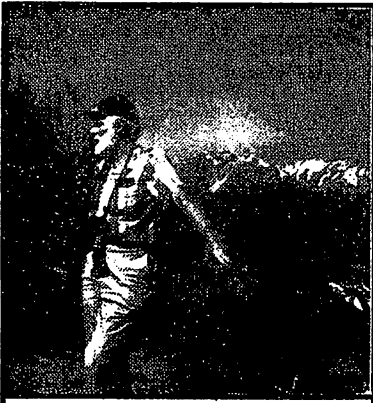
"During the course of the removal of the asbestos, all these locations will have to be enclosed in plastic, negative pressure enclosures—clean rooms, in essence," said Schurtz. "The people will be working in these clean rooms to take the asbestos off. We will also be monitoring the air quality inside and outside to make sure none of this is releasing."

All of these environmental studies have not gone unnoticed by the EPA. Schurtz told the residents that "EPA Region 10 in Seattle is going through an assessment of the site right now as a potential Superfund site. We're doing everything we can to convince EPA that this is not a Superfund site."

Kennicott River footbridge

Progress is being made on plans for a footbridge over the Kennicott River. In a recent letter to MALA, John Horn of DOT/PF said "We have developed a rough cost estimate for a 5 foot wide, 400 foot long treated wooden

pedestrian bridge. The estimated cost for this type of facility is \$760,000. We have submitted this request to our headquarters office in Juneau for consideration as a transportation enhancement project."



WSEN staff photo

National Geographic photographer George Mobley surveys the McCarthy airstrip for photo possibilities. George plans to be here for the summer, working on a feature article that will be published next spring. Noel Grove, who will be doing the writing for the article, was in McCarthy earlier this month. He is scheduled to return in August.

Aspen Tortrix — what?

BY RICK KENYON

In early June, as Kenny Smith looked around his cabin on the banks of Swift Creek, it seemed something was wrong. It took several moments for the realization to sink in that the aspen trees, which had been leafy and green a few days ago, were now bare. The leaves were gone.

Closer examination revealed an infestation of the Aspen Tortrix Caterpillar. The trees were shrouded in webbing, similar to what spiders produce. The little black caterpillars use the web as a means of transportation, and were hanging from these thin strands by the thousands. After a walk or ATV ride through the area, ones clothing would be covered by the little creatures. The cottonwood trees were affected little or not at all; the willows had moderate damage. Obviously, aspen leaves were the favored food. Several spruce trees in the area of

heavy infestation were completely shrouded by the web like material, with hundreds of caterpillars searching for food.

Fortunately, the affected area was fairly small, extending from a hundred yards west of Ken's cabin, up to Jurgen's, and across Swift Creek nearly to the Mountain Depot.

According to a publication called "Alaska's Forest Resources," published by Alaska Geographic, the Aspen Tortrix Caterpillars had infested 26,000 acres near Willow in the late 1970's, and a similar sized area at Point Mackenzie in 1982. The article pointed out that after 3 years of heavy defoliation at Willow, only about 16% of the trees died. Apparently the aspen are capable of growing new leaves during the same season, once the caterpillars have gone into the cocoon stage. In fact, as we go to press in late June, the trees are taking on a green cast as new buds appear.

The History of the World

(according to student bloopers) Part two

RICHARD LEDERER

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

One of the fringe benefits of being an English or History teacher is receiving the occasional jewel of a student blooper in an essay. I have pasted together the following "history" of the world from certifiably genuine student bloopers collected by teachers throughout the United States, from eight grade through college level. Read carefully, and you will learn a lot.

During the Renaissance America began. Christopher Columbus was a great navigator who discovered America while cursing about the Atlantic. His ships were called the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Fe. Later the Pilgrims crossed the Ocean, and this was called the Pilgrim's Progress. When they landed at Plymouth Rock, they were greeted by Indians, who came down the hill rolling their war hoops before them. The Indian squabs carried porposies on their back. Many of the Indian heroes were killed, along with their cabooses, which proved very fatal to them. The winter of 1620 was a hard one for the settlers. Many people died and many babies were born. Captain John Smith was responsible for all this.

One of the causes of the Revolutionary Wars was the English put tacks in their tea. Also, the colonists would send their parcels through the post without stamps.

During the War, Red Coats and Paul Revere was throwing balls over stone walls. The dogs were barking and the peacocks crowing. Finally, the colonists won the War and no longer had to pay for taxis.

Delegates from the original thirteen states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin had gone to Boston carrying all his clothes in his pocket and a loaf of bread under each arm. He invented electricity by rubbing cats backwards and declared "a horse divided against itself cannot stand." Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead. George Washington married Matha Curtis and in due time became the Father of Our Country.

Then the Constitution of the United States was adopted to secure domestic hostility. Under the Constitution the people enjoyed the right to keep bare

arms. Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. When Lincoln was President, he wore only a tall silk hat. He said, "In onion there is strength." Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg address while traveling from Washington to Gettysburg on the back of an envelope. He also signed the Emasculation Proclamation, and the Fourteenth Amendment gave the ex-Negroes citizenship. But the Clue Clux Clan would torcher and lynch the ex-Negroes and other innocent victims. On the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theater and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. The believed assassinator was John Wilkes Booth, a supposedly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.

Join us!



McCarthy Lodge
it takes you back

The
McCarthy Lodge

Saturday
July 3rd

Join us for an evening of dancing with music by the **BLUES FLYERS!**

Sunday
July 4th

Our afternoon festivities include a parade, BBQ, outdoor concert and games for the whole family!



OUR TOWN

July



1918



August



McCarthy's celebration of the glorious Fourth, was a distinct success. The weather was all that could be desired, and the town was thronged with visitors. The excursion train from Chitina and Strelna arrived before 9 a.m. bringing many, and large numbers were down from Kennecott Mother Lode and the Creeks.

Sports started at 11 a.m. the races being run on Front Street

- 1st 100 yd Dash - Max Nelson
- 1st Ladies Race - Endoxia Macionnel
- 1st Sack Race - Max Nelson
- Hurdle Race - O. Holcomb.
- 1st Girls Race 10 to 14 - Mollie MacDonnell
- Boys Race 10 to 14 - W. Walker.
- 1st Girls Race 5 to 8 - Wanda Walker
- 1st Boys Race 5 to 8 - Harold Kay
- Fat Man's Race - W.R. Faddis
- 3 Legged Race - Nickel & Nelson

The Packing Contest was an interesting event. Three teams competed, resulting in Gommere and Nickell securing the prize against Barrett & Hardy and Thompson & Slimpert.

The Baseball Match resulted in a win for Kennecott.

John Hill and Ed Olsen were prize winners in the Rock Drilling Contest, John Marken & Andrew Becken 2nd.

The final event, Tug of War, was witnessed by an excited crowd, the McCarthy team providing the winner.

Auto Stage for Fairbanks and Nenana.

Ten autos loaded with Chitina people journeyed to Copper Center to celebrate the 4th. Ten A.R.C. teams were there.

McCARTHY, ALASKA

The Buckle of the Copper Belt

Within four miles of the richest copper mine in the world will be found this town of McCarthy on the Copper River & Northwestern Railroad, one hundred and ninety miles from the town of Cordova, Alaska: this is the terminal of the C.R.&N.W. Railway and where the steamers from Seattle ply their regular trips.

Four miles from McCarthy are the world-renowned Kennecott mines, where men can find steady employment, where the climate is of the best the year round, sickness scarcely known, and wages are good, so that money can be saved for the coming day.

A few miles away will be found the Mother Lode Copper Mines, where wages and conditions are good.

Placer mining abounds during the summer season on the creeks adjacent to McCarthy.

Our city of McCarthy invites you to come and see for yourself. Idlers are not wanted.

Plenty of work is to be had around town, and there are many business chances.

While only a few years old this town is doing more than its quota in all matters of welfare and is making steady progress even during this, the trying time in history.

NEWS FROM CHITINA

The summer mail was delayed once upon the failure of first contractor. The Sheldon Auto Stage took the first mail July 28. The first mail from Fairbanks arrived July 3rd - less than four days on the way.

A weekly service from now on will leave Chitina every Tuesday morning. The Alaska R.R. officials left June 28th by

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A new daily paper has been launched in Cordova - The Cordova Daily Herald - under the management of Wilbur W. Ward a prominent newspaper man of Anchorage.

Its first issue is a fine edition: Associated Press News, abundance of local news, and live articles. We wish them success. (July 6)

NIZINA BRIDGE

A report has been brought in that the Nizina bridge is now impassable, five bents gone and 75 feet of the decking. On seeing the bridge go out we have the mournful satisfaction of saying "we told you so" - we have not yet found the fall guy. In the meantime plans are underway for reconstruction.

(July 13, 1918)

FARM NOTES

Ranchers are making great headway with improvements this summer.

George Andersen has 15 acres in cultivation and will build a house and barn this fall. He has also let a contract for clearing 25 acres.

Frank Iverson has cleared 30 acres - 18 in oat hay and timothy, the rest in garden truck and government experimental stuff.

Al Doze has 12 acres cleared and in cultivation, 2 acres in potatoes and 10 in barley.

Bill Henry has 4 acres cleared - three in barley and one in potatoes - and is building a cabin and barn.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

William Hannigan and Oscar Bachman returned yesterday from a trip to Stewart Creek bringing back some fine specimens of free milling quartz.

They report 14 culverts and 2 bridges burnt out on the Fairbanks trail.

FOREST FIRES

Forest fires are raging in all directions, and it is to be feared that much damage will be done unless they are checked. A heavy rainstorm would save the situation.

NEWS FROM CHISANA

Chisana July 15th. Special to the "News."

Continued hot weather is causing shortage of water and holding up mining operations to a large extent.

Carl Whitham expects to go outside to enlist the end of this month.

Big Eldorado appears to be the biggest producer this summer.

Murie's pack train returned from Chisana yesterday, and Jimmy Brown's string started out for the same place.

(July 20)

SEARCH PARTY RETURNS

Unsuccessful in the quest of the missing trapper Trinko, G.C. Gwin and party returned to town early this week. On their return journey they encountered their own troubles crossing the Nizina River. The bridge had been destroyed and the channels were booming.

Upon their endeavoring to make the crossing, George Rust was rolled from the saddle and had he not been a cool headed swimmer would have met his fate. As it was, he was kicked by the horse before reaching land.

COURT NEWS

Though for almost a year a number of delinquents had

been successfully dodging the federal authorities, six were arrested at Kennecott this week on the complaint of the Local Board & arraigned before Commissioner Smith yesterday.

C. Pilloni, Billy Sapas and D. Oliver were bound over to the grand jury. Three are on parole pending replies to requests for information from their respective immigration officers with regard to their age.

NEWS FROM BONANZA

The new buildings at Bonanza to replace those destroyed by fire have been rushed through so that they are almost complete.

Meals have been served for several days in the new mess house which has seating accommodation for 150 men.

The recreation hall is a fine erection - 35 by 75. The floor is of picked oiled lumber.

What's the matter with a house warming?

John J. Ross is putting an artistic finish on the new buildings.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The meteor which was observed in many places a week ago passed over McCarthy about midnight last Sunday.

To those who observed it, it appeared to be very near the earth. Its tail was a wonderful arc of light, making a dazzling reflection. (July 27)

PARTY OF HUNTERS AND TOURISTS TO ARRIVE

Cap Hubrick expects a party of hunters to arrive early

next week including Col. J.A. McGuire, Editor of *Outdoor Life Magazine* Mr. Davis and son connected with the Museum of Natural History, and Mr. Rogers taxidermist to the same Museum of Denver, Colorado.

The gentlemen left Seattle on the Alaskan, and Cap expects them to reach here by the 10th to make ready for the big hunt of 50 days in the White River country.

Woodin, Longley and Gwinn will accompany the party who hope to get many fine specimens for the museum. (August 3, 1918)

ROOM FOR OPTIMISTS NOT PESSIMISTS

It is true that the days will soon be growing short and we shall have two winters and a summer ahead of us. It is true, too, that our young men are leaving in great numbers.

That the construction camp on the Nizina River is disbanded, & the Lower Camp at the Mother Lode is discontinued on the ground of unnecessary expense.

Because of these things, some people are dejected and downcast.

But they forget that the payrolls at the mines are bigger than ever, that improvements are still going on.

Contracts have been let for building the shelter cabins on the Shushanna Trail, and so altogether, there is just as much here as ever.

(August 10, 1918)

CHITINA NEWS

Special to the News Sheldon's Auto Stage arrived here today, having been only 31 1/4 hours on the journey from Fairbanks.

Mr. Sheldon was driving. His passengers were: Miss Geneva Sheets, who will teach

in Chitina this year, Mrs. Refior, who will teach in McCarthy, Mr. DuBois, of Philadelphia, and Mr. Penn of U.S. Customs office.

The stage left Fairbanks Tuesday August 13th at noon, reaching Chitina Thursday, August 15th. Governor and Mrs. Riggs left here for Fairbanks by Sheldon's Auto Stage on August 9th; the stage returning today reports the trip in was made in 24 1/2 hours running time. No delays occurred and stops were made to allow the passengers to rest. Mr. C.H. Spangler was a passenger on the Carsten's Auto Stage for Fairbanks yesterday. (August 17, 1918)

\$50,000 COPPER DEAL ON FOOT

A. Balzimer, The Russian Kid, who returned to town last Sunday from a trip to his property at the head of Dan Creek, accompanied by Martin Harrais, reports that he has bonded his property to Mr. Harrais, who represents wealthy capitalists.

BIG BODY OF HIGH GRADE ORE DISCOVERED AT MOTHER LODE

A big body of covellite and glance has been discovered at the Mother Lode, at a depth of 375 ft. New buildings are being erected at the mine, to be used for winter quarters.

Mr. Jim Wilson is spending a few days in this section, with a view to planning new trails. It is possible the road to Chittistone may be opened up. (August 24, 1918)

Kennicott Cruise

1½ hour trip - Raft the whitewater rapids which rush out from under the Kennicott Glacier where we launch our rafts.

Nizina Canyon: Float/Flightsee

Full day trip - Raft the wild & scenic Kennicott, Nizina, & Chitina Rivers. Fly back by bush plane over the Kennicott Glacier, to view the most spectacular ice falls in the world.



Wilderness Rafting in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park

Follow the river's path through rugged Alaskan landscapes.

McCarthy to Chitina

3 days - Join us as we float the Kennicott, Nizina and Chitina Rivers on a three day adventure through the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. The experience of rafting these rivers allows you to surround yourself with the spectacular wilderness and wildlife of the largest national park in North America.

Source to Sea

9 days - From the glacial source of the Kennicott River we float through the Chitina Valley in an interior Alaska environment, then join up with the Copper River which cuts through deep canyons in the Chugach Mountains, bringing us into the coastal region influenced by Prince William Sound. We complete our 180 mile rafting adventure near Cordova where the Copper River Delta meets the ocean, having traveled "Source to Sea."

Call Copper Oar on CB ch 5. Group rates & expeditions available.

We're at the end of the Chitina McCarthy Rd. Stop by and chat with the guides.

P.O. Box MXY McCarthy, Glennallen, AK 99588 Phone 907-522-1670

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Grocery - Gas - Feed - Auto Parts - Hardware
Daily Lunch Counter Specials

Case lot & special orders 10% over cost

Stop by going out & going home for free hot coffee and
the latest news.



We will take and deliver messages & hold UPS
packages for pickup.

Make us your first, last or only stop!

Phone 822-9863 - Mile 7.5 Edgerton Hwy. Open 9am - 8pm daily, 10-6 Sunday.

Flightseeing with McCarthy Air



"After 19 years in Alaska...I've flown from Prudhoe to the Aleutians, in Lear Jets & Widgeons! But your flight - I can't get it out of my mind. It was incredible . . .

Thanks!"
Chiree Quesnel

30 minutes

**Kennicott Mine and
Glacier Flight**

\$35.00 per person (\$100.00 min.)

45 minutes

**Chitistone Gorge and Nizina
Glacier Flight**

\$50.00 per person (\$150.00 min.)

60 minutes plus!

Mt. Blackburn and Nabesna Glacier Flight

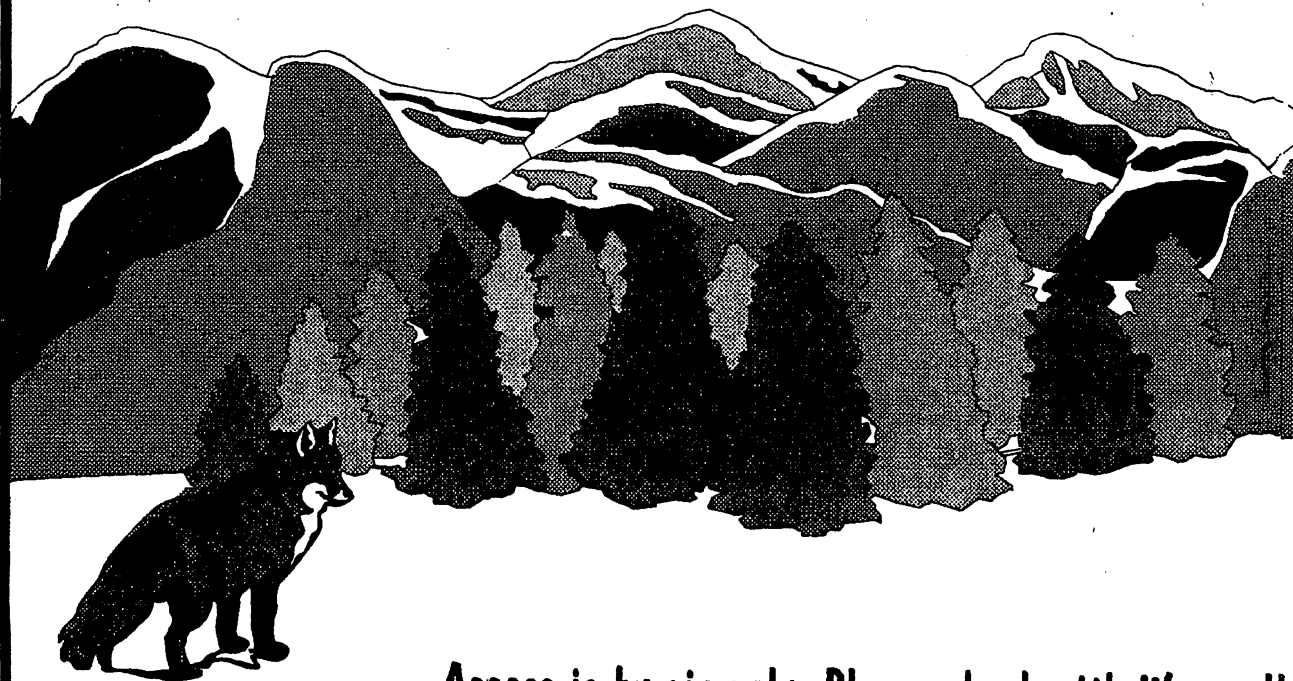
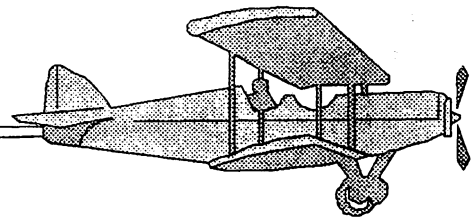
\$60.00 per person (\$180.00 min.)

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Dan Creek

Now open to the Public!



Access is by air only. Please check with Wrangell

Gold Tours

Dan Creek is a privately owned, operating gold mine in the heart of the beautiful Wrangell Mountains. Over 70,000 ozs. of gold have been recovered from Dan Creek, but there is still plenty left! Come try your hand at digging, sluicing and panning for gold and copper.

In operation since Daniel Kain discovered gold in 1901, we are now open to give everyone an opportunity at mining.



Mt. Air in McCarthy for rates and departure times

Your hosts, Bernie and Eleanor Devine

TAKEOFF TO ADVENTURE!



with Wrangell Mountain Air

Flightseeing -- soft adventure at its finest!

View the awesome rugged beauty of the Wrangell-St. Elias from the comfort of our high wing aircraft. Fully narrated. From \$25.

Glacier landings -- a truly Alaskan experience!

Land on the ageless ice and explore this mountain kingdom. Guided and unguided trips available. From \$50.

Dan Creek Gold Tours -- sluice and pan the alluvial gravel for gold like the sourdoughs of '98 did. Day or overnight trips available.

Daily flights from Chitina to McCarthy

Avoid 60 miles of one lane dirt road. Park your car and fly in! Lodging and camping available.

Wrangell Mountain Air, Inc. is a full service air transportation company.

We also offer fly-in wilderness trips, charter and freight service.

Wrangell Mountain Bus operates shuttle service between McCarthy and Kennicott.

Call us from the tram on the bush phone.

Reservations 1-800-478-1160 /information (907) 345-1160

Stop by our office in "downtown" McCarthy across from the McCarthy Lodge

Kelley & Natalie Bay, proprietors

King Floyd

THE TALE OF A SMALL TIME DICTATOR

Part three - Floyd vacations with Maureen

BY RANDY ELLIOTT

Floyd watched as his breath plumed in the frosty fall air. He loved the sight of smoke or steam; they were the signs of life on a cold winter night. Those plumes marked the cabins that were warm and where a cup of coffee surely awaited a tired trapper. Life was good in the essential land.

A light buzzing disturbed his pleasure. The sound deepened and grew until he recognized an approaching airplane engine. Suddenly the plane burst into view just above the trees around the cabin. Floyd caught only the fleeting glimpse of an arm outstretched from a window and the craft was gone. Maureen burst just as suddenly from the cabin. She searched the sky frantically and then turned to Floyd perplexedly. "Who was that?." She grew more perplexed for Floyd had disappeared also.

He emerged from the trees next to the cabin clutching a baggy filled with sand. This he held triumphantly out to his wife.

"Someone wants to get a message to us," he said breathlessly. This was surely an exciting event in the quiet of the mail-less essential land. Taking the plastic bag Maureen led the way back to the cabin. Ensnared once again on his favorite log throne and with his pipe and coffee near at hand, Floyd carefully opened the bag.

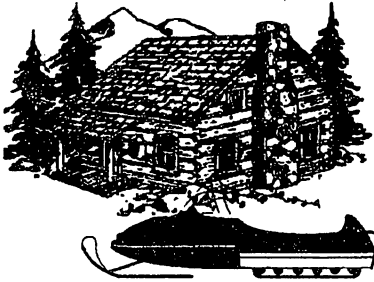
"Obviously a professional job," he said, smugly indicating the sand. Maureen's knitting needles clicked in reply. Frustrated feeling fingers finally fished four forcefully folded flat forms from the flexible freight flinging friable flowery fine filling four feet from the fleeting frown furrowing Floyd's face. He didn't notice in his haste to read the missive.

"To whom it may concern," he read aloud for Maureen's benefit. "You are hereby informed that Lord Fedgov the most excellent Baron of Distraction and Nocturnal Affairs will be in the town of Thoughtful in thirty minutes to answer any questions regarding the Absolutely Necessary Imposition of Land Controls Act, which copy was mailed to you on Wednesday's last mail plane."

"Wasn't that called something else?" Maureen queried.

Floyd gave her a patient look for interrupting and continued his reading.

"All residents of the Essential Land are hereby ordered to assemble and ask questions before the lord disposes of your lands pursuant to the fairness of government act 19--. Signed, His Most Excellent Assistant Lieutenant Deputy Coordinating Commissioner for Commoner Relocations, Bear Lee



Litrit." The last three pages were copies.

"But, Floyd, how will we ever get to Thoughtful in time?" Maureen wailed.

Floyd sprang into action, for Thoughtful was at least thirty five minutes away. Maureen packed a quick munch as he fueled and fired up the Bombardier Elan in the front yard. Maureen leapt aboard just as he swept from the yard and with a roar of smoke

and clatter of tracks they were away into the frosty morning light.

Except for the seriousness of the note plaguing his thoughts, Floyd thoroughly enjoyed the romp to Thoughtful with Maureen hugging him tightly and a bone of white spray in Lady Elan's teeth. Maureen was not as thrilled, and kept wondering if she had forgotten the kettle on the stove or whether Floyd had adjusted the brake on the machine.

Thus they came to the bridgeless stream at the edge of the forgotten town. Floyd closed his eyes and gunned the little snow sled across a rotten snow bridge next to the pole-vaulter's platform. For an instant they were silhouetted above the yawning water, and then the skis cut deeply into the snow on the far bank and they crashed back on terra nevada. Racing up the narrow streets he slid to a halt at the end of a multicolored row of ragtag snowmachines.

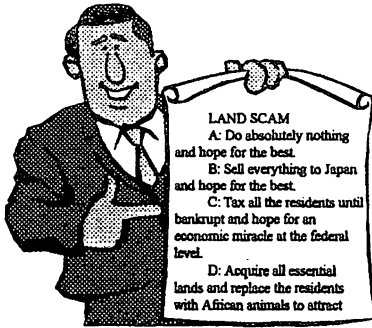
The meeting had drawn quite a crowd. He and Maureen quietly slipped through the door of the converted barn which the town had commandeered from the hapless blacksmith. They soon found a place next to the printer who had only himself just arrived.

Someone had forgotten to put a thermometer on the borrowed oil stove heating the place, and after the brisk morning air the temperature soon put all except for the actual speakers to sleep. A fedgov employee was droning away to the stultified town folk.

"..and therefore it was necessary to consider the following possibilities for the essential lands. A: Do absolutely nothing and hope for the best. B: Sell everything to Japan and hope for the best. C: Tax all the residents until bankrupt and hope for an economic miracle at the federal level. D: Acquire

all essential lands and replace the residents with African animals to attract tourism and then charge them visitation fees." The word "acquire" ignited a few gasps in the audience which the reader glared down.

"F: Require all residents to become employees of Lord Fedgov and swear the oath of obeisance followed by



deportation to the lord's auto works in Detroit. G: Commandeer all property of residents and using it as collateral borrow....." and he continued thusly until reaching option Z by which time no one could remember A or B at all.

Finished with his recitation he sat down, and the Baron himself stood up, or at least someone like him stood up, for the Baron was a master at substitutions and sleight of hand tricks, and he liked to hire look alike actors which allowed him to travel incognito

so as to satisfy his more paranoiac delusions amongst his subjects.

Floyd strained to see the Baron and he had the uneasy feeling that this wasn't quite the same man who had been out last year to supervise the elimination of hunting and trapping rights for all but persons with a downtown Thoughtful address. That had been a close call for Floyd, but he had been able to show that one of his great ancestors had indeed once been incarcerated for a month in the Thoughtful hoosegow, which sort of qualified and they had let him slide.

The fake Lord Fedgov raised his hand magisterially and intoned: "I know, I know you good people have questions. We will try and answer all of them as the meeting goes on but you can imagine how hard we have worked to bring this wonderful new legislation to fruition, and we are certain you will all be quite satisfied with the wonderful programs in store for you.

"One of my first directives was to hire a facilitator who will assist you with the changes most important for your benefit. I introduce him to you now and he will conduct the rest of the meeting. After this meeting Harry will be in the community for a brief period to record your feelings and transmit those to Congress. Please feel free to call on him at his hotel at any time he

allows. And now good people... Harry Helpful."

Some of the townsfolk suppressed snickers as a smallish man with trifocals took the podium. He shuffled his papers, and then a miracle happened. Harry opened his mouth and the most beautiful baritone voice they had ever heard spoke to them with phrasing so perfect Frank Sinatra might have turned green.

"Hi folks." No sound stirred the magic moment. "I just want to tell you how really pleased I am to be part of this magnificent program. It will be fun to get to know you and maybe we could talk sometime too." Harry waited expectantly, but even the mice running through the straw held their breath savoring the melody from the podium. The Baron gave a knowing wink to Harry and settled comfortably in his director's chair.

Randy Elliott is one of the few remaining gold miners in the area. When he isn't busy picking gold nuggets from the sluice or sharing the beauty and rich history of the Dan Creek area with visitors, he can be found at the keyboard of his laptop computer. Don't miss part four in the next issue.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WSEN

This issue marks the first anniversary of Wrangell St. Elias News. Bonnie and I want to thank our readers and contributors for making it a success! Last July 4th one brave soul stepped forward to become our first subscriber, Brant McGee. As we go to press in June, there are 171 of you who receive WSEN every other month. Another 200 or so are being distributed in the local area, including Chitina, Kenny Lake and Copper Center. We hope, with this issue, to hit the 500 mark. Not a lot, but not

too bad for a town of 35 or so residents.

We need you.

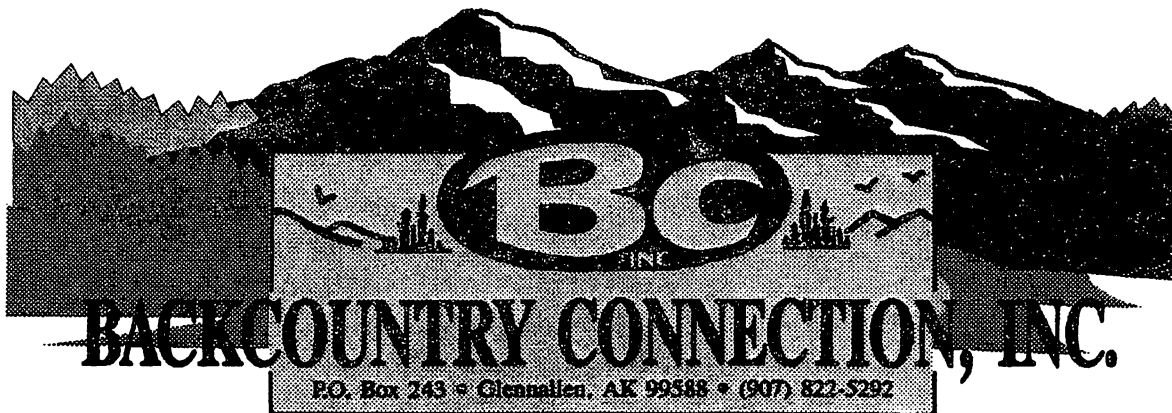
We need your letters and articles for future issues. Frankly, there are a lot more news stories and items of interest than we thought when we started WSEN last year. We are considering going to monthly publication, rather than bi-monthly. What do you think? Please write and let us know if you would like to get WSEN 12 times a year, rather than 6.

Postage

As you may have noticed, the postage costs are getting pretty high. If we go to monthly publication, the postage alone will amount to \$9.00 per year. Should we go to third class mailing rate?

Our goal here at Wrangell St. Elias News is to serve you, the reader. We need to hear from you in order to know how to best do that. Send your comments to: WSEN, McCarthy, PO Box MXY, Glennallen, AK 99588.

Thank you!



Glennallen to McCarthy

(Mon, Wed)

Depart Glennallen 1:15pm
 Chitina 2:30 pm
 Arrive McCarthy 5:30 pm

(Th, Fri, Sun)

Depart Glennallen 8:00 am
 Chitina 9:15 am
 Arrive McCarthy 12:01pm

(Saturday)

Depart Glennallen 10:45 am
 Chitina 12:01 pm
 Arrive McCarthy 2:45 pm

McCarthy to Glennallen

(Mon, Wed)

Depart McCarthy 6:30 pm
 Chitina 9:15 pm
 Arrive Glennallen 10:30 pm

(Th, Fri, Sun)

Depart McCarthy 2:00 pm
 Chitina 4:45 pm
 Arrive Glennallen 6:00 pm

(Saturday)

Depart McCarthy 3:45 pm
 Chitina 6:30 pm
 Arrive Glennallen 7:45 pm

Glennallen to Valdez

(Mon, Wed)

Depart Glennallen 8:00 am
 Arrive Valdez 11:00 am

(Friday)

Depart Glennallen 4:45 pm
 Arrive Valdez 7:15 pm

Valdez to Glennallen

(Mon, Wed)

Depart Valdez 12:01 pm
 Arrive Glennallen 3:00 pm

(Friday)

Depart Valdez 7:30 pm
 Arrive Glennallen 10:00 pm

Valdez to McCarthy

(Mon, Wed)

Depart Valdez 12:01 pm
 Arrive McCarthy 5:30 pm

McCarthy to Valdez

(Friday)

Depart McCarthy 2:00 pm
 Arrive Valdez 7:15 pm

Glennallen to Denali

(Tues, Th) via Denali
 Highway

Depart Glennallen 7:30 am
 Arrive Denali 2:15 pm

Denali to Glennallen

(Tues, Th)

Depart Denali 3:00 pm
 Arrive Glennallen 9:45 pm

- ◆ *Scheduled van touring service.*
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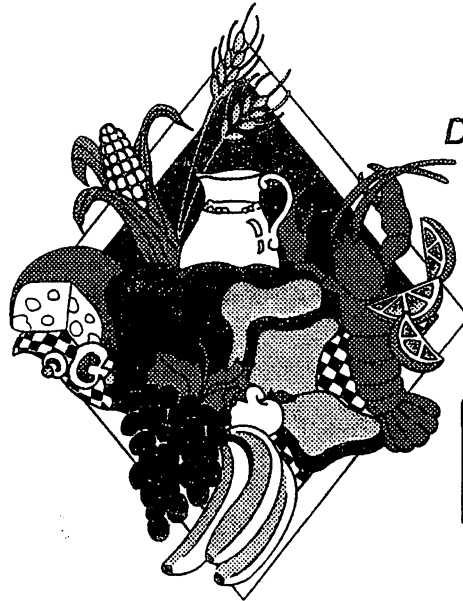
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1-800-478-5292
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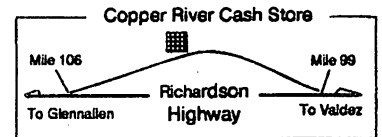
Copper River Cash Store

Stop by and Check
for the Weekly
IN-STORE SPECIALS

Everyday
LOW PRICED ITEMS:
Drive a little & SAVE \$\$\$\$



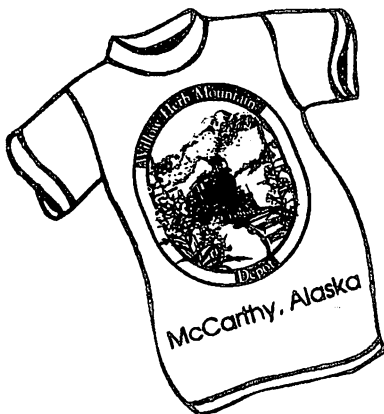
We handle BUSH ORDERS
with SPECIAL CARE!
PO Box E
Copper Center, AK 99573



Downtown Copper Center 822-3266
Store Hours 9 am to 7 pm, Monday - Saturday

Willow Herb Mountain Depot

Terry & Dee Frady, Proprietors



Our T-shirt design commemorates the Copper River & Northwestern Railway which ran from Cordova to Kennicott from 1911 to 1938. The scene depicts the railway near Fireweed Mountain on which we live. (Willow Herb being another common name for fireweed.)

*When in our neighborhood
stop by and see all the
handcrafted and Alaskan
products we carry!*

50/50 Blend
S-M-L-XL \$14
XXL \$15
P&H add \$2.90

Colors: Jade
Oxford Gray
Raspberry, Purple
California Blue

Please give 2nd color choice

Willow Herb Mountain Depot
Mile 55 1/4 McCarthy Road
P.O. Box MXY (McCarthy)
Glennallen, Alaska 99588-8998

"It's a challenge... and we're doing it!"

BY BONNIE KENYON

In 1980 when Mt. St. Helens blew up, Nancy Green's life seemed to do the same. The allergic reaction to the ash became unbearable. She could hardly breathe. When her doctor finally advised her to move away from her home in Hillsboro, Oregon, Nancy took a serious look at her situation.

Her job as a dinner cook at the Marriott Hotel was "okay" but a job she could "easily walk away from." A letter from her sister, Sally, invited her to come North for the summer. Alaska would put enough distance between her and the ash and give Nancy time to think about what she wanted to do with her life. Sally was restoring a building in the old mining town of McCarthy and welcomed Nancy's help.

The decision to accept her sister's invitation was easy. Even the medication she was taking left her sick and miserable. Soon after arriving in Alaska, the symptoms left. Nancy felt great again!

The summer slipped by much too quickly. Not ready to leave yet, the two sisters decided they would accept the challenge of winter living in the small bush community. While Nancy flew back to Oregon to sell her house, Sally started winterizing a small house she owned—another relic of the old boom town. It turned out to be worth every effort they made. "It was the funnest winter I'd ever had. But, it was the coldest winter. It got down to 63 below," says Nancy.

Cold weather does strange things as Nancy soon learned. For instance, she recalls a walk she took with a neighbor. "When I first came here I thought when your eyelashes were icy they would break off in the cold. I remember walking down the road with

Irene Koivu and her eyelashes weren't all frosty but mine were. Mine were getting so thick with ice I couldn't see. I asked Irene how to get the ice off and she looked at me with a funny look on her face. 'Just blink them hard and melt it off,' she said. I sure felt stupid!"

A highlight of that special winter was getting to know 29 year old Gary Green, an area resident since 1973. Although born in Cedarville, Kansas



his family moved to Anchorage when Gary was in the second grade. He worked in his dad's business repairing and installing gas tanks and gas station pumps. Most of his earnings ended up as gas money to explore Alaska. He eventually decided to leave Anchorage and try his hand at prospecting.

Fred Seltenreich flew Gary and a prospecting partner to May Creek. From there they hiked up to Chittitu, an old mining site, and then over to Dan Creek. Gary and his partner spent the summer of '73 prospecting. He recalls hiking back to McCarthy several times—for July 4th and whenever the two prospectors got bored or wanted to see somebody else. There was no mining being done in

the area and only a couple of people were living in that part of the country at the time.

Gary was approached about taking on a caretaker's job at the abandoned Chittitu mining camp. He accepted and spent the next several summers between there and Dan Creek. He recalls the condition of the camp when he arrived in April '74: "When I got to Chittitu, it was very much intact. It's one of those stories you hear about where the place still had tables and all the newspapers floating around were from 1951 and earlier. All the tools were there. The sheds were locked. That's why I was there. To keep them that way."

Earning a living in such a remote part of the country is a challenge but Gary continued to find opportunities. He learned how to fly and took up hauling fish in Bristol Bay during fishing season. Then in the fall he went up into the Arctic and spent a month big game guiding—mostly for Dall sheep.

By the time the couple met, Gary had settled into the small community of McCarthy. He had a 14'x16' log cabin well underway when Nancy arrived in town. The shell was done and the roof was on. She pitched in and helped him finish the floor and ceiling.

Perhaps a bit disappointing to their parents, but certainly understandable to Gary and Nancy, they chose to get married at Sheep Camp in the Arctic. "It was beautiful—cloudy up to the day we got married—up to the hour. And then as soon as we started walking up the hill to do the ceremony, it started getting sunny," remembers Nancy. That was 1984. A year later their son, Tyler, was born.

Gary's source of income took a new direction in 1988. By now an experienced "bush" pilot, he, Nancy, and another local couple, Kelly and Natalie Bay, started their own air taxi. They have grown every year and now have two Cherokee 6's and a Cessna 180. In 1990 the partnership dissolved. Gary and Nancy ran McCarthy Air for 2 years. Then in 1992 another local resident and pilot, Kirk Olsen, joined them. Together they offer various flightseeing packages, air charter service and flights into the backcountry.

Gary is quick to reveal his favorite part of the business: "I like the backcountry stuff. It's more interesting to get on the ground. I may land people somewhere and spend a few minutes on the ground at least. Rather than sightseeing where I fly the same circuit over and over. Wherever I land, I can improve the runway, cut a few bushes or throw a few rocks. And it gives me a break from just steady flying. So, I like getting out in the backcountry. That's the best part of it."

Although Nancy does not do any of the flying, she has not ruled it out entirely. Perhaps someday, she says. Right now she is busy being a mom to 8 year old Tyler and a "walking office" for Gary and McCarthy Air. If she isn't greeting various visitors to the area, one might find her fueling a plane or crawling underneath one of their vans to check it out.

The Greens have taken on a new project this summer--that of building a larger office. They called upon the expertise of Dan Creek resident, Fred Denner, who spent a couple of months in McCarthy overseeing the construction and giving Gary and Nancy some much-needed help. The 20'X28' log structure is being built with local aspen trees.

Some people dream of living in a small, remote community where everybody knows each other and where life is slower paced compared to city living. There are a few things a city offers, however, that McCarthy does not have--telephones, doctors and a hospital. For the Green family on Christmas 1991, Anchorage was the place to be! What started out as a quick Christmas shopping trip turned out instead to include a visit to a doctor's office.

Tyler, who was six at the time, couldn't seem to get enough liquids to quench his thirst. At first Nancy didn't think much of it until one particular night when Tyler drank a half gallon of milk and still wanted water before going to bed. At that point, Nancy made a telephone call and set up a doctor's appointment for him.

What the doctor shared with them the next afternoon was sobering. Tyler was diabetic and needed to go to the hospital right away. While Tyler

received medical treatment, Gary and Nancy took a crash course on diabetes. For the next few days they spent from 8 in the morning till 5 at night reading books, taking tests, and learning how to give shots. They learned fast and Tyler was able to leave the hospital in time to spend Christmas with his family.

Nancy cannot praise her son enough for his courage in adjusting to the sudden change thrust upon him. "Tyler took the news so well. I have to give so much credit to him. I think it was only 3 weeks after he was diagnosed that he gave himself his first shot!"

Nancy hopes to write an article someday for a magazine that is specially designed for diabetics. Maybe she can encourage others with what she has learned. She says, "It's a challenge--a big challenge. And we're doing it. It's hard but, then, in some ways it's easier. I don't have a store down the street that's full of candy. I do miss the phone desperately and I miss having a doctor around that I can talk to."

Things have changed since Gary and Nancy met and will continue to change. Some of those changes are welcome; others are not. One thing is for certain. Gary, Nancy and Tyler are a family and together they can make it--even through the tough times.



A Final Farewell to Ernest Peterkin

Ernest Peterkin died early Sunday morning, May 30, 1993, in an Anchorage hospital as a result of a brain aneurysm. He was 41 years old.

Although Earnest was born in Texas, he was always quick to point out he was conceived and raised in Alaska. His parents were

"vacationing" in Texas at the time of his birth.

He was a commercial fisherman and had a set net site in Bristol Bay. Ernest owned property in McCarthy and was almost finished with a house. He went to school with Mike Hatch of Chitina who also just recently died.

Tim Mischel, a close friend, says Ernest's family homesteaded the area now known as Mountainview. Ernest's grandmother started a dairy and had her cows flown up to Alaska in a DC3.

Ernest is survived by his mother, his brother Maynard and a half-sister Diane.

McCarthy Trail Rides and Bed & Breakfast



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Wood cutting trail ride \$30
Beaver pond ride \$40
McCarthy Creek ½ day ride \$60

Cowboy package

This package includes one night
stay in private cabin, breakfast,
and ½ day horse back riding.

\$140
2nd person \$40

Bed & Breakfast

Private cabin, furnished with a bed, table and
chairs.

per night \$90
(Bring your own bedding and save \$10)

*While in McCarthy, we invite you to stay
in one of our cabins & ride our horses.*

John Adams

McCarthy Trail Rides
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Next to the Nugget Liquor Store

A look at the weather

BY GEORGE CEBULA

April and May were a continuation of the March warming trend and a really nice spring. The high for April was 59 on the 27th and 28th (54 on Apr. 15, 92). The low was 8 on the 4th, 6th and 7th (-7 on Apr. 5, 92). The April average temperature was 36.1 compared to 30.0 in April 92. The precipitation was only 0.04 inches compared to 0.16 in April 92. Total snowfall for April was only a trace (1.3 inches in Apr. 92).

Snow cover was 22 inches on April 1st and was reduced to only a trace by April 30th. The April 92 snow cover was 21 inches on Apr. 1st and 4 inches still remaining on Apr. 30th.

The above normal temperatures during April helped free all area stations of their snow cover by the end of April. It is usually mid May before it finally melts.

May was the beginning of summer with the high temperature reaching 78 on May 15th-17th (67 on May 31, 92). The low temperature only fell to 20 on May 7th compared to 15 on May 17, 92. The average temperature for May was 48.1, 7 degrees warmer than the 41.1 in May 92. The precipitation was light with only 0.31 inches compared to 0.50 inches in May 92. Total snowfall was the same as April with only a trace reported (1.4 inches in May 92). There was no snow cover reported during May 93 compared to May 92 when the snow didn't disappear till May 13th.

Warm temperatures were the rule at all area stations in May with the highest reading of 79 recorded at Tonsina on May 17th.

Summer is in full swing with June and July the warmest months. The all time high temperature recorded at McCarthy was 87

on June 21, 1991. Usually the low 80's are the highs in June and July with the August highs lowering to the low 70's as the sunlight decreases. Freezing temperatures are back by the end of August. Average rainfall is about 2 inches per month (Jun-Aug). Last summer was a wet one with 3.92 inches in June, 4.03 inches in July and 1.50 inches in August. Enjoy the summer — the weather doesn't get any better!



	<p>George is the Regional Cooperative Program Manager for NOAA and a frequent visitor to the McCarthy area.</p>
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"I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."

— Will Rogers

Long time resident **Chris Richards** invites you to join him in **Historic Tours, Glacier & Nature Hikes.**

Kennicott - McCarthy Wilderness Guides



Historic Tour- 1½ to 2 hrs. \$12.50 each person*- 2 person min. Group rates available. Experience the world's largest "Ghost Town" through my 14 years as a resident. Extremely easy walk.

Nature - Historic Walk - 2 to 2½ hrs. - \$22 each person* - 2 person min. Group rates available. Includes "Historic Tour" above and will identify most local flowers, shrubs, trees and animal sign.

Glacier Hikes - 4 hours ± \$45 each person. Bring a sack lunch, good hiking boots, and your camera, and explore the Root Glacier with us.

Other Hikes and Tours offered on request basis. I will alter tours to fit your desires or physical fitness. Fully insured. Commercially licensed with NPS.

*Kids: ages 3 to 12 are ½ price.

Chris Richards Box.#1 Kennicott, AK 99588

Rick and Ed's Radio Rap

Rick and Ed are pleased to welcome a guest to Radio Rap, Eric Nichols. Eric is an Amateur Radio Operator, and spends his spare time keeping the electrons flowing at KJNP in Fairbanks. (I hope Eric's boss at KJNP doesn't read this!)

Please write us with your radio related questions and we'll help you as much as we can. Be sure to include as much information as possible about your radio, such as make, model and approximate age, and describe your location.

I would like to thank Rick for inviting me to contribute to Radio Rap. I have known Rick via Ye Olde Hamme Radio for many years, and one of these days I'll have an "eyeball QSO" with him.

My topic for today is Weird Radio Propagation in Alaska. I have been Chief Engineer at KJNP in North Pole for well over 16 years now, and it never ceases to amaze me how little we know about how radio waves get from point A to point B in Alaska. You might as well throw out all the rules about how radio works down in "America."

One of the major sources of our odd radio propagation is the terrible ground conductivity we have up here, especially in the Interior. There are maps which show the average soil conductivity throughout the continental U.S., and Interior Alaska has a soil conductivity 10,000 times worse than the worst parts of the lower 48!

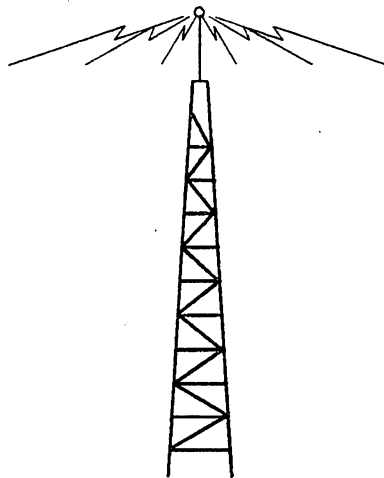
What role does ground conductivity have on radio? At AM broadcast frequencies, and lower, most reception is by means of groundwave... the signals actually cling to the Earth's surface and bend beyond the horizon. If the ground conductivity is good, like in swampland or over the ocean, the ground wave travels with little attenuation (loss). In places like Alaska, the ground attenuation is tremendous, and that translates into poor groundwave coverage most of the time.

At KJNP, we transmit with a half-wave Marconi tower. It's 425 feet tall, twice the height of most towers on our

frequency. This is done so that the minimum current flows at the base of the tower, where the ground conductivity is poor. Apparently this works, as our groundwave signal is quite impressive, but we pay a price. We are the lightning rod for the Interior!

I'm glad that Radio Rap talked about Select-a-Tennas last month. We sell tons of them to listeners on the North Slope and other remote areas. They're cheap, simple, and effective.

If you've ever read radio hobby magazines from the thirties, you may have noticed that they were really big on ground systems for receivers. Techniques involved buried ground rods, and pouring hundreds of pounds of charcoal and salt into the ground in an attempt to increase the local ground conductivity. Marvelous claims were made as to the effectiveness of this, some of which were valid, some totally bogus. At any rate, I seriously doubt that you could pour enough salt and charcoal into the ground in Alaska to make any difference. Most radios don't even have a ground terminal on them anyway, what with the development of the ferrite rod antenna.



And now, something on the lighter side. Technical types like me are often accused of lacking that literary touch, as though we were somewhat remote from the

humanities. This is not true, and to prove it I have included the following masterpiece:

SOLDER IN MY VEINS

I'm often asked the reason why
My actions are so strange
I always give the same reply:
"There's solder in my veins!"

It all began, I do believe, in 1954
On the day that I was born,
They dropped me on the floor.

The shock I got from that mishap.
Most surely shook my brains
Cuz from that time, my fate was sealed,
There's solder in my veins.

When I was nothing but a tot
And 'round the house I'd dodder
I got a hold of fifteen pounds
Of freshly minted solder
And just as babes are wont to do
When free from parent's reins
I ate the stuff right off the spool,
There's solder in my veins.

Some people lust for wealth and fame,
Some play the flute or fiddle,
I've never sought such worldly gain;
Just give me knobs to twiddle.

Some others get their biggest thrill
From driving semi trucks
But nothing beats the smell so sweet
As smoldering rosin flux!

It's not that I'm incompetent,
Or cannot hold a job,
God knows I've had some offers that
Would make your eyeballs throb.

And yet I've turned them all away
With similar refrains;
I'd rather do what I do best,
There's solder in my veins.

And after that, I seriously doubt that Rick will invite me back to Radio Rap. But if he does, I will talk a little about amateur radio and the new no-code license. 73s until next time.

ERIC P. NICHOLS KL7AJ

Book Review -- Land Protection Plan -- Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

"More specifically, the plan was prepared to ... inform landowners about the intentions of the National Park Service to protect lands and resources within the area, either through purchase, exchange, donation, cooperative agreement, or other means."

BY RICK KENYON

Although I like to read books, somehow official government publications just don't beckon the reader like a good novel does. But, when your neighbor writes a book, you really should read it. Especially when your neighbor owns the lot next to yours, and his lot is 12 million acres and yours is only 5 acres. Especially when your neighbor calls the book a LAND PROTECTION PLAN. You want to find out what your neighbor plans to do in order to protect his land.

So, let's look at the LAND PROTECTION PLAN for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, written in 1986. According to the PLAN, federal lands within the park boundaries amount to a little over 12 million acres. Total nonfederal land amounts to slightly less than 1 million acres. Of this 1 million, nearly 900,000 are native corporation. State land amounts to 60,000 acres, and "small tracts" consist of 7,600 acres. Mineral patents add another 11,400.

Since this is a plan for managing the park, then the land that it intends to protect would be park lands, right? "We set aside certain trails for the visitors to use, designated camping areas for them, built toilet facilities so that the forest and meadows would not become polluted from 20,000 tourists each summer." That's what I expected to find. "No bulldozers or earth movers may operate on park lands." Unfortunately, there is nothing even remotely resembling those things in this book. The whole section on land protection actually is concerned with land that is not even part of the park! It might better have been named LAND CONTROL PLAN. It deals with ways the Park Service can gain control over state, native corporation, and private lands. Nothing is said about the way the federal land will be protected. The supposition apparently is this: because

the (big) parcel of federal land is located next to the (small) parcel of non-federal land, the federal land is in danger of being debased. Therefore, the private landowner (or the state) must either cooperate, or be forced to give up his land..



The LAND PROTECTION PLAN is one part of a book that also contains the GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN and the WILDERNESS SUITABILITY REVIEW. The LAND PROTECTION PLAN part of the book starts on page 59. It consists of 44 pages. On page 60 we find this statement: "More specifically, the plan was prepared to ... inform landowners about the intentions of the National Park Service to protect lands and resources within the area, either through purchase, exchange, donation, cooperative agreement, or other means."

Of course, the main threat to park property value is thought to be the miners. Since this book report is too late to help most of them, I will go on to the second big threat after the miners, the private landowner. Starting on page 74 we learn how we must manage our private land in order to be "compatible with the purposes for which the park/preserve was established." This section explains to the landowner the things that might be considered incompatible, things that might cause NPS to consider you a poor neighbor. Here's the first one: "If, for example, a private

landowner were to subdivide his property and sell parcels for recreational development so that scenic vistas were disrupted, this would be contrary to the purpose of maintaining scenic beauty and quality and would be an incompatible use of private land in the park/preserve." Just how recreational development would cause the scenic vistas to be disrupted is not explained.

Here are a few more things that are considered incompatible uses:

- Construction of access roads, airstrips, and other surface disturbances that ... significantly alter the wilderness scene...
- Activities that impair habitat or wildlife use of habitat on adjacent federal lands (e.g., subdivisions resulting in population increases and habitat manipulation affecting distribution of wildlife or predator control)
- Trapping, hunting, or predator control that impair the natural condition of wildlife populations on adjacent federal lands in the park ...
- Activities that intrude on the wilderness character or impair scenic vistas.
- Subdivision or development which significantly increases the number and distribution of part- and full-time residents utilizing park/preserve resources for subsistence, access, or support purposes.

Page 79 starts a section called **PROTECTION ALTERNATIVES**. This section describes the methods by which NPS hopes to gain control over their neighbors lands. It includes EPA STANDARDS, ZONING, EASEMENTS, and FEE ACQUISITION. We will look at these in some detail in the next issue of WSEN. Until then, you might want to read ahead, and be prepared!

Science in the Wrangells

BY ED LACHAPPELLE

How deep is that river?

Stan Jones of the U.S. Geological Survey and Danny Rosenkrans of the National Park Service, familiar visitors to the McCarthy area, were back again recently to reactivate the recording stream flow gauge on the Kennicott River, just above the tram. The small metal silo with a solar panel on top next to the parking area houses the recording equipment, which measures the water depth in the river by sensing the pressure required to force nitrogen bubbles out of a submerged pipe. An excellent record of flow variations was obtained last summer. Jones expects to have a report on those observations ready soon. Wrangell St. Elias News will carry a summary of the results in a future issue.

Is Alaska shrinking?

A new and much more extensive research program has begun in this area with the arrival of Linda Bell, geophysicist with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. As part of the Mission to Planet Earth program, NASA will be measuring earth deformations associated with plate



tectonic motions in Southcentral Alaska. Some limited measurements over the past decade have established that a line running from Yakataga to Fairbanks is getting shorter by 3 to 4 centimeters each year. With the introduction of precision Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment

giving position accuracy to millimeters, a more extensive observation network is planned stretching from the gulf coast to the Alaska Range. Efforts this summer will be to reoccupy a survey network across the Chugach Mountains and to locate suitable GPS sites for observations stretching through the Chitina River valley, across the Wrangell Mountains and as far north as Sourdough on the Richardson Highway.

Bell has been in this area looking for useful sites around McCarthy and along the McCarthy Road. One of the local reference points for the NASA survey will be the USGS Benchmark established in McCarthy in 1908.

Bell was accompanied by her husband, Brian, and their two small sons. They hope to spend more time in the McCarthy area in future summers as the NASA program gets underway.



ST. ELIAS ALPINE GUIDES

Root Glacier Fly-In

Land on the ageless ice of the Root Glacier near the foot of Donoho Peak. Experience the realm of glaciers, of deep blue water pools and miniature grand canyons cut into the surface of the ice. You will fly above the undulating rocky surface of the Kennicott Glacier, and directly over the old "ghost" town of Kennecott, to land directly on the Root Glacier. The 7,000 foot Stairway Icefall looms what seems like only a short walk away. You will explore the timeless formations of this unique environment, choosing your own route, walking at your own pace.

\$95 per person 2 person minimum, 5 person maximum.

Kennicott Glacier Fly-In

Land on a tiny dirt strip nestled in the fel (the area between the lateral moraine and the adjoining mountain sides) of the Kennicott Glacier. Grizzly roam these wildflower covered meadows. Walk among dazzling purple Shooting Stars, and identify alpine Forget-me-Nots. We'll cross the lateral moraine and step out onto the immense Kennicott Glacier. With crampons on we will explore unique glacial formations such as moulins (waterfalls disappearing into the glacial depths). We'll hike towards Mt. Blackburn which lies less than a dozen miles away. We'll spot mountain goats across the Glacier on Pack Saddle Island, and simply try to drink in this remote wilderness.

\$155 per person 3 person minimum, 5 person maximum.

Mt. Blackburn Fly-In

In a wheel-ski equipped aircraft you will fly the entire length of the huge Kennicott Glacier, skim the dazzling icefalls that tumble from its East Face, to line up for a ski landing on the snow covered glacier at the very base of this 16,390 foot mountain. With your guide, you will tie into a rope and walk out into the world of high mountain glaciers, untouched wilderness, an experience of a life time. For an hour you will explore the realm that only climbers experience, only pure air and alpine silence share. On your way back, you will fly over the Root Glacier, drinking in the views of the Stairway Ice Fall, the old "ghost" town of Kennecott, to land at the McCarthy airfield, understanding better why this region is known as the "Mountain Kingdom".

\$195 per person 2 person minimum and maximum.

Custom trips available. *Bob Jacobs, Owner, Certified Alpine Guide.*

Anchorage Office: (907) 277-6867

Day Hike Headquarters: Motherlode Powerhouse, McCarthy

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

BY RANDY ELLIOTT

It's the Fourth of July again! The first anniversary of our own newspaper is here. Last year I compared this paper to the ones started by Ben Franklin and others during our nation's struggle for independence and liberty. Liberty is the most unique and enduring feature of this great republic, and yet how fragile that liberty. It is no surprise that the first article of the constitution guarantees our right to free speech. King George III and his buddies in parliament used censorship to control dissent in the colonies of 1776.

After the successful revolution, Thomas Jefferson knew it would be a constant struggle to keep the personal liberty they had fought and died for when he said "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance." According to historians he was not referring to the British but to our own government! Political power must be a dangerous thing indeed.

Speaking of power, my mother tells an amusing anecdote about my next oldest brother and I having a sibling altercation at the age of four and five. It had newly snowed and we were on our way out as young boys always seem to be under those conditions. She came to see what was wrong and observed Robin holding me down on the porch and trying to put my coat on me, much against my will. It was a titanic battle and she laughs now because he repeated over and over as we struggled, "Randy, let me help you!" I was independent, even at age four, I guess, and I didn't understand his intentions or want his "help."

I wonder if I'm going through a second childhood. Suddenly there are thousands of federal employees helping me to plan the development of my

land. They are using millions of tax dollars to build and staff offices full of "specialists" to draft and enforce "management" plans for the tops of the mountains surrounding my land. But it isn't the mountains they seem to be truly concerned with. Most of their planning and enforcing seems to be directed at the people on private land in the valleys below.

This is being called "preservation of our heritage for future generations." Lofty terms for an ambitious program of regulations and permits. It seems better that we should preserve our heritage by educating our children in those things we deem important to preserve. Have we as a nation stopped doing this? Does this federal agency really believe they care more for my land than I do?

ANILCA states that "Only those lands within the boundaries of (the park) which are public lands shall be deemed to be included as a portion of such unit. No (private land) shall be subject to the regulations applicable solely to public lands..." Why, then, does the NPS try to convince me I need a permit to mine at Dan Creek? Why do many of my neighbors believe them? Why does the "Management Plan" tell us that if we, as landowners, have a different land theology than the "managers," then we must be removed from the park area?

ANILCA further states that "the continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses by rural residents of Alaska... is essential to (Native and non-Native) physical, economic, traditional, and social existence." Clearly Congress thought the bush lifestyle to be an inseparable part of the national interest lands, and ANILCA was supposed to preserve that lifestyle. The current regulations have destroyed our vibrant private mining heritage

here in the WRST area, and now, through questionable interpretations, have begun the same elimination program on subsistence lifestyles all over Alaska. Yet none of these enforcers can show any real damage to the national heritage by small scale mining of private land or subsistence usage of federal land, at least not if you use real life conditions in Alaska as a baseline for measurement. The "save the earth" music keeps us off guard as to the true intention of the agency and allows the "official," politically correct press to brand any objections as "reactionary dissent."

Where in the monolithic big government agencies that are overpowering the rural Alaskan lifestyle can we find the spirit that drove so few to oppose the greatest nation on earth at the time? Where in the pleasantly ineffective state government can we find the passion that drove Nathan Hale to defy his captors even as they hanged him? Where in the popular environmental culture do we see anyone daring to oppose the idea that the earth is somehow more natural without human beings?

In a sense this little newspaper is the true meaning of the Fourth of July. In it, as in Ben Franklin's of 1776, you will read words and ideas which may shake the popular mythology a little. You will find comments which might aggravate the powerful forces of thought enslavement for their lack of reverence. This is the tiny voice of the last gold miner, the last trapper, the last homesteader, asking why the mob doesn't oppose this bad government. This is our greatest heritage being preserved through use rather than through regulation. Maybe this is the shot which will start the spirit moving in our land again. I certainly hope so.

Sincerely,

Randy Elliott

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Anchorage, Alaska
May 22, 1993

Dear Editors:

Last month a friend gave me three issues of WSEN and the latest issue was for March and April. I found them all to be very interesting reading particularly the March and April issue. The Mr. Eckstrom and Mrs. Eckstrom mentioned are my deceased parents. They met in McCarthy and were married there in August of 1914. I was born in Kennecott in April of 1918.

My father was at one time a businessman in McCarthy until 1919

when he became a trainman on the C.R. & N.W. Ry and we moved to Cordova and moved to Anchorage in 1941.

At this time I would like to subscribe to the WSEN beginning with the May-June issue, if possible.

Please find enclosed my personal check for the amount of \$8.50 for a one year subscription. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Tim W. Eckstrom

Dear Tim,

Thank you for writing and introducing yourself to us here at WSEN. While reading over a transcribed copy of *The McCarthy Weekly News* the other day—dated Saturday, April 20, 1918—we came across the following announcement. We thought you would find it VERY interesting, Tim!

LOCAL NEWS

Tim Eckstrom is receiving congratulations from his friends on the arrival of little "Tim" on Tuesday, April 16. Mother and son are doing well at Kennecott.



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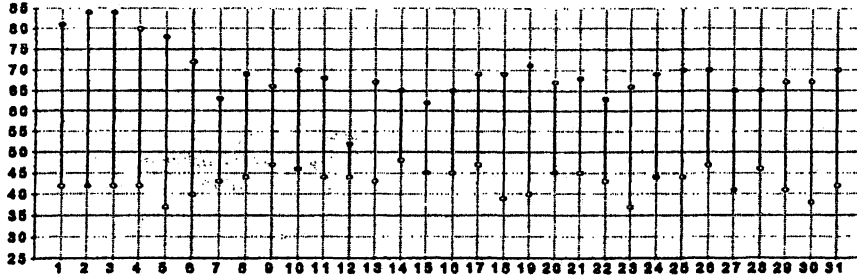
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Glennallen, AK 99588

Weather - What can we expect?

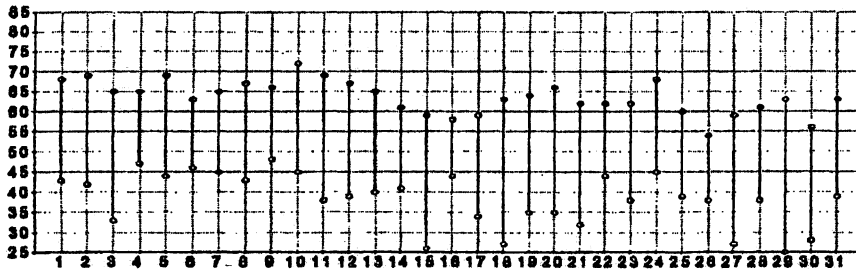
July 1992

MAX/MIN



August 1992

MAX/MIN



Wrangell St. Elias News
 McCarthy
 P.O. Box MXY
 Glennallen, AK 99588-8998

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

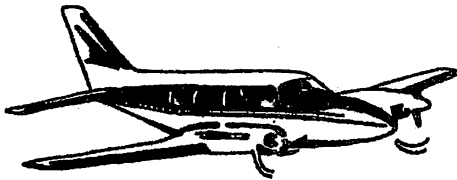
Now you can leave Anchorage at 8:30 on Wednesday or Friday morning and arrive in Gulkana at 9:45, McCarthy at 11:00. Or, you can leave McCarthy at 11:15 and be back in Anchorage by 2:00pm the same day! (Leaves Gulkana at 12:45)

This service is year around.

Rates:

Gulkana/McCarthy	\$56*
McCarthy/Gulkana	\$56*
Gulkana/MayCreek	\$60
May Creek/Gulkana	\$60
Anchorage/Gulkana	\$105*
Gulkana/Anchorage	\$105*

* Ask about special round-trip rates
 Baggage allowance 40 lbs.
 (charge for excess baggage)
 rates do not include tax



Ellis Air Taxi, Inc.

Gulkana Airfield Box 106, Glennallen, AK 99588

Phone 822-3368

800-478-3368