

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

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Fun and games at McCarthy



Photo courtesy Terry C. Blosser



WSEN staff photo

McCarthy:—McCarthy's Annual 4th of July celebration contained all the excitement of the occasion. Beginning this year's events was the Pledge of Allegiance led by local resident, Laurie Rowland and the National Anthem sung by Laurie's daughter, Hannah. A local marching band performed as well. Andy Shid-

ner and Jessica Speed emceed the festivities.

The parade began at noon. A variety of floats entered by locals and out-of-town participants filled the main street of downtown McCarthy. Lines of onlookers snapped cameras and kids filled their pockets with candy from marching pedestrians and riders on the floats.



Photo courtesy Terry C. Blosser

The local fire department trucks kept the noise level on high while demonstrating their much-appreciated equipment.

Hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream were favorites for all the hungry folks in attendance. Traditional games such as a pie-eating contest, paper airplane flying contest, tug-of-war, water balloon team toss, slow bike race, nail pounding competition, egg, ring and horse shoe tosses kept kids and adults on the streets of McCarthy all day.



Photo courtesy Terry C. Blosser

Jim Edward's came to the McCarthy area in 1953. Fortunately for us he preserved many of the scenes from those years on 35mm slides. July 4th visitors and residents alike enjoyed Jim's presentation. See story page 8.



Photo courtesy Dave Hollis

While not a July 4th function, it was truly "fun and games" for those who attended the third John Denver Tribute at Kennicott. See story on page 13.

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Today is July 9th and this issue is finally ready to print and distribute. As you can see from the cover, the July 4th festivities drew a crowd again this year attracting many visitors from far and near. The cool, rainy weather moved out while the sunshine and blue skies quickly took its place. Temperatures are in the low 80's today which is "hot" for McCarthy. It was perfect weather for the annual Customer Appreciation Picnic at the Tony Zak building. The Copper Valley Telephone folks were in town with their usual free gifts and plenty of grilled hot dogs and hamburgers complete with all the trimmings. It's a great time for locals to visit with each other and see what's new with our telephone provider. Speaking of "new" news...on July 2 CVTC received word that the Obama administration has granted them a \$2,613,975 loan and a \$2,613,975 grant for a broadband project called McCarthy Microwave Shot. According to the news release put out by the USDA, "The funding will extend terrestrial wireless broadband connectivity to the remote community of McCarthy and allow the transition from a low-bandwidth capacity satellite link to high-capacity middle-mile service."

Jim Gifford, Chief Operating Officer, told me CVTC hopes to begin working on this project in the fall with plans to have it in place by the end of next summer. If all goes as planned, phone coverage will be available along the McCarthy Road and we can expect a much faster internet connection. Because of a time crunch I wasn't able to get the full scoop for this issue, but be on

the lookout for a detailed story in the September/October WSEN.

Rick and I thank all our contributors for this issue. Dee Frady, who gave us permission to reprint the Languid Lady series. This particular article covers several of my favorite wildflowers of the Wrangells. Dee's drawings are excellent and enable us to easily recognize the wildflowers when we see them in the wild. Rick and I were unable to attend Jim Edwards' recent slide show, but Terry Blosser did and you can find his story on page 8. Terry also wrote up the Third Annual Tribute to John Denver. Thanks, Terry, for sharing your fine photos, too.

Some of our readers know Mike Collins whose story, "Buffalo Wings," is on Page 11. Mike, his wife Kari and their children live in

Cordova but often visit the Collins' homestead at Long Lake (Mile 45 of the McCarthy Road). Rick and I lost tract of Mike for several years but have touched bases again. Our son, Rick Jr., used to play with Mike when they were young boys. Thanks, Mike, for all the hunting videos!

Kennicott resident, Mike Murphy, who is co-owner of Kennicott Wilderness Guides, is up to something new, so be sure to check out his latest venture in his article, "McCarthy—then and now" on page 15.

Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Kim Ball, AL; Uwe Kalenka, AK; Johnse Ostman, AK; Thomas Bertrand, AK; Robert Dickerson, Jr., AK; Marleanna Soto, AK.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Pete and Stacie Miller-Machado and Tailor Made Pizza 2: Welcome back, Stacie and Pete, and welcome back Tailor Made Pizza! “We just wanted to come home,” said Stacie, and that is just what she and Pete did. They didn’t return empty-handed either but brought in a bus that is temporarily serving as the newly-resurrected Tailor Made Pizza.

By the time Memorial Day weekend rolled around, Stacie was busy serving hungry tourists and locals her own homemade pizza and calzones. Varieties such as Root Glacier, Castle Peak, Bonanza, Jumbo, Erie and Blackburn bring back memories of the original Tailor Made when it was located in downtown McCarthy and owned and operated by the Miller family, including Stacie.

Pete and Stacie plan on building a structure in the future, but, in the meantime, the bus is doing a fine job. When I called Stacie today, she was busy baking cookies between her pizza orders. I expect the aroma goes a long ways! Hopefully, it doesn’t distract the park service employees, except on their lunch breaks.

Tailor Made is situated on Lot #9 (previously owned by Chris Richards), in the Kennicott Mill Site.

Congratulations, Stacie and Pete, and “Welcome Home!”

John and Barbara Rice: The Rices crossed the Canadian border on April 24th, making their annual trip north to Alaska and to their summer home in the McCarthy area. Towing a small travel trailer this year enabled them to camp in style. Dog Clark enjoyed the ride, as usual, and is thrilled with the diversity of animals he encounters here in McCarthy. Our local moose fascinate him! They seem to know when he arrives, too. Recently he woke up the household to announce there was a mama and her baby out by the shed. I don’t think Clark impressed John and Barbara nearly as much as he did the moose and calf who were quite surprised to find someone was home at the Rice’s residence!

Once John and Barbara unpacked and settled in for the summer season, Barbara began planting garden seeds in the various containers John has built over the last few years. Plenty of Swiss chard and lettuce are a few of their favorite vegetables that are filling out her boxes as I type this item.

The month of May was a busy time for both John and Barbara. They joined other McCarthy Lodge employees in preparing for the seasonal opening of the hotel and the grand opening of the new McCarthy Center—a grocery/hardware store

in downtown McCarthy. There was plenty of work to go around and the Rices were right in the middle of all the excitement.

On June 7th the Rices left for a quick trip to North Carolina where they attended a grandson’s (Robert) graduation celebration. The 100 plus degrees that greeted them when they got off the airplane and for their week-long stay was a bit much, but they survived and had a grand time with family and friends.

The day after returning home their good friends, Harry and Corky Bahr (also of St. Louis), arrived for a first-time visit to the Rice’s far northern home. They are having a wonderful time taking in the scenery and festivities of our small town—so much fun, they decided to stay longer than planned.

Welcome home, John and Barbara, and a good summer season to you both!

Jim and Peggy Guntis: May 31st brought more than Memorial Day this year. Jim and Peggy arrived just in time to experience the “hot” temperatures of McCarthy. The last week of May the thermometer reached 82 for a high. Now that may not be hot Tucson style, but it certainly is McCarthy style.

Peggy was barely settled in before she and I did our usual mail day excursion—a stop at the mail shack for incoming and outgoing mail and

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then a trip to the grocery store in downtown McCarthy. The grand opening for the McCarthy Center was May 28th and Peggy and Jim had not yet arrived for that occasion. A few days later, however, Peggy and I paid the store a visit and checked out all the fine prices and selections. Of course, we didn't leave empty handed and ice cream was certainly one of the purchased items.

Daughter Kim, husband Richard, and baby Robbie (almost 1 ½ yrs. old) arrived for a visit the next week. Robbie, Kim, Peggy and I drove up to Kennicott for lunch at the lodge and a round of shopping at Fireweed Mountain Arts and Crafts. We ladies always enjoy visiting with Terry and Dee Frady who own and operate the gift shop. Richard and Jim rebuilt the railing around the deck of their house to better contain little Robbie when he comes to visit. A job well done!

A few days after Kim and family left, Peggy and Jim took off for Homer where they visited with daughter Salley Wallin and their granddaughter Anna. I guess you'd call it a mini-family reunion. Jim got in a round of halibut fishing with Richard—always a fun-packed adventure.

They are back home in McCarthy now for the summer doing things they like to do while here: Jim, hiking and Peggy, reading, and collecting favorite recipes from the local ladies.

Welcome back, Jim and Peggy!

Dorothy Adler and son Logan: Dorothy and 3- year old Logan arrived in McCarthy the second week of June. She and Logan were here for a little over a week while Dorothy taught a Wilderness First Response course. Dorothy is an instructor with the North America Outdoor Institute (NAOI) which is based in Wasilla. The NAOI, a non-profit corporation founded in 2004, offers winter and summer Safety and Environmental Awareness train-

ing programs for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages.

This particular trip was more work than play but Dorothy loves her teaching assignments— especially when they bring her back home. I had the privilege of “playing” with Logan two days and we had a great time together. He especially likes the bag of old matchbox cars our son Rick Jr. played with when he was young and always asks for them whenever he visits my cabin. One day when his mom picked him up, she and I thought he might like to take the cars home and bring them back the next day. Both of us were surprised when Logan turned down the offer. He said to his mom, “Bonnie might want to play with them!”

Logan and I visited my neighbors, Larry and Lindee Satterfield, who live a short distance from Rick and me. Both Lindee and Larry “posed” with a set of moose antlers. Logan thought they were strange looking characters!

Lindee, thanks for the lemonade and Rice Krispie Treats.

Larry and Lindee Satterfield: We are glad to have Lindee back “in town” after completing her winter job in Anchorage. She and Larry now have the summer free to enjoy the day-to-day activities here at their McCarthy property. One thing they have completed is a new woodshed. Clearing away the dead standing trees around their cabin is providing them plenty of firewood to fill their new shed.

I was glad to get a tour of their recent projects on my last visit and see what a fine job they did. Finishing touches on their shower building and the new kitchen flooring that Larry installed before Lindee got home gives their cabin a real completed look.

Dog Kobuk is SO glad to be back home, after a very LONG winter in the big city. There are plenty of rabbits in his neck-of-the-woods and he certainly enjoys rousting

them out of hiding. Thankfully, he isn't quite fast enough to actually catch one, but if he continues practicing what dogs are good at, he just might surprise himself and bring one home for dinner!

Kobuk's most recent activity is doing photo ops for tourists down at the footbridge, says Lindee. Seems area guests find him and his perch on the back of Lindee's 4 wheeler (he has his own dog seat) quite intriguing!

Jim and Audrey Edwards: As usual, the Edwards' do not have time to get bored, at least as long as they are on their Swift Creek homestead. At the present they have a couple visitors staying with them: Megan and Sybille.

Megan is Audrey's 22 year old “grand niece” who is working for the McCarthy Lodge this summer.

Sybille Schuchardt, who just recently arrived at the Edwards, is from Munich, Germany. Jim says, “She would like to try the bush lifestyle for awhile and will stay in our cabin called Shacky. We'll be helping her adjust the furniture to her comfort.”

Sybille is a good friend of Diane Malik of Kennecott. The ladies met while both were visiting Hawaii and became good friends. Sybille says she likes to walk, an activity Jim thoroughly enjoys, too. Jim says he will be showing her around our town in the days ahead.

Welcome, Megan and Sybille!

George and dog Sophie: It's raining today as I type up “Items” which makes me think of George who keeps up with the weather forecasts and patterns in our area. I decided to give him a call and see how things are next door. He didn't give me much hope that the rain was going to quit anytime soon. (George says it's like living in a rainforest these days!) Dog Sophie was inside “drying out” from her morning jaunt in the woods while on a walk with her master.

George said Sophie roused either a moose or a bear earlier and seemed to pick up some extra adrenaline during the excitement. Although I'm quite glad when Sophie does the neighborly thing by keeping the moose at bay from my garden, I do realize she's not as young as she used to be—meaning she can't move as fast out of the reach of flying hoofs.

George is planning an outing (without Sophie this time) to the lower 48, Pittsburgh, PA to be exact, to attend a niece's wedding. This particular bride-to-be is his brother Ray Cebula's daughter, Jane. On George's return trip, he will bring another brother, Ted, home with him. Ted is no stranger to the McCarthy folks as he makes annual trips north to visit George and friends.

Rick and I'll be ready, Ted, and so will the coffee pot!

Chris Epton, Chuck and Jody Gretzke and Glacier View Campground/grill: I know that was a long intro to this item, but all of the above are contained in this item of interest. Chris and Chuck opened the campground as usual last week in May and are off to a grand start for the season. Thankfully when I called Chris, he wasn't busy preparing his most popular lunch item—Texas Bacon Burger. I was surprised that his Glacier Burger (all American style) has dropped to second place. Just in case you haven't yet tried the Texas burger, it contains pepper jack cheese and bacon.

What makes these two burgers so popular to Chris' customers is Jody's homemade barbecue sauces. The good news is that Chuck and Jody are coming out to give Chris a hand over the 4th of July weekend. They are bringing some of Jody's famous sauce with them—all bottled up to sell at Glacier View.

The Gretzkes are also bringing extended family members, two daughters and their husbands. This will be the first time all of them

have been out here together. Fifteen years ago Chuck's brother and sister-in-law visited McCarthy and helped Chris and Chuck paint their sign and shop. That's been awhile and I'm sure they are eager to see all the changes in the area.

Rib dinners are still on the menu throughout the 4th and beyond (until Chris runs out) and fireworks are scheduled for midnight of the 4th.

Thanks for the "heads-up" on the availability of Jody's special barbecue sauce!

Sonny Asbury and dog Mac: Sonny and Mac just returned from manning a fish wheel in Chitina for a couple of days. John and Barbara Rice, their friends Harry and Corky Bahr, as well as myself, joined him. We ladies drove up for the day bringing food and supplies. Sonny had his camp set up by the time we arrived. Fishing was slow but by the time Sonny and Mac returned, they had several Copper River Reds and Kings in the coolers. Although most of the day was rainy, a few tarps strung overhead and a nearby picnic table situated just right, enabled we three ladies to learn a new card game called Golf while Sonny kept an eagle eye on the fish wheel. Mac kept an eagle eye opened for any bears in the area, discouraged them from even "thinking" about investigating the camp site.

Sonny and Mac, you both did a great job!!

Cross Road Medical Center summer clinics: Cross Road Medical Center is holding two more mobile clinics in McCarthy this summer. The clinics will be held at the Tony Zak Community Center from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon and 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm on July 16th and August 20th. Appointments can be made by calling 822-3203. Walk in patients are welcome also but appointments will have first priority.

The clinics will be able to provide the following health services: sick visits and check ups, adult

physicals, school/PE physicals, ICC physicals, well child checks with immunizations and adult immunizations. Any questions may be directed to Davanea Bush at Cross Road Medical Center at the above phone number.

Park Service holds public meetings: The Park Service is hosting the following public meetings for the summer 2010 summer season: July 14, August 18 and September 8. These meetings are geared to the McCarthy-Kennecott community to discuss issues of concern with the residents. The July 14th meeting is scheduled to take place at the Tony Zak Building in McCarthy, beginning at 11:30 am and running to 1:30 pm. Kennecott Restoration projects is expected to be on the menu for the July meeting.

Front Country Planning is the topic for discussion at the August and September meetings.

Bruce Rogers, park Environmental Protection Specialist, is scheduled to be in attendance for these meetings.

Interested parties may call Superintendent Meg Jensen at 907-822-7250 or Stephens Harper, Park Ranger, 907-554-1144 for further details.

Chitina plans Centennial celebrations: The year 2010 will mark 100 years for the town of Chitina, Alaska, and plans are underway to celebrate the centennial anniversary with activities on the Fourth of July and Labor Day. A parade took place on the 4th of July and on Sunday, September 5th, the Chitina Labor Day Cabbage Festival and Fair will take place. Don't miss Chitina's world famous giant cabbage contest and giant vegetable contest for kids. Both events are being sponsored by the Chitina Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, contact the Centennial Committee at 259-2239 or Email: fishwheel@aol.com or visit the chamber's website at: www.chitinachamber.org.

the Languid Lady

Wildflowers of the Wrangells—Part 2: “Summer Favorites”

BY DEE FRADY

I first came to Alaska in 1972 and developed an immediate passion for backpacking. Terry and I hiked many, many miles of trails in the 70's and spent every possible spare moment outdoors. I bought my first Alaskan wildflower book, tucked it in my pack along with my camera and away we went. This was the start of my love affair with Alaska and her botanical delights!

July and August herald a profusion of wildflowers in all colors. Most are actually in full bloom in late June or early July as ours is a very short growing season. Indeed, it seems that one day there is barely a green haze on the trees, then the next day the leaves are already deep green and fully developed.

Here we go again—what do I include and what do I omit with so many beautiful choices? I will pick a few of the most commonly seen varieties for wildflower lovers, amateur botanists and summer visitors to our area.

CHIMING BELLS/MOUNTAIN

BLUEBELLS(*Paniculata mertensia*) Borage Family

These beauties bloom early in June and into July. The dainty sky blue to light blue nodding bells are pink in bud and turn blue as they open. Many branched stems occur with

broad, dark green, hairy leaves that taper to a long point. They grow 18-36" tall in the woods, meadows and near streams. Transplants easily. Like Fireweed, Chiming Bells reclaim forests after a fire and soften the



Drawing by Dee Frady

CHIMING BELLS

(Striking pink buds that turn blue as they open.)

charred landscape with color. Related to the herbs comfrey and borage the flowers and leaves are edible, although not widely used as a food source. Medicinally, has been used for various lung complaints such as asthma (Lungwort). The name

mertensia originates from Mertens, a German botanist.

Abundant on our property, these wildflowers are spectacular in a natural setting growing among Wild Rosa. Did you guess? Another name is “Languid Lady” that refers to the drooping characteristic of the bells from gently arched stems. Truly one of my favorite wildflowers!

PRICKLY WILD ROSA (*Rosa acicularis*) Rose Family

Another prolific and well-loved wildflower is the Wild Rosa. A woody shrub that has stems covered with small prickles and leaves usually occurring in groups of 3 to 7 leaflets. The light pink to deep rose blossoms contain 5 rounded petals, 2-3" across, with yellow centers. They grow in open woods, meadows and clearings in full sun to some shade. They can hybridize with Nootka Rose. Easy to transplant, less easily grown from seed. Can also root from stems. Rose hips or haws (orange to red seed pods) are edible and a rich source of Vitamin C as well as other vitamins and minerals (Three hips have more Vitamin C than an orange). During World War II rose hips were an important supplement due to blocked shipments of citrus to Europe. Note: Seeds in rose hips can cause intestinal irritation so to avoid problems remove the seeds

before using. Versatile in use, rose hips, petals and leaves provide jellies, syrup, wine, catsup and teas. The tea is a traditional use for coughs and colds. Needless to say, many recipes abound. Since the hips persist on the bushes throughout the winter, they are also an important food source for grouse and other birds. Fragrant rose petals are in common use in potpourri and as perfume bases.

I have Wild Rosa growing in my greenhouse. Years ago it sprouted up behind the raised beds and I left it. They provide a splash of very early color and blooms that I otherwise would have to wait to see.

FIREWEED/WILLOW

HERB(*Epilobium angustifolium*)
Evening Primrose Family

Often growing in spectacular dense patches these aggressive plants spread from persistent underground stems. The flowers are an amazing, brilliant rose to magenta color. Occasionally, shell-pink or white blooms are found. There are four petals and four sepals of a deeper shade that form a cross. The flowers are arranged in a terminal spike, in which the lower ones open first. When the uppermost blossoms bloom it is said soon comes the end of summer. The tall, stout stems (which can reach several feet) have long, pointed, willow-like leaves, hence the old name Willow Herb. At the end of the season, seed pods open and the plant becomes a mass of long, silken hairs that fill the air with white, fluffy parachutes. Fireweed likes disturbed soil, recent clearings and burned areas. It takes possession of burned areas, quickly covering

the scars and regenerating the soil. Fireweed is the territorial flower of the Yukon. The young, tender sprouts are often cooked and eaten as greens. The Eskimo name, Pahmeyuktuk, describes



FIREWEED
(Renews soil past forest fires)

the edible shoot. Fireweed is prized as a source of honey. It is a clear honey that has garnered many awards for beekeepers. Also made into a jelly as well as tea concocted from the dried flowers and leaves. Considered an excellent food in survival situations, this plant was a favorite food of French Canadian Voyageurs. Medicinally, dried roots are mixed with a grease to spread on infected sores.

RIVER BEAUTY/DWARF FIREWEED (*Epilobium latifolium*) Evening Primrose Family

Along with Fireweed these plants occur almost everywhere in Alaska. The blossoms are much the same with four petals and four sepals but are not on a spike and are larger. They grow on a low, bushy, branched plant to 2 feet tall. The normally magenta blooms rarely occur in white or light pink. Preferred habitat includes well-drained stream banks, gravel bars or scree slopes. River Beauty is striking and memorable to see growing near glaciers. The young shoots are also edible as greens.

These lovely flower blossoms press well as they are larger in size and have a beautiful color with prominent veins.

TUNDRA ROSE/SHRUBBY CINQUEFOIL (*Potentilla fruticosa*) Rose family

A much branched, woody shrub that grows 2 to 3 feet high. The reddish-brown stems have bark that sheds. The showy butter-yellow blossoms are about 1" in diameter and contain 5 petals. The leaves have distinctive 5-parted, hairy, narrow leaflets. These shrubs are hardy and have many habitats. They grow in a wide variety of moist and dry soils at various elevations. Easy to transplant. Nome Eskimos reportedly used the leaves for tea. From Latin potens, "powerful," referring to the astringent medicinal properties. Can be seen in greenhouses as they are grown commercially as ornamental shrubs.

YELLOW DRYAS (*Dryas Drummondii*) Rose Family

An evergreen sub-shrub that grows as a low, sprawling, mat-

forming ground cover over large areas. The oval leaves appear leathery with wavy toothed edges that are slightly rolled and hairy underneath. The yellow, solitary flowers only partially open and have a base covered with brown hairs. The seed heads are twisted spirals which open to tan, feathery plumes resembling a dandelion or as known locally—“Einstein’s.” A pioneer plant of flood plains, Yellow Dryas grows

on sandy river bars, gravel bars and other dry areas. Can be grown from seed, blooms in 3 or 4 years. The bacteria that inhabit these roots are the same that inhabit Alder roots. Add local Alder soil to inoculate potting soil. Scientific name honors the discoverer, Drummond, a Scottish botanical explorer in North America.

Seen in profusion and readily identified with our area, Yellow

Dryas grows near the footbridge and alongside the Kennicott River.

All of these plants grow around us on our property. In fact, you could hardly go anywhere in our area without seeing these particular wildflowers. They abound just about everywhere and also grow along the McCarthy Road, much to the traveler’s pleasure. ☘

McCarthy’s senior resident charms holiday audience

BY TERRY BLOSSER

“The mountains, glaciers, rivers and animals here are my church,” said long-time McCarthy resident Jim Edwards as he emotionally concluded a July 3 historical program hosted by McCarthy Lodge. A standing room only crowd packed the Lodge for Edward’s two hours of slides and recollections.

The 80-year-old Edwards, who poked fun at himself as having a “Master’s Degree in Eclectic Innovation,” settled into McCarthy as young man in 1953 after working as a telephone lineman in Cordova. At the time there were only six residents in town and no roads out for his first ten years.

There was a lot of “junk” lying around McCarthy and Kennecott after the copper mining heydays. Among his many ingenious projects, Edwards improvised a “Model AA” truck dubbed

Rigor Mortis, a hydroelectric generator and water pump for his home, and a 1936 Harley motorcycle he modified for slower speeds. In the 1970’s he built McCarthy’s Kennecott River Tram using Bonanza Mine tramway cables.

Edwards showed scenes of a bygone era as he talked of his various roles as a pilot, surveyor, inventor, geologist, miner, fuel hauler and explorer in the Wrangell Mountains. He fondly recalled working summers for famed prospector Martin Radvan who doggedly pursued gold mining claims near Glacier Creek for 40 years.

Edwards’ slides showed a very different view from today’s McCarthy and Kennecott, including the interiors of Kennecott copper mining tunnels shimmering in ice crystals. “Today the Park Service closes the interesting stuff and charges you for the rest,” he said with a laugh.

In addition to the finest glacial scenery in the world, the Wrangells have the planet’s best collection of rock glaciers, said Edwards who extensively studied them. However *National Geographic Magazine* refused to publish his work because he had no doctoral degree.

Edwards vividly narrated slide images of traveling the old railroad tracks 60 miles out to Chitina and how he crossed high trestles with his bulldozer in winter time dragging a sled and automobile. “One such trip took me a month with my wife in McCarthy with a new baby,” he said.

Edwards presented his McCarthy program in a red and white checkered flannel shirt that also seemed to appear in several of his 1950’s slides. When questioned about that by an audience member, Edwards joked that he didn’t like to throw away anything useful.

“It is incredible how as soon as a people become subject, it promptly falls into such complete forgetfulness of its freedom that it can hardly be roused to the point of regaining it, obeying so easily and willingly that one is led to say that this people has not so much lost its liberty as won its enslavement.” —French judge, writer, philosopher Estienne de la Boétie (1530-1563)

Guns on the homestead

Part two—the high-powered rifle

BY RICK KENYON

In our last issue we talked about the pump-action 12 gauge shotgun as being an ideal weapon for bear encounters of the close kind. However, I need to confess that the only shotgun I own is an old .410 double barrel that belonged to my grandmother. While a great rabbit gun, I would never consider using it in a serious confrontation with anything much bigger! Parked near my front door, readily accessible to family members but out of sight to guests, is a high-powered rifle.

The rifle has one main advantage over the shotgun—it has the capability of hitting a small target at a much longer range. And while a bear may not be considered a small target, please realize that if it becomes necessary or desirable to shoot at a bear, *you do not shoot at the bear: You shoot at the bear's vital organs.* Bear anatomy is beyond the scope of this article, but generally we are talking here about the heart-lung area, which is perhaps the size of that paper plate you were shooting at earlier, or the brain, which is much smaller. And, while I am not advocating shooting a bear at long ranges, (remember we are talking here about defense, not hunting) there is always the possibility that your first shot will wound, rather than kill, and you will be forced to shoot at longer ranges in order to prevent a wounded bear from escaping. Or, perhaps you have determined that a certain bear has become a

menace to you or your loved ones—it has invaded your homestead on several occasions, but the only opportunity you have for a shot is further than the 25 or so yards that the shotgun is likely to be lethal. For this reason the rifle may also be chosen as a dual-purpose weapon—both for protection and for hunting big game.

The advantage of increased accuracy does come with a price tag—the need for *practice!* If a shotgun takes “X” amount of practice to feel comfortable with, the rifle will take “XX” amount. (In our next issue we will talk about the handgun, which requires “XXXXX” amount of practice, which is why we saved it for last!)

Unfortunately for the newcomer, rifles come in a confusing array of *calibers*. While the shotgun gauges we considered were few—the 12 or 20 gauge (or the 10 gauge for the adventurous!) there are many rifle *calibers*, each with its advocates and its detractors. Caliber actually refers to bore diameter, but in each bore diameter there are many different *cartridge* configurations, each with a different power level. For instance, there are .22 *caliber* rifles that shoot the .22 *caliber long rifle cartridge*, and are suitable for small game such as hare or spruce hen. They shoot a .22 caliber bullet at velocities of around 900 to 1200 foot-per-second. There are also .22 caliber rifles that shoot the *220 Swift cartridge*, which delivers its .22 caliber bul-

let at up to 4,000 feet-per-second and has many more times the energy and range of the .22 long rifle. In between are more than a half dozen different .22 caliber cartridges. There are no .22 caliber cartridges that I consider suitable for the task of self-defense against bears.

In the early 1980's, the U.S. Forest Service did a study to determine the effectiveness of various rifle, shotgun and handgun cartridges at the short ranges involved in stopping a bear attack. One interesting fact that came to light during the study is that some of the more powerful .30 caliber magnums fared poorly in the tests. The .300 Winchester Magnum with 180 grain bullets ended up at the bottom of the list, behind cartridges such as the 30/06, .308, and 7x57 Mauser. Even the .44 magnum handgun ranked higher than the much more powerful .300 Winchester Mag. Part of the reason for this may be that these powerful magnums are designed for long-range performance, and when used at the short distances involved in stopping a charging bear the bullets tend to break up, or fragment, thus losing much of their energy and failing to penetrate to the bears vital organs.

While it is probably safe to say that more black bear (and perhaps more grizzly bear) have been taken with the venerable 30-30 cartridge than with any other, it would be hard to find a serious advocate of the 30-30 when the main purpose is pro-

tection from these animals. My advice would be to consider the .308 class of cartridges as the minimum power level for this purpose. The 30/06 with a 220 grain bullet fared very well in the USFS tests. (By the way, the .458 Winchester Magnum won top honors. I used to own a Ruger M-77 rifle in that caliber, but as much as I enjoy shooting I never did enjoy the recoil—approximately 55 ft./lbs. To put that in perspective, a 30/06 with 220 grain bullets has around 15 ft./lbs. of recoil.) In general, it seems that the heavier bullets available in each cartridge are to be chosen over lighter weight ones—especially in the .30 caliber class guns.

Whenever one writes of cartridge recommendations for any certain job, invariably someone will take exception as they feel their favorite rifle has been slighted. However, with that in mind, I still recommend that you avoid any caliber less than .30. Although many bears have been killed with the .270 class rifles, I have heard of several people who have been killed by bears after shooting them with this class rifle. (As far as that goes, for some time the record grizzly was one taken in northern Alberta by a young Indian girl named Bella Twin—using a single-shot .22 rimfire! Not recommended, but proof that *any* gun is better than *no* gun!) In several instances, both the bear and the person using the rifle were found dead. I have a Remington bolt-action in 7mm-08 that has taken several black bear and one grizzly, but only because that is what I had available at the time—not because it is my choice.

Avoid high-powered telescopic sights. At close range all you will see in your scope is hair. The common iron sights that come on many rifles are reasonably adequate for fast, accurate shooting at close range. A type of sight that became popular with big-game hunters in Africa is called the Express sight. It consists of a shallow “V” rear sight and a somewhat larger than normal front bead sight. It is reported to be a bit faster than the standard “U” configuration. My choice is a “peep” sight, or “receiver” sight. Williams makes one they call the Foolproof. It mounts on the side of the receiver and is easily adjustable for windage and elevation. I find it faster and more accurate than standard open sights. There is also a variation of the receiver sight called the “ghost-ring” which has gained in popularity in recent years.

Of course there is a choice of action type also. While the bolt-action is probably the most popular for hunting, some favor the semi-automatic for its quick follow up shots and its slight dampening of felt recoil. My favorite for close to medium range shooting is the lever action. The gun can be carried with the magazine full and the chamber empty, yet can be brought into action very quickly.

In my opinion, Marlin did us a big favor last year when it introduced the model 1895G “Guide Gun.” This is a lightweight, short barreled lever action in a caliber that has been well proven as a “stopper,” the 45/70. When my good friend and neighbor, Doyne Houghton, let me shoot his Guide Gun last

summer I knew I had to have one. A few phone calls confirmed that Marlin had a winner, and everyone had a waiting list of customers for the new gun. When Doyne called and said that Joe Prax at The Prospector in Valdez had one that he had bought for his own personal use, but Doyne had convinced Joe that I needed it worse than he did, I wasted no time in getting down there and picking it up!

While Marlin calls it the Guide Gun, to my mind they could just as well called it the Homesteader’s Gun. It combines ease of carry and use with plenty of power. The gun has a large, rubber recoil pad and the 18.5" barrel is “ported.” Porting is a fairly recent development in firearms technology that can, if done right, greatly reduce the felt recoil and muzzle jump. Marlin got it right on this gun. I watched closely while Doyne shot the gun offhand, and it seemed the barrel rose perhaps one inch. My perception is that the recoil is comparable to my old Winchester 30/30. The only changes I have made to mine is to replace the rear sight with one of the Williams Foolproof models, and to replace the front sight with a red plastic post-type. I also added a sling made by Butler Creek. It is nylon, with a padded area about 3/8" thick which makes it very comfortable over the shoulder. It also has provision to carry an extra 4 cartridges on the outside of the padded area. I mount mine in such a fashion that I can carry the gun muzzle-down, over my left shoulder. (With a lever-action this requires the sling to be fairly long so that the lever does not dig into your back.) Such a carry style allows the gun

to be brought into action very quickly and helps keep debris out of the muzzle.

One problem with the Guide Gun is that they are still in short supply. I talked with Joe at the Prospector recently, and he told me that he has 10 of them on order but none in stock. The distributor says they should be available later this year.

I am pleased with the response to the first part of this series. Several of you wrote or came by with valuable information on the subject, for which I am grateful. I likely have stepped on some toes by failing to recommend your favorite shotgun or rifle, for which I am sorry. As I said in the last issue, I am not an expert on the subject, and it is obviously a controversial subject.

Please join us next time for the final segment of this series—the handgun. Until then, practice with your chosen gun, and be aware of your surroundings!

Editor's note: This series originally was published in 1999. Obviously such things as availability of certain models has changed since then. We would like to hear from our readers as I am sure many of you have experiences to share.

Alaska hunting videos

BY RICK KENYON

The other day I called Mike Collins to talk about a proposed deer hunt on one of the islands near Cordova. Mike lives in Cordova but is a frequent visitor to our area being a property owner at Long Lake. When he offered to send me some hunting videos I thought, “cool, some home movies.” I was quite surprised when what arrived in the mail were several well done commercial hunting videos!

Mike owns and operates Greatland Productions.

“We started filming our hunts several years ago for personal use,” says Mike. “As the footage began to build up, we realized that some of our material was good enough to use in production movies. So we learned to edit video, became familiar with independent film making, and continued to record our outdoor activity.”

Some of the footage was taken in the Wrangells, even a bear hunt at Long Lake. Since I was interested in Sitka Blacktail deer, Mike sent me one about

hunting them in Prince William Sound.

Titles include *Big into Bears*, *Bull Down*, *High Spirits*, *Alaska Tracks* and several others. You can order the videos from Mike's website at <http://www.greatlandproduction.com/default.asp> or pick them up from such outlets as Sportsman's Warehouse.

Check out Mike's short story about a buffalo hunt below. The story is from a hunt featured on the video called *Alaska Tracks*.

Buffalo Wings

BY MIKE COLLINS

I had the privilege of drawing a bison tag a few years ago. My friend Quinn Selitsch agreed to accompany me and help out. It was mid October, the plan was for Quinn to drive my truck to Copper Center where we would stage the hunt. We wanted to have the truck close as it would be tough to haul a whole bison and our camp back home in the small plane. He left Big Lake a couple hours before I took off with the

Super Cub. Quinn had a handheld radio with him in the truck so when I passed Tazlina Lake I checked the squelch on my VHF, picked up the microphone and gave him a call.

“Buffalo ground this is Buffalo air do you copy.....?”

(scratchy) “Roger buffalo wings I copy....”

“I gotcha, what is your location?.....”

“Rub a dub dub” (broken and scratchy)

“I'm having a hard time reading you, try again....”

“I said I'm at the Hub.....”

“Oh, OK, meet you at the Copper Center airport in 20.....”

“Roger, 20 minutes, see you there, Buffalo ground clear.”

We camped in a nice spot at the west end of a mile-long bar on the mighty Copper near Keny Lake. The night sky was clear and we contemplated the Universe watching satellites and stars before turning in. Woke up about 4:30 and soon we were

sipping coffee in the predawn. There was a light frost on the leaves and the silence was broken by the call of a coyote as we left camp. It wasn't long before we came across some fresh tracks and when we smashed a pile of dung with a stick it was still steaming in the middle. We knew we were close. I was filled with excitement as we quietly walked up the dry wash whispering back and forth. I climbed a small cottonwood for a better view and watched for a little while but saw nothing so we moved on looking and listening. We looked at each other with wide eyes when a thick smell similar to a barnyard came to us; they couldn't be far off.

After hunting for a few hours the intensity wore down and Quinn and I stopped for a bite to eat and discuss the situation. We decided to head back to camp and take a break, then try again a little later. There was one area that we needed to check though so we started to work our way through it walking slowly and scanning the sparse brush ahead. I was standing on a cut bank watching as Quinn checked some more fresh tracks on an open bar. Suddenly he backed up and crouched down turning to motion to me. Adrenaline surged and I knew he had spotted them. With my rifle ready I moved to get into position.

"Seventy five yards just around the bend on the other side of that brush. Looked like a young bull; he saw me." Quinn had the vidcam rolling. My crosshairs settled on the young bull and I was just about to let drive but another buffalo stood up directly behind the first one spoiling my shot so I held off for

a moment. Both animals turned and started to walk directly away. I didn't want to shoot a young one but I would have, not wanting to miss a chance. Sure didn't want to shoot one in the hind end, though, so I held my fire and watched as they walked out of sight. Excitedly we moved farther out into the open for a better view and as we did some more buffalo came into sight. None of the rest of them saw us as we hunkered down behind the root cluster of a big log. Now we had a good view of them and I had a good rest.

At that point we knew we had one. In a short time I had looked at each animal carefully and knew which one I wanted, looked like a nice bull laying down facing away. The young ones that had seen us calmed down as they joined the others; none of those ones had seen us yet. We waited. Lots of time. When the old fella finally stood up I was ready and the bullet entered his ribcage with a loud whack. All the critters scattered into the brush as the shot echoed off the sides of the valley. We didn't really know how hard he was hit for sure and we could see the shapes of bison moving in the bushes. I didn't want to shoot again until I knew for sure what was what, so we decided to hold off for a little while and let things settle down. Not too good an idea to go charging into the brush after a wounded monster if you can help it. We waited some then started to move up. As we got closer it became clear that he was not done for yet. I wanted to finish the job not wanting him to suffer more than necessary; so did Quinn. "OK twinkle toes, waltz right in there and do it; I got

your back from here. I'll either put one in him or one in you depending on how it looks." I stepped forward and the brute turned his head offering a shot behind his ear. The 300 Weatherby spoke with authority and the bison's life was over. We were both quiet as we moved up to him. It was a rather solemn moment and we wanted to pay proper respect.

After checking him out and taking pictures, the work began. We figured he was about seven years old and close to 2000 pounds. Gutting, skinning and quartering that thing was quite a project. We took a break and went back to camp for dinner, then returned with a lantern and some flashlights, worked on him until 10:00 that night. After that we sat around a nice fire in camp laughing and joking late into the night; we had a great time.

The next day it took three trips with the cub to fly all the meat out—we wasted nothing. We took his head out whole with the cape attached.

On the way home I called Quinn one more time before I got out of radio range.

"Buffalo transport, buffalo wings do you copy....?"

"Roger buffalo wings I got ya...."

"GPS says I have an ETA for home in an hour and a half, looks like I'll make it before dark...."

"Roger buffalo wings, we'll see you there. Have a safe flight Mikey..."

"OK buffalo transport drive careful. Buffalo wings clear".

Note: This hunt is featured in the film Alaska Tracks.

Third John Denver Tribute in Kennecott

BY TERRY C. BLOSSER

A capacity crowd once again filled the Kennecott Recreation Hall for the Third John Denver Tribute on June 18. The fun-filled evening included a potluck social, movie clip showing, and almost two hours of Denver tunes by local musicians.

Headlining this year's tribute was Dave Davenport of Delta Junction who was guiding for clients in 1975 when he happened to meet Denver in McCarthy. He told the audience about his evening of playing guitar in the McCarthy Lodge with the famous singer, describing Denver as a truly nice and gentle man.

Denver was in McCarthy as part of a documentary movie project with ABC Television, a program that was telecast in 1977 as, "Alaska: America's Child." The Tribute audience was treated to a clip of the movie showing Denver interacting with local residents and a comic chase sequence in the Kennecott Mill.

A strong line-up of local musicians then entertained the audience for almost two hours with broad range of Denver's music spanning almost three decades.

Gaia Thurston-Shaine and Rebecca Boniek warmed up the fans with a stirring rendition of "Alaska and Me." Boniek later

provided an emotional singing of "Yellowstone," reportedly Denver's last song written before his tragic experimental plane crash in 1997.

Local favorite Joe Donahue commanded the stage for three numbers, including the familiar "Leaving on a Jet Plane," and



Photo courtesy Mike Renner

Kennicott Glacier Lodge's "Merry Minstrels" perform a John Denver tune at the June 18 Tribute, accompanied by MC Terry Blosser on right.

another of Denver's Alaska songs, "American Child." He then offered the crowd a stunningly unique version of "Sunshine."

Special Guest Dave Davenport, accompanied by Scott Mitchell, sang three songs that he and Denver played together 35 years ago. Davenport's mellow voice enchanted the audience with "Angel from Montgomery," "Paradise," and "Berkley Woman."

The audience was rolling with laughter as Chef Phil and his Merry Minstrels from Kenni-

cott Glacier Lodge sang, acted out, and danced to "Druthers," and "Thank God I'm a Country Boy." In the latter number, Chef Phil sailed a flurry of pancakes from the stage into the delighted audience.

Paul Hanis performed his annual crowd-pleasing version of "Calypso," complete with yodeling, just as Denver does on his famous recording. Accompanied by Diane Malik on flute, Hanis also sang, "Garden Song," and the ever-popular, "Poems, Prayers, and Promises."

The traditional close to the evening included all performers on stage leading audience sing-a-longs of "Take Me Home (Country Roads)" and "Wrangell Mountain Song," that Denver wrote in tribute following the McCarthy

Kennecott visit.

The Kennecott John Denver Tributes were created and are managed by McCarthy resident Dave Hollis and Wrangell Mountain Air shuttle driver Terry Blosser, with the help and contributions of many community volunteers.

The grass-roots event is part of the Arts and Lectures Series of the Wrangell Mountain Center and the National Park Service, and is traditionally presented the Friday before Summer Solstice.

Good news from the Wrangells

BY RICK KENYON

As publishers of the *Wrangell St. Elias News*, Bonnie and I revel in printing good news when we can. Here is the best news anyone has ever heard. It has been called “The Greatest Story Ever Told.” The Bible actually calls it “the gospel,” which means, not coincidentally, good news!

Here’s the story: God sent his only son to get the stuffing beaten out of him, die for our sins and rise from the dead. If you believe that, you’re in. Your sins are washed away from you—because of the cross.

“He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.” Colossians 2:14.

I was talking with someone the other day about being a Christian. “I try my best,” was the response.

My friend, if you are trying to be a Christian, you are not one. You can only become one by receiving God’s wonderful gift.

In fact, you don’t need a church, a preacher, candles, incense, special food or clothing; you don’t need to pass a test or prove yourself in any way. All you’ll need is a Bible (in order to grasp the amazing deal you’re getting).

You can be splitting firewood or walking the dog or just sitting there minding your business and accept that God sent his only son to die for your sins and rise from the dead ... and you’re in!

“Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord

and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9.

If you do that, every rotten, sinful thing you’ve ever done is gone from you. You’re as much a Christian as the most pious person you know.

No fine print, no “your mileage may vary,” no blackout dates. If God were a salesman, he could do a TV spot: “I’m God Almighty, and if you can find a better deal than the one I’m offering, take it.”

The Gospel makes this point over and over. Here are a few examples at random:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23.

After you receive this wonderful gift, you will stop doing bad things because you no longer will want to—not because you are not supposed to.

But, you will have to stop caring what the world thinks of you—because, as Jesus warned in a prophecy constantly being fulfilled: The world will hate you.

Here’s the bottom line: when you believe that Jesus paid the price for your sins the slate is wiped clean and your eternal life is guaranteed through nothing you did yourself, even though you don’t deserve it. It’s the best news you will ever hear!

Editors note: Our apologies to columnist Ann Coulter, from whom we shamelessly stole much of the above. Please forgive us, Annie!



WSEN staff photo

Evangelist Peter Rahme shares the Good News with folks gathered at the McCarthy Kennicott Community Church. Peter is originally from Johannesburg, South Africa. He and his lovely wife Dylliss now reside in Louisville, Kentucky. This was the third annual minister’s conference held at MKCC over the week-end of the 4th of July. Traveling missionary Mark Wilhite came from California, along with pastors from Fairbanks and Wasilla. Mark played the keyboard and sang in the parade, accompanied by Pastor Tonia Alexander of Wasilla.

McCarthy—then and now!

BY MIKE MURPHY

When I first began glacier guiding in 2001 I scrambled to learn enough history in those first few weeks to ‘get through’ a 4.5-hour hike. Part of my talk inevitably turned to McCarthy, visitors loving to hear about the wild-west nature of the town established to entertain workers from Kennecott. For me, it was black and white, Kennecott was for working, McCarthy was for playing. As I continued to live and work in the valley I continued to learn. In time I began telling visitors that McCarthy also served as a gateway for prospectors and miners who had nothing to do with Kennecott. I’d make a brief reference to gold in Dan Creek and mention the historic ‘Goat Trail’ route over Skolai Pass into the interior. It was important to me that visitors knew there was a bigger story, even if I wasn’t able to tell them too much more about it.

This spring I started a ‘Then & Now’ tour of McCarthy in response to years of visitor interest in historical McCarthy, as well as a common fascination and endless questions about who lives here now and how they pull it off. The more I continue to learn in preparing for this tour, the more I appreciate the McCarthy that has operated, and continues to operate, independently of Kennecott. Although it’s true the vitality of McCarthy has always been closely tied to the fortunes of Kennecott and the price of copper (or volume of tourists), it’s far from the whole story. Would McCarthy exist if the railroad was never built? Likely not. Would McCarthy exist if there wasn’t a huge gold strike 80 miles

from here in Shushanna in 1913. Likely not.

What do you mean, likely not? Wasn’t McCarthy established as a direct consequence of Kennecott? At the time of the Shushanna gold strike the town of Blackburn was developing as the play town for Kennecott workers. John Barrett had established his 296-acre homestead on present-day McCarthy in 1906 with the sole intention of renting out space to the coming railroad for a depot and a place to turn their engine around. He’d go back to the Lower 48 each winter and return in the spring to further develop his homestead. After the railroad was completed in the spring of 1911 he’d greet prospectors and gently send them off his land; the town of Blackburn began to grow a half-mile up the tracks.

By the time four prospectors emptied their pockets of gold nuggets at the saloon in Blackburn in July of 1913 (claiming to have found 200 ounces of gold in 20 square feet) this town had stores, restaurants, lodging, and a school with 13 students. This was as big as Blackburn would ever get. The Shushanna gold strike prompted a huge influx of gold-seekers into this area. Cordova and Valdez emptied out, and so many workers fled Kennecott (including the Superintendent) that the mines almost had to be shut down. The stampede was too much for John Barrett to handle, as thousands of arriving prospectors refused to carry their supplies from the depot to Blackburn. He quickly hired a surveyor and decided to turn part of his homestead into a town of 20’ x 50’ lots with 25-year leases. He named the town after his friend James McCarthy who’d re-

cently drowned in the area. On many old maps McCarthy is identified simply as Shushanna Junction. This influx of prospectors is responsible for quickly building the bustling frontier town that became the playground for Kennecott workers. It was the push that prepared McCarthy for the boom years which Kennecott experienced from 1913 until 1917, while the price of copper soared due to inflated World War I prices.

Sharing the history of McCarthy and the Copper River Valley from Henry Allen’s epic 1500 mile exploratory journey in 1885, to the birth of the Nizina District gold towns of Dan Creek and May Creek in the early 1900’s, to the founding of McCarthy in 1913, usually takes around 25 minutes and gets us to the McCarthy museum. Heading back into town the tour turns to the ups and downs of the 20’s and 30’s, and the McCarthy that continued to evolve after the railroad stopped coming and John Barrett (and almost everyone else) decided to move on in 1943. Interestingly enough, many of the themes discussed apply to both then and now, whether it’s power sources, gardens and livestock, road and bridge access, building homes and hauling materials, or how people cope with the isolation and long winters.

Just the other day I overheard a tour guide mention McCarthy as being developed explicitly in response to the needs of workers in Kennecott. When the visitor asked what was in McCarthy now, the guide mentioned it as a place to get beer and ice cream. As I’ve learned over the years, visitors always appreciate hearing the bigger story.

THE McCARTHY WEEKLY NEWS

1919 July & August editions

NEWS ITEMS

Strelna celebrated the Fourth in great style, many visitors were present from Chitina, Nugget Creek, etc.

Mrs. J. B. O'Neill and Deanie returned from a vacation at Strelna.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Yesterday McCarthy donned its gala attire and proceeded to celebrate the Fourth in the good old fashioned way. Flags flew from all buildings and stores and residences were decorated with bunting. At an early hour visitors began to appear from nearby camps and soon large numbers were congregated in readiness for the events. The Kennecott people turned out in full force and the baseball game and many of the events were won by the visitors.

Ideal weather made the pleasure of the day complete.

NEWS ITEMS

Frank Iverson will have between 75 and 100 tons of turnips and 45 tons of hay on his ranch this Fall. A shed 50 by 75 feet is under construction, capable of holding 75 tons of feed which he expects to have this next year. Strawberries, peas, carrots and onions are all coming up in fine shape and Frank expects good returns from his home-stand.

July 5

NEWS ITEMS

News has been received that our popular townsman, Jack E. Laurie, was quietly married in Seattle on June 23rd. He and his bride are expected to arrive in McCarthy next week.

Another of those pleasant dances was held on Wednesday evening at the Merchant's Cafe. After the party, some of the guests were entertained by Jimmy Hussey in an automobile ride.

Jimmy is some chauffeur. He made the Mother Lode boulevard a speedway.

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of a fine mess of rhubarb, grown at Long Lake and sent to this office by Mr. Oscar Anderson.

John E. Barrett, who has charge of the Tjosevig Kennecott property, has a force of men employed at development work. Mrs. Barrett and Lawrence are spending a few days at the camp.

The five ton truck belonging to the Mother Lode Coalition Mines Co. is once more in grand order. Mr. Conner has been putting it back in shape the last few days.

The big truck is now making regular trips daily to the Lower Mother Lode Camp, bringing in full loads of ore sacks.

July 12

OF PUBLIC INTEREST

The McCarthy Baseball Team hereby challenges any combination of ball players to a match to be played in McCarthy on Labor Day. This game will decide the Championship of the Copper River Valley. Don't be afraid to venture. A faint heart never won a banner.

REMEMBER BIG DANCE at McCarthy July 31

Free AUTOMOBILE SERVICE

First automobile leaves Kennecott at 6:30 p.m.

Last car leaves McCarthy at 10 p.m.

NEWS ITEMS

Owing to a washout at mile 64, the special train was late in reaching McCarthy, instead of Wednesday at 5, it arrived at 1p.m. Thursday.

The past few days has been the first real summer weather we have enjoyed. No summer has been as dull and cloudy, with such frequent rainy spells since the summer of 1914. The thermometer today registered 80 degrees in the shade at noon.

Dr. Evans and party arrived on Wednesday with Guide Baxter. They have had a most interesting trip from Whitehorse which they left early in May. Although encountering rainy weather and cold snaps most of the time. Dr. Evans secured 7 fine bear specimens, the largest measuring 8 feet square when stretched. He is now waiting for two other hunters who will arrive shortly, then leave on another big game hunt hoping to secure caribou, sheep and moose.

George Armstrong, who also traveled with the party, left for his home in Whitehorse on Thursday's train.

July 26

OF PUBLIC INTEREST

A meeting will be held on Monday evening at Pete Johnson's to devise ways and means to construct a dam and reservoir for emergency purposes to be used in conjunction with Pete Johnson's newly installed fire hose and pump for the benefit of the whole town. Everyone is urged to attend.

August 2

At a meeting held this afternoon to discuss fire protection it was decided to commence work on the dam at once, dimensions 30 by 5 feet. Subscriptions are being solicited to cover cost of the same.

The employees of the Kennecott Copper Corporation have received an increase of a dollar a day in pay. The miners are now getting \$6.25 and muckers \$5.75 with an extra 50 cents in the shaft. Board is \$1.60 per day which means a net increase of 65 cents a day.

August 9

GENERAL NEWS

Sid Johnson arrived from Chisana Thursday, 32 miles of the distance was over bare ground. He brought a beautiful collection of furs, the winter's catch of Hover and Don Green. Foxes, blue, cross and silver, lynx and

wolverine were included and were promptly bought by local parties.

W. McClellan, Dad McKinney, and Barney returned to Chisana recently from their successful trapping expedition, the catch being one weasel and seven porcupine. The shipment of these will be made with the first reliable pack train leaving Chisana.

Little Frankie Wills received a nasty fall yesterday morning when riding a Mother Lode wagon. The horses became scared and in the commotion both Frankie and Ed Fundeen were badly shaken up. Morale: Little boys mustn't ride on wagons.

TOWN TOPICS

They say the Copper River Bridge went out today.

Mr. and Mrs. Schneoberger of Kennecott are rejoicing at the arrival of a fine baby boy at their home last Monday.

Mr. Shriver has been spending a few days in McCarthy & Kennecott. He held a post Easter Service, giving an interesting discourse in the schoolhouse yesterday evening.

Automobiles are running regularly now that the snow is all gone and the roads dried up.

The tunnel between the Mother Lode and the Bonanza Mine is now complete and this week the power from Kennecott is being connected up.

Baseball enthusiasts are getting ready to play the game and the boys are practicing pitching every evening.

The Grant Reeds returned from their trip to Cordova on Wednesday and will locate in Gus Anderson's building.

McCarthy

The Buckle of the Copper Belt, one of the coming cities of Alaska, situated on the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad, 191 miles inland from Cordova, between Kennecott and McCarthy Creeks.

The junction for Chisana, Nizina, Dan, Chititu and Young Creeks head of Chitina and Chittistone.

Original townsite located by John E. Barrett, whose homestead adjoins.

The Kennecott Copper Corporation operates the largest copper mine

in the world five miles away. A Fifteen mile run by automobile brings you to the Mother Lode mines, an extensive property now employing upwards of 50 men, and with untold wealth of ore in sight. The power plant and warehouse of the Mother Lode are located in McCarthy.

The Green Group, which is 5 miles nearer town, is steadily forging ahead as a big producer.

A resident United States Commissioner is stationed here also Deputy Marshal. Fine school buildings and twenty scholars. Fourth class post office and money order office. Up to date stores which carry stocks comparing favorably with any in Alaska. Restaurants which serve a better meal for 75 cents than you can get on the coast for \$1.00. A Movie Show every Sunday evening with all the film favorites. An active organization of the Arctic Brotherhood, whose fine hall 36 x 75 is in constant demand for social gatherings. The McCarthy Commercial Club has full membership and a live executive committee. The local Red Cross Chapter has a membership list of 100 per cent of the population, and an excellent record.

There is plenty of room for hundreds of new residents for whom there are many business chances & openings. There is a grand opportunity for a first class dentist.

Buy a ticket for McCarthy and give it the "once over."

August 23

PERSONAL

Martin Harrais arrived in town on Wednesday from Dan creek. He has left for the head of White creek on a prospecting trip.

The Seltenreich family are spending a few weeks at their ranch on the River. The first shipment of turnips from local ranches was sent to Kennecott last Saturday by Sam Seltenreich.

MORE PEOPLE RETURN

The regular Friday train did not arrive yesterday, it was held over in Cordova till the arrival of the Northwestern from Seattle, and will reach here tomorrow bringing passengers and mail, returning to Chitina the

same day. A number of McCarthy passengers will be on board.

Mrs. M. B. Refior, our school mistress, who has been spending three months vacation with relatives in Seattle, is expected tomorrow.

Mr. Chas. Labelle, who left here early last spring for his health, is returning tomorrow. During the months he spent in the east, his health became much improved.

Mrs. John Amber, who has been visiting outside for several months, will also return on tomorrow's train.

Al Fagerberg, who has recently returned from a trip to Seattle and the surrounding district, ran across a number of old timers who located there.

John Blumquist, an old Blackburn homesteader, is now chicken ranching and making big money.

George Davidson is holding a position in shipyards in Seattle.

Chas. Schlosser has purchased George Davidson's beautiful place near Kent, and is settled down there.

Henry Deyo is surveying near Ellensburg, Wash.

The Heney family spent the summer at Des Moines, Wash.

The McCarthy school term will commence next Tuesday morning at 9.

LOCAL NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. O'Neill and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Woodman are leaving next week on a hunting trip and will also visit Chisana. From there they will go to the White River for sheep and moose, and from there to the interior mining camp, returning here about the last of the month.

Mr. V.J. Dwyer, of Strelna who recently underwent an operation for appendicitis at Kennecott hospital, is now about again, and spent Thursday visiting McCarthy friends. He returns to Strelna next train.

H.H. Mitchell has now fully recovered from his illness and is able to look after his affairs.

Mail for Chisana leaves on Tuesday, September 2nd. Mail for Dan Creek and Nizina on Friday, September 5th.

August 30

Alaska heavy with summer insects

BY NED ROZELL

In these days of endless sunshine and air that doesn't hurt to breathe, life is rich in the north, from the multitude of baby birds hatching at this instant to the month-old orange moose calves restocking the Alaska ungulate population. Less seen are the millions of insects now dancing across the tundra and floating in air.

Because they come to us, mosquitoes are perhaps the most noticeable of Alaska's insects. Peter Adler, a professor of entomology at Clemson University who does work in Alaska, reported the possibility that more than 12 million adult mosquitoes may live above each acre of the worst-infested northern tundra. He also quoted other scientists who measured more than 600,000 black fly larvae in about three square feet of streambed.

The floor of the boreal forest is often so alive you can almost see it move. Biologist Stephen MacLean once did the math — about one-half million soil mites, eight-legged relatives of the spiders, occupy each three-foot square of soil by the end of summer.

"To convert that to more meaningful units, I drew a line

around my size 11 boot and found that each step on the forest floor covers about 44 square inches," MacLean wrote in this same column in 1980. "Thus, by August, each footstep pads down on more than 10,000 individual mites, the largest of them about the size of a pinhead."

MacLean also calculated he stepped on 2,000 springtails per footfall. Springtails are tiny, six-legged relatives of insects that catapult their way out of trouble using an appendage that folds under their abdomen like a jack-knife blade. People sometimes see springtails hopping on the snow in early spring.

"Together, the soil mites and the springtails form a mass of about 34,000 pounds per square mile," MacLean wrote. "That is equal to 43 moose."

If crushing a few of these creatures bothers your conscience, you might try walking the snowfields of the high country, but that seems only slightly better. John Edwards, a scientist from the University of Washington, took a good look at snow beds at Eagle Summit north of Fairbanks and found them crawling with insects, as Stephen MacLean again reported here, also in 1980.

On the snow, Edwards found dozens of large carpenter ants, even though the winged creatures didn't live on the nearby tundra. The ants were blown up from spruce forests far below; downdrafts over the snowfields grounded them and made them available to other creatures.

"Small flies and aphids also contributed large numbers of insects to the snow surface," MacLean wrote. "Eight species of birds, ranging in size from small Lapland longspurs and water pipits to common ravens, were observed feeding on the feast, neatly removing and eating the fat-filled abdomens of carpenter ants while leaving behind the head and thorax, with their unpleasant dose of formic acid."

Though larger life forms like the nervous moose in the roadside ditch get all our attention, the real biomass in Alaska is hovering in the air and crawling the tundra and icefields. In Alaska and elsewhere on the planet, home to about 10 quintillion living insects, most species — including 300,000 types of beetle — wear their skeletons on the outside.

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

"The foundation of national morality must be laid in private families. ... How is it possible that Children can have any just Sense of the sacred Obligations of Morality or Religion if, from their earliest Infancy, they learn their Mothers live in habitual Infidelity to their fathers, and their fathers in as constant Infidelity to their Mothers?"—John Adams, Diary, June 2, 1778

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WRST holds public meeting—access to inholdings

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy:—The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST) held a public meeting on May 5th at the Tony Zak building in McCarthy. The purpose of the meeting was to provide background on the Access to Inholding Program, the progress to date and to hear landowner concerns and recommendations with the process and the “Interim User’s Guide to Accessing Inholdings.” The Guide addresses only the National Park System units in Alaska.

Norah Martinez, Chief Ranger, facilitated the meeting. Meg Jensen, WRST Superintendent, opened the meeting saying it has now been 3 years since the User’s Guide was issued in July

2007. “It was time to revisit it,” she said.

The following park service employees were in attendance: Chuck Gilbert, Chief of Lands in the Alaska Regional Office, representing the Regional Director; Carol Harding, Exhibit Specialist; Erica Edmonds, Kennecott District Interpreter; Danny Rosenkrans, Lands Specialist; Stephens Harper and Matt Smith, park rangers.

Besides a good turnout of approximately 16 local residents, Susan Smith of Strelna, representing Residents of the Wrangells (ROW), was on hand to address her part in being issued the first Right-of-Way Certificate of Access (RWCA).

Chuck Gilbert presented a review of the inholdings’ process

and the Guide. According to Gilbert, accessing inholdings came to a head with the Pilgrim family access issue of 2003. The then Governor Frank Murkowski asked the park service for a process to resolve the access problems. The actual work on the Guide began in 2005 with 2 or 3 draft guides written before the July 2007 Guide was produced. Gilbert defined the Guide as a “guiding document” making it “as simple as we could for access to inholdings.” There are no fees for most access situations. Being an “Interim” Guide means the park service is “still working it,” said Gilbert. Their desire is to make it work better. The WRST has the most roads and private lands with the bulk of the RW-CAs.

Danny Rosenkrans reviewed the Programmatic EA and progress with the issuance of RWCA's to date. According to Rosenkrans, the park service has issued 16 RWCA's. Susan Smith was the first to obtain her certificate in April 2008. Sam Gregory who owns property in Kennecott and down near the Lakina River has acquired two certificates for access. Other access issues cover such needs as water lines. Kennecott property owner, Dave Syren, and Kennicott Glacier Lodge owner, Rich Kirkwood, have acquired their certificates for access to their individual water lines through park property.

Several local folks in attendance questioned the need for

such a document, referring to it as a "permit" for a right already given. Gilbert said the Guide will serve future administrations as a guideline, serves as an agreement between two parties—a contract. "We want to lock in something that works."

Smith also defended the process and issuance by reminding folks that the certificate doesn't expire, can be transferred and carries no fees. Rosenkrans said he sees it as a document of "mutual understanding." Meg Jensen commented: "The way I see it is a commitment from the National Park Service to you."

Rosenkrans, who works closely with the property owners, said,

"I appreciate the dialogue of people. It is not always easy, but it is necessary."

Several commented on the first two "guiding principles" of the Interim Guide and requested they be kept in the Final Draft.

Residents within Alaska's national parks are part of the essential fabric of the parks. We acknowledge their value in providing services to park visitors and continuing traditional lifestyles.

The NPS wants to see residents and communities within and around parks thrive. The NPS seeks to establish mutually respectful long-term relationships with all our neighbors.

"The American dream is not that every man must be level with every other man. The American dream is that every man must be free to become whatever God intends he should become." —Ronald Reagan

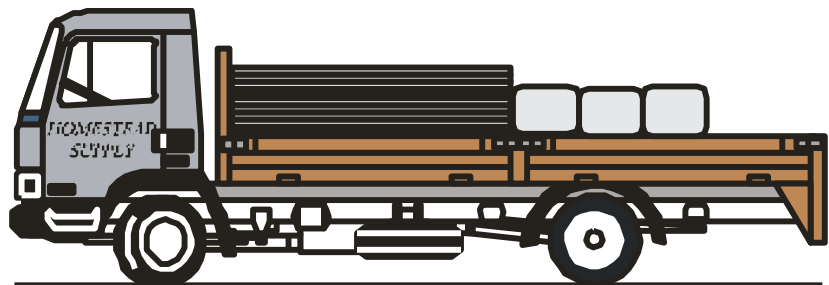
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Alaska Leadership Council meets at Kennecott

BY BONNIE KENYON

Kennecott:—On June 17th six local residents of the McCarthy-Kennecott area served on a panel to discuss issues with leadership in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve (WRST) and with superintendents of the various parks throughout Alaska. Meg Jensen, superintendent of the WRST, served as Moderator.

The meeting took place from 1 to 3 pm at the Kennecott Recreation Hall. Approximately 31 were in attendance.

The 6 panel members were: Natalie Bay, of Wrangell Mountain Air; Neil Darish of McCarthy Ventures; Dee Frady, Fireweed Mountain Arts and Crafts; Ben Shaine, President of Friends of Kennecott and co-director for Wrangell Mountain Center; Susan Smith, Chair of Residents of the Wrangells and a member of

the Citizen's Advisory Committee of Federal Areas; Mark Vail, acting president of McCarthy Area Council.

Each panelist was asked to give their relationship to the area, how long they've lived here and other personal background. Questions were posed to each such as: What value does WRST have with them? Has their perspective changed over the years? What do they see as the future of this park and community? How has the relationship between the community members and the park changed? What are their suggestions on how the park service can improve in the future? How can the park service develop local support while staying true to its preservation mission?

Besides management representing the other Alaska national parks, Sue Masica, Alaska's Regional Director and Vic Knox,

Deputy Regional Director, were on hand to listen and respond to questions from the panelists.

Vail, who first came to the McCarthy area in 1977, commented on the importance of tourists being able to see and meet the local folks. He also stressed his appreciation to Supt. Jensen for her help in working together with the community. "We've come a long ways."

Susan Smith referred to the previous Supt. Candelaria administration and the difference under Meg Jensen's leadership. "We have a lot of work to do, but we've come a long ways."

Natalie Bay described the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park as unique because of Alaskans who live here. "It's not like any other place. This is very unique. We are a vibrant, diverse community."

Designing sustainable trails in the Wrangells

Your comments needed

NPCA NEWS RELEASE

This July, NPS will release its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the off-road vehicle (OHV) trail network extending from the Nabesna Road on the north side of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. During the 60-day comment period, NPS will host public meet-

ings in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Glennallen, Tok and Slana.

The National Parks Conservation Association fully supports the guaranteed ANILCA rights of subsistence users and private property owners to use OHVs for appropriate purposes and in a manner compatible with park protection. Our goal is to help develop solutions for heavily degraded trails, prevent further

damage to park resources and enable legitimate, sustainable motorized access to continue in the park's Nabesna Road region.

View the draft EIS at <http://www.nps.gov/wrst>. Submit comments at <http://parkpanning.nps.gov>.

Editor's note: This was reprinted from the National Parks Conservation Association Alaska Region Field Report.

"A judicial activist is a judge who interprets the Constitution to mean what it would have said if he, instead of the Founding Fathers, had written it." —former senator Sam Erving (1896_1985)

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~ William Shakespeare (1564-1616)
Macbeth

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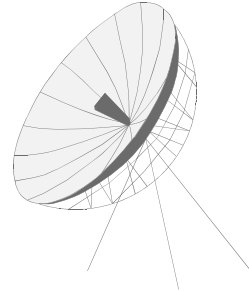
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EA for Brooks Camp Picnic Area Improvements

NPS PRESS RELEASE
KING SALMON, ALASKA —

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements to the Brooks Camp picnic area is now available for public review and comment, announced Park Superintendent Ralph Moore.

The National Park Service is proposing to make improvements to the Katmai National Park and Preserve Brooks Camp picnic area. The project is needed to provide visitors improved facilities near the Brooks Camp visitor center. The project would consist of installing an accessible restroom and storage cache facility, a sheltered picnic area, a historic gear cache and interpretive wayside, and a map exhibit

directing visitors to various points of interest within Brooks Camp. All of the proposed facilities would serve current visitation needs and meet accessibility standards on the north side of the Brooks River. These facilities would remain in place as long as day-use and overnight accommodations are needed there, but would eventually be removed or relocated to the south side of the Brooks River.

The EA was written to analyze impacts of the proposed action and a No Action alternative. If approved, the project could begin in August 2010.

The comment period for the EA will extend 30 days, beginning June 24, 2010 and ending July 23, 2010. To obtain a copy

of the EA and to provide comments, please visit the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> or <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkID=13&projectId=27792>. Comments may also be mailed to:

Daniel Noon
Katmai National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 7
King Salmon, AK 99613-0007

If you would like to have a printed copy of the EA mailed to you, please contact Whitney Rapp at 907-246-2145 or Whitney_Rapp@nps.gov.

Rural Alaska Fire Prevention Video online

DNR PRESS RELEASE

Governor Parnell has proclaimed that May 3-9, 2010, was Wildland Fire Prevention and Preparedness Week. In support of the proclamation, the recently-finished Rural Alaska Fire Prevention Video is now available online for public viewing.

Even though the video is focused on the people living in rural areas or forested lands surrounding more populated centers, the overarching messages are important for all Alaskans to understand. The 18-minute production presents several interviews with firefighting personnel and members of the rural

Alaska community that highlight how Alaskans can live safely in relationship to wildland fire. It shows how property owners have created defensible space to protect their homes and other values.

To watch the video, go to YouTube (www.youtube.com) and search for "Rural Alaska Fire Prevention Video" (Parts 1 and 2).

DVDs of the video are not yet available, but if you are interested in obtaining a copy, please contact Maggie Rogers at Maggie.rogers@alaska.gov.

In his proclamation, the Governor states that "people must use precautions and practice

wildland fire prevention and preparedness to protect the communities that are surrounded by and intermingled with undeveloped lands." The Governor promotes personal safety and encourages communities and individuals to be proactive in both preparing for and preventing wildfires.

The Rural Fire Prevention Video and the Alaska FireWise brochure, online at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn>, are two resources to help prepare Alaskans for living in a fire-prone land.

"The less government we have the better — the fewer laws and the less confided power. The antidote to this abuse of formal government is the influence of private character, the growth of the individual." —American author Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Fire Department contact info

Kennicott-McCarthy Volunteer Fire Department contact information: For those of you who are interested in making sure you have the local phone numbers of our KMVFD leaders, here they are: Brian McMillian (BMac), 554-2100; Leath Kramer, 554-2101; and Chris Chester, 554-2102. “Bmac” informed me that it is always good to let the local department

know of any local fires, large or small, and even though they may not be able to successfully put out a large fire, they can do a lot to contain one. Another phone number he provided was State Forestry which does deal with those large fires: 822-5534. Thanks, Bmac, for keeping the community informed.

Kennicott Women’s Bike Trip

Kennecott Women’s Bike Trip—July 28-31: Each year a women’s ministry group of Church on the Rock, in Wasilla, does an extreme outdoor’s activity in the beauty and adventure of Alaska’s wilderness. This year the group has chosen Kennecott as their destination.

Starting Wednesday, July 28 at 1 pm in Copper Center, the women will bike approximately 110 miles to Kennecott Mine. The ending time is Saturday, July 31 at 8 pm. This is a public event and anyone can participate or invite others to the event.

Last year the women biked 135 miles across the Denali Highway in 3 days. Women Extreme’s goal is to “encourage women to get outdoors, be active and get in shape as they work toward a specific goal, i.e. our annual event. All of our events are not competitive but rather an opportunity to grow, encourage and share in a single journey.”

If you are interested in participating, you may call Carri Ann Pratt at 227-1232 or 376-1232. email zoomygirl9@hotmail.com or find the group on Facebook—The Official Women Extreme Kennecott Mine Biking Trip.

Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Hi everyone! I'm in Alaska! Since this article is due in early June, I haven't had time to take stock of things yet but I no longer have to worry about the heat in Tucson. I also haven't had time to get around and ask people in McCarthy for any recipes they used and loved this winter but the next issue should have some. I am going to try to give you recipes for fresh vegetables, fish and a few other things that might be good to serve this summer so sit back and get those salivary glands pumping!

SUMMER SQUASH CASSE- ROLE

- 1 ½ pounds yellow/green summer squash
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 package Pepperidge Farm Corn bread stuffing
- 1 small jar pimentos
- ½ stick butter
- Seasoned salt, to taste

Dice squash in large chunks and cook with onions in small amount of salted boiling water for 1-2 minutes, only just until color is bright, crisp yet tender stage. Drain very well and mash with potato masher a little. Add soup, sour cream, pimentos, seasoned salt, and ¼ of the stuffing. Mix well. Spray casserole with Pam; fill with squash moisture, top with rest of stuffing and dot with butter. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Makes 6-8 servings.

Now how about one for potatoes. I don't know about you but potatoes are a stand-by in our house. This one has Velveeta cheese in it and I have wonderful memories of food my Mom cooked with Velveeta cheese. I still use it as often as I can. This recipe even gives you the choice of Ham or Spam. Every time I see that on the shelves I think of WWII and rationing, etc. I tend to use the Ham but I'll bet there are some of you out there who feel about Spam like I do about Velveeta so here goes.....

SKILLET AU GRATIN POTATOES

- 6 medium potatoes
- 2 medium onions
- 4 tablespoons margarine or butter
- ½ cup milk
- Salt and pepper
- ¼ pound Velveeta cheese
- Ham or Spam, optional

In a heavy skillet, melt margarine or butter. Peel potatoes and slice thin. Put in pan; add sliced onions on top. Pour milk over top. Add salt and pepper. Cover skillet and cook slowly until done. Put ham or Spam slices over top and cook 10 more minutes. Just before serving, add cheese and allow to melt.

I know that neither these nor most of the recipes I put in this column are fancy or complicated but I guess that's how I tend to cook. I remember in a couple of the recipe books the ladies of our church put together there was always one woman whose recipe ingredients and instructions took up two pages. I know she was a

great cook but the preparation time was just too long for me and I was 15 years younger than the 70 I just turned in April so here's another simple but good one. I found this in an Alaska seafood brochure 5 or 6 years ago and Jim and I loved it.

ALASKA SALMON WITH RED RASPBERRY GLAZE

- 1 cup red raspberry or plum jelly, divided
- 4 Alaska Salmon steaks or fillets (6 to 8 oz. each), thawed if necessary
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar
- 2 teaspoons Dijon-style mustard
- 1 tablespoon Olive oil
- Salt and black pepper
- Fresh berries for garnish

Preheat boiler/oven or grill to medium-high heat.

Melt ½ cup jelly in a small saucepan over low heat. Season Alaska Salmon steaks/fillets with salt and pepper then brush with melted jelly. Place salmon on spray-coated broiling pan or well-oiled grill 5 inches from coals. Cook 10 minutes per inch of thickness, measured at the thickest part, or until fish flakes when tested with a fork. Turn half way through cooking.

Meanwhile, melt remaining ½ cup jelly in another saucepan over low heat. Stir in lemon juice, vinegar, and mustard. Whisk in olive oil and season to taste with salt and pepper. Keep warm. Place each salmon steak/fillet on a serving plate. Spoon 2 tablespoons red raspberry-mustard sauce around

each steak. Garnish with fresh berries, if desired.

The next one I found in a magazine some time ago (page is yellow) and again Jim and I loved it. I multiplied all the ingredients by 1 1/2 and served it with fresh rye bread.

SICILIAN SEAFOOD STEW

1 cup chopped onion
 1 cup chopped celery
 3/4 cup chopped green sweet pepper
 3/4 cup chopped red sweet pepper
 2 tablespoons olive oil or cooking oil
 3 cloves garlic, minced
 1 teaspoon dried basil, crushed
 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano, crushed
 1/2 teaspoon dried marjoram, crushed
 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper or dash ground red pepper
 1 28-ounce can tomatoes, cut up
 1 8-ounce bottle clam juice
 1/3 cup dry red wine (I just use the cooking wine)

1/2 pound scallops, rinsed
 1/2 pound fresh or frozen shelled shrimp

2 tablespoons lemon juice
 Lemon slices (optional)
 Fresh oregano sprigs (optional)

Cook onion, celery, and sweet peppers in olive oil in a Dutch oven over high heat about 5 minutes or till tender, stirring constantly. Stir in garlic, basil, oregano, marjoram, and crushed red pepper or ground red pepper. Reduce heat, cover, and cook for 2 minutes. Add undrained tomatoes, clam juice, and wine. Cover and simmer for 15 minutes.

Cut up any large scallops. Add scallops and shrimp to Dutch oven; cover and cook about 3 minutes or till the scallops are no longer opaque and the shrimp are just pink. Stir in the lemon juice.

Ladle into bowls. Garnish with lemon slices and fresh oregano, if desired. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Now, let's end our meal with a nice fattening dessert!

CRANBERRY REFRIGERATOR CAKE

2 cups chopped cranberries
 1 large banana, diced
 2/3 cup sugar
 2 cup crushed vanilla wafers or graham crackers
 1/2 cup butter
 1 cup powdered sugar
 2 eggs
 1/2 cup nuts
 1 cup whipped cream

Mix cranberries, banana and sugar. Set aside. Spread 1 cup crumbs into 8" square baking dish. Cream butter, powdered sugar together and add eggs. Beat well. Carefully spread over crumbs. Top with cranberry-banana mixture and sprinkle with nuts. Spread with whipped cream. Top with remaining crumbs. CHILL OVERNIGHT. Serves 9

I'm running out of room and I'm really, really hungry! See you next time, hopefully with some McCarthy recipes.

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

April 2010 saw average temperatures and below average precipitation. The high temperature for the month was 62 on the 28th (64 on Apr. 30, '09, 59 on Apr. 27, '08 and 56 on Apr. 22, '07). The low was 5 on the 10th (0 on Apr. 1, '09, 0 on Apr. 18, '08 and -4 on Apr. 2 '07). The average temperature for April was 34.8, compared to 34.0 in '09, 34.1 in '08, 34.4 in '07, 33.1 in '06 and 37.4 in '05. The lowest average temperatures for April were 22.4 in 1972 and 24.7 in 1986. Kennicott had a high of 62, low of 11 and an average of 36.5.

The precipitation for April was below average with 0.11 inches of liquid (0.20 in '09, 0.50 in '08, 0.01 in '07, 1.14 in '06, 0.08 in '05 and 0.77 in '04). There was 1.6 inches of snow (2.9 in '09, 7.0 in '08, trace in '07, 10.2 in '06, no snow in '05 and 8.7 in '04). Kennicott has 0.50 inches of liquid and 4.5 inches of snow. The same as April '09.

The total snowfall at McCarthy for '09-'10 was 74.9 inches (121.3 in '08-'09, 73.4 in '07-'08, 44.7 in '06-'07, 84.0 in '05-'06, 79.4 in '04-'05, 110.6 in '03-'04, 46.0 in '02-'03, 74.2 in '01-'02, 85.2 in '00-'01, 65.8 in '99-'00 and 38.9 in '98-'99). Kennicott had 85.2 inches of snow

(127.3 in '08-'09, 79.7 in '07-'08, 60.0 in '06-'07 and 96.9 in '05-'06).

McCarthy started April with 21 inches of snow on the ground and ended the month with a trace of snow.

The temperatures were above average for May. The high temperature for May was 82 on the 28th (78 on May 26, '09, 70 on May 28, '08 and 74 on May 25, '07). The low temperature was 20 on the 16th (23 on May 18, '09, 22 on May 19, '08 and 24 on May 8, '07). The May average temperature was 47.6, this compares with 47.2 in '09, 44.8 in '08, 45.5 in '07, 45.0 in '06, 48.8 in

'05, 49.3 in '04 and 44.4 in '03. There were 5 days with a high of 80 or above and 7 days with the low of 25 or lower. Kennicott had a high of 79 on 28th thru 30th, a low of 26 on the 1st, 2nd and 16th. The May average temperature was 49.2.

The precipitation for May 2010 was below average with 0.25 inches of liquid. This compares with 0.86 inches in '09, 0.12 inches in '08, 2.50 inches in '07, 0.47 inches in '06, 1.64 inches in '05 and 1.05 inches in '04. There was a trace of snow on May 2nd and 13th. Kennicott had 0.45 inches of liquid.

The ice on the West Fork of the Kennicott River began to break apart around April 16th and water was moving over the top. The river was clear of moving ice by April 25th and all the shore ice was gone by May 7th.

The first third of June was a bit cooler from the end of May with highs in the 60's and 70's. The lows were mostly in the upper 30's. There was about 0.85 inches of rain.

Summer should be in full swing by late June. June and July are the warmest months with the highs usually in the low 80s. The temperature

begins to cool in August with highs only getting into the low 70s. The all time high recorded at McCarthy was 87 on June 21, 1991. Freezing temperatures should be back by the end of August, although they can be observed at any time. Average monthly rainfall is about 2 inches (June-August). Hidden Lake should empty sometime in July, with a rapid rise of the water level in the Kennicott River and some possible flooding. The first snow usually arrives sometime in late September.

ENJOY THE SUMMER WHATEVER THE WEATHER!

Local plants are not just pretty!

Editor's note: We were privileged to meet a young lady from Vermont this summer who is quite knowledgeable about medicinal uses of plants that grow wild here in the McCarthy area. She seemed quite please to look down in our yard and exclaim, "plantain!" She proceeded to demonstrate its use as a bug-bite pain reliever, then spotted a number of yarrow plants nearby. She graciously agreed to share some of her knowledge with our readers and I thought this would be a good companion piece to Dee Frady's article that also mentions some of the same plants.

BY CHAREN FEGARD

I'm fresh to Wrangell Saint Elias but quickly recognized a few of my old friends here—common medicinal plants that I use in my life back in Vermont. All of these lovely, local plants are best used fresh but can be carefully dried and stored for later use as well.

Plantain: This sun-loving, low-growing, broad-leafed plant sprouts leaves from a central

location, sending up a single spike of vaguely colored complex bloom about 1 to 2 inches high. This humble looking plant is a great treatment for bug bites and stings. To treat a bite, pluck a Plantain leaf, chew it up to a poultice consistency and smudge it on the bite so it sticks to the welt. Within a few moments, relief begins. After the poultice dries out, it falls off. Usually one treatment is enough to assuage the itch.

Yarrow: A feathery leaf (2 to 6 inches long) and tall stalk with a tight complex white flower (1-2 inches in diameter) atop, standing anywhere from about 8 to 18 inches tall depending on soil, light, etc. Yarrow needs a lot of sun and you will more often see its feathery leaves as it does not send up a flower the first year. Yarrow has external and internal uses. Fevers happen for a reason. Our bodies fight germs by raising our temperature to kill the invaders. Yarrow leaves & flowers can be brewed into a bitter tea that helps our fever more effec-

tively fight the germs. I would not use this plant if the fever was already too high. Yarrow is also antiseptic. Crush the leaves between your fingers and smell the distinct odor of this quality. If you have a scratch or other superficial wound, you can crush the leaves or poultice them and pack the wound. This does not prevent deeper wounds from needing to be looked at by a medical professional but can be a stop-gap measure if you are in the wilds and don't have other options until you return to town.

Borage (local name: Blue Bell): Borage has spear-shaped leaves about 5 to 8 inches long, stems reaching about 10-18 inches with a loose cluster of blue, bell-shaped flowers bowing at the top. The blooms are pinkish before they fully open to blue. This plant likes the sun but tolerates a little shade too. The blooms are edible and provide mild anti-depressant qualities. They are not a substitute for professional medical intervention but can offer a bit of a boost.

They taste good and have adorned many of my salads.

Dandelion: The first European settlers intentionally brought this useful plant with them to the Americas. The leaves are a bitter that functions as a blood and liver tonic; put them in a salad or eat them alone. They are more bitter and less palatable after the plant flowers.



WSEN staff photo
Yarrow plant from our backyard.

Rose: Romeo said, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Modern, cultivated roses have been modified over time to ship well and keep the bloom for as long as

possible but they have lost their smell and their medicine. Thank goodness wild roses are still wild. Rose petals are euphoric and can be eaten raw alone or in salad. Rose water (search online for this recipe) is a wonderful skin tonic. Also, rosehips are very high in Vitamin C. The early European settlers in the Northeast of the New World suffered

terribly from Scurvy due to lack of Vitamin C in their diets. What they did not know is that the abundant wild rose could have helped their health as it did the



WSEN staff photo
Plantain grows profusely alongside the WSEN driveway.

indigenous people of the area. Rose-hips are often made into a jelly and they dry surprisingly well for storage. I enjoy a cup of Rosehip tea in the winter.

If you are unsure about whether a plant is what you think it is, consult a knowledgeable person to find out before eating it or otherwise using it in or on your body.

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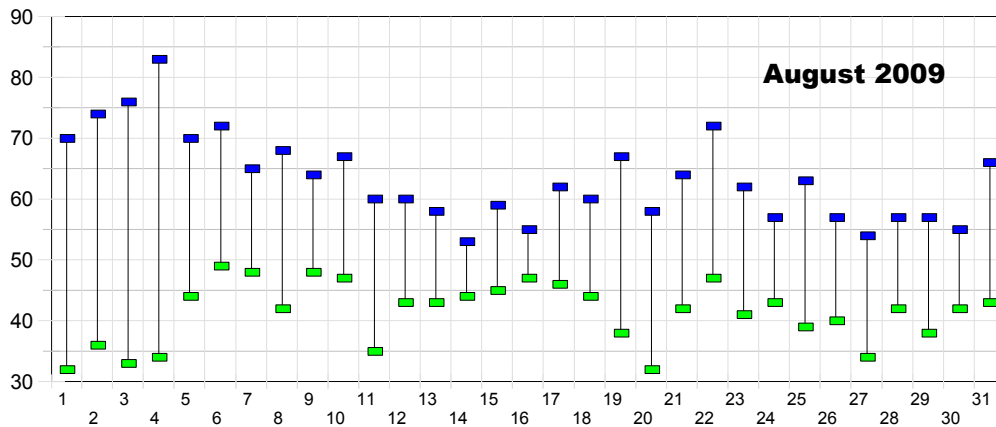
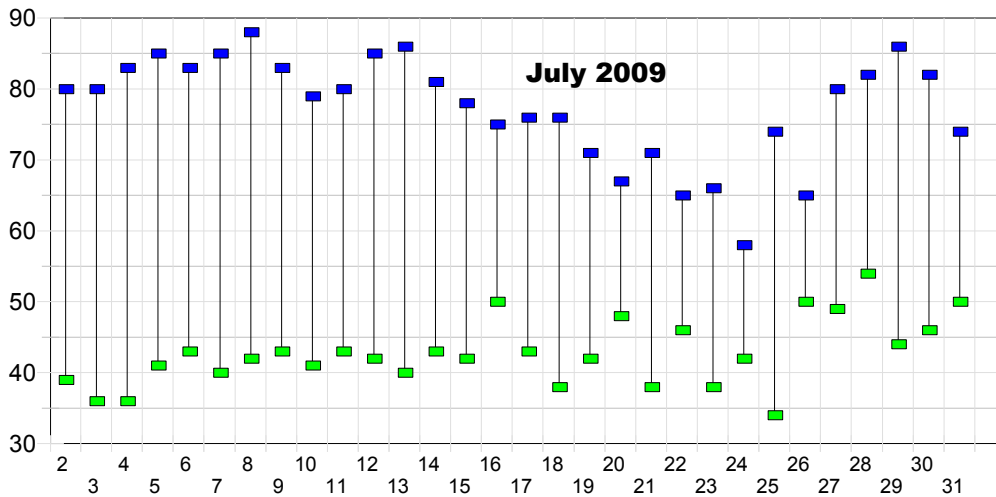
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