

# Wrangell St. Elias News

*"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"*

Volume Seventeen Issue One

January & February 2008

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## The lovely ladies of McCarthy gather, exchange sweets



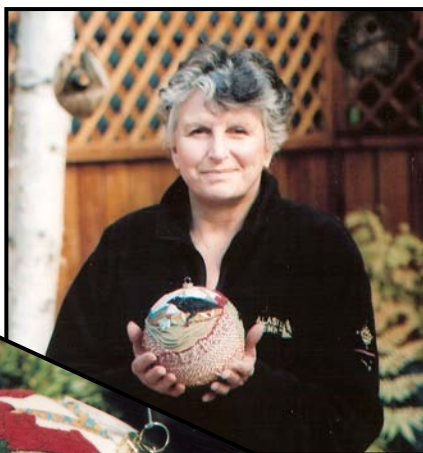
Photo courtesy Audrey Edwards



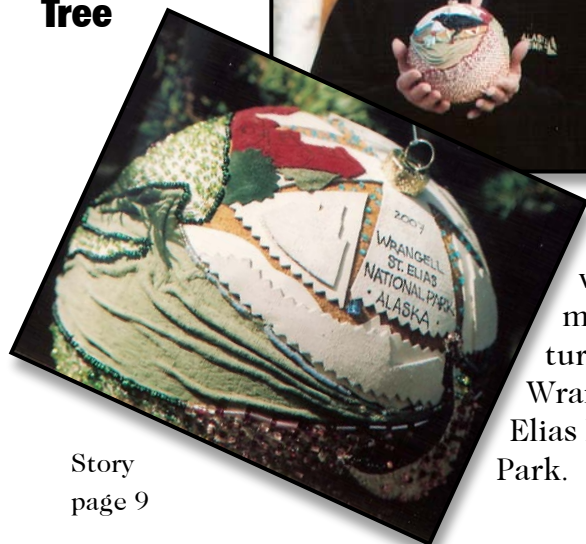
WSEN staff photo

Exchanging cookies at Christmas has become a McCarthy tradition. Audrey Edwards hosts the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Ladies' Cookie Exchange. Story page 7

### Wrangell-St. Elias ornament on President's Christmas Tree



Jona Van Zyle with ornament featuring Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.



Story page 9



Photo by Dave Misiuk

Old meets new—try a masonry heater! The masonry heater in the Cold Climate Housing Research Center in Fairbanks. Story page 16

## *A note from the publisher*

BY BONNIE KENYON

**D**ear *WSEN* Reader — Happy New Year from our house to yours! Although 2008 hasn't officially arrived yet, it is so near I can almost reach out and touch it. Rick and I trust your new year will contain much more happiness than any previous year.

In the last issue I began "A note" with the pleasantness and unusualness (is that a word?) of the warm winter we were experiencing. As I type this, the outside thermometer reads -10 degrees F. which signifies winter is surely here, but not near as bad as it could be! I don't hear any words of complaint from the few local winter residents of the McCarthy area. Many of my neighbors are traveling either stateside or out of country this winter —some visiting family and friends, others are searching for extra winter income to supplement their summer earnings. Whatever the reason may be, the population for the McCarthy area is presently one of the lowest Rick and I can recall since moving to the area in 1977.

Local snowmachiners are more-than-pleased to have 13 inches of snow under their skis instead of the meager 2 inches

they had at the beginning of November when I last wrote to you. Actually, there weren't many snowmachiners out and about then, nor were the rivers, lakes or creeks frozen over yet to aid in traveling from point A to point B.

Rick and I want to thank the *WSEN* readers who either emailed us their Christmas greetings or sent us cards during the holiday season. One subscriber, Shelly Edwards, writes: "I love your magazine with its balance of local news, politics, history, science... and faith! Plus humor, perspective caring for humans and animals." Many locals know Shelly as Jim Edwards' daughter. I know her in that capacity, too, but, over the years, Shelly has become an encourager to Rick and me —to keep on keeping on with the *Wrangell St. Elias News*. Thank you, Shelly, for your continued input over the years!

Subscribers Gene and Edith Coppedge, of Summerville, GA, but previously of Silver Lake Campground at Mile 11 McCarthy Road, continue to stay in touch. If you ever visited this area, you more than likely pulled into the campground to fish or camp, or visit with Gene and Edith. Just in case you didn't receive their Christmas letter 2007, and although they are making new

friends and life is much easier in their new home, they miss their Alaska lifestyle and friends, the campground and the many visitors from all over the world. Thanks for missing us all and thanks for staying plugged into *WSEN*!

You will notice a different source for our centerfold this issue —*The Copper Bee* —a McCarthy newspaper that started up with its first issue on February 19, 1916. It was short-lived but we chose several news items from the first two issues. Usually we use microfilm acquired from the Alaska State Library and transcribe news from the film to my computer. When we ran out of *The Chitina Leader*, we discovered a few printed copies of *The Copper Bee* that we don't believe we ever used in the *WSEN*. We hope you enjoy the old news as it was in the original form —including misspelled words and incorrect punctuation. Although my automatic spell check was not happy with my lack of attention, we thought it very interesting and commendable to the owner/publisher for his grand attempt to provide the news under challenging conditions!

*WSEN* welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Kimberly Alderman, Virgin Islands; Kelly Syren, WV; Daniel Maclean, AK; Susan Doran, AK; Howard Rand, WI.

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## Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

### Larry and Lindee Satterfield:

The Satterfields are quickly losing their “new kids on the block” description. I expect to see them even more often this new year. Their progress has been nothing but amazing to me. Lindee has graciously written her thoughts on what it’s like to build your own cabin in the Wrangells.

“We look forward to this New Year of 2008! While 2007 proved to be very hard work, (and quite a learning experience for me) in the success of building our cabin, 2008 will provide us with a more liveable means as we finish the inside of it. The Satterfield cabin project went very well last summer. We could not have asked for better weather. We did welcome the rain when it came, as it gave us a chance to put down our tools and enjoy the break it gave us.

“Larry and his brother Doug Satterfield did an amazing job building the cabin. I helped in areas that I could and I learned a lot more from this experience, like how to climb a ladder without falling off of it or how to hold the nail gun without it going off and nailing myself to the cabin. (Ok, I learned that having a third person to help is really, really a plus when building a cabin with your husband.) We could not have done it without Doug’s help and we are very, very grateful to him that he spent his summer vacation with us to do this project.

“Without Larry’s focus and dedication to the cabin, and working on it for almost two weeks by himself finishing off the roof, we would still be sleeping in our tent! We still have much to do, but it’s all inside work now. The really nice part is now when we drive up to our cabin, we don’t have to pitch the tent at 3 a.m. in the morning to catch up on

our sleep from driving all night from Anchorage.

“Yes, life is good! We ask God for a safe and successful summer coming up, just as we had last summer. Happy New Year!”

**Mike McCann, Dorothy Adler and baby Logan:** “As you know, winter is a special time of year for us,” shares Dorothy. “We love the snow, the cold (not so this year), and the quiet! All sorts of things keep us busy, including Logan, who is now 8 months old. He is just figuring out how to get around and to get from one place to the next. He also seems to love the snow and doesn’t mind the cold too much. He especially loves skiing, although at this point he just kicks back and enjoys the ride on my back.

“Mike is busy putting in his trails. Sometimes he is a bit too hard on himself and comes home all dinged up; but he seems to persevere nonetheless. We added on to our cabin once again to make more space for the family. So far we are really enjoying the extra room.

“I am planning to teach a Wilderness First Aid class sometime in January. As a wilderness EMT I am now able to teach wilderness medical courses through a school in New Hampshire called SOLO. I’ll keep everyone posted about upcoming courses.

“That’s most of the news...we put up our tree last night. Logan was so excited about the presents; he’s already tried to open some of them!”

**Cal Ward Jr:** Many of our readers tell me how much they enjoy reading about the local folks in our area—even if they have never met them in person. It helps answer questions they have like, “What do folks do during the winter months?” Or, “Don’t folks out there ever get bored?”

Most of my winter neighbors are good for an item or two, especially Cal. When I called him tonight (after an unsuccessful try last night), he seemed quite surprised to hear me on the other end. It seems the ringer on his phone had accidentally gotten turned to off position. Thankfully, he was standing right by the phone when I called. The red light lit up and he suspected someone was out there looking for him. I’m glad he picked up the phone. He was, too, because then he realized why the incoming calls had been slim-pickin’s the last few days. He asked me to call him back so he could check it out. After making the correction on his end, my return call proved him right. I’m glad I was able to help him discover the mishap!

Cal was pleased to report that his project, building a stairwell to his second floor, was finally finished and he could retire the glorified ladder that had served him well for about 7 years. Those uniform steps are going to come in mighty handy and make life easier.

Cutting out a big chunk of his ceiling created quite a flurry of sawdust, he said, and the inside chain saw work led him to open the cabin windows and bring in some of that good clean winter air.

Readers may wonder how Cal got the lumber to build the new stairway. He said he cut beetle-kill spruce trees off his property about a year ago, making boards with his sawmill, and letting them dry real well before proceeding with his building project this winter. One has to think and plan ahead out here, especially when the nearest lumberyard is 125 miles away!

I asked Cal if he’s seen any wild animals roaming around his place. About 2 weeks ago, he reports seeing plenty of moose cows, calves and

bulls on the nearby trails, etc. He said it was earlier than usual this year.

Keep up the good work, Cal, and give those new stairs a good working out!

**Jim Kreblin:** Jim is pleased to announce daughter Lindsay's wedding went very well. He traveled to Wyoming and Wisconsin the early part of November to attend Lindsay and now husband, Kurt Allen Jensen's marriage, bringing his mother, 95, of Wisconsin to the festivities.

The wedding took place at Jackson Hole Community Bible Church in Jackson Hole on the tenth of November. Jim reports that eight folks from the McCarthy area were present besides himself so he felt right at home. Don, Lynn, Sarah and Rene Welty (Sarah and Rene were bridesmaids), Linda Lohse and daughter Robin, Roni and Doran Ward. Says Jim, "Twenty per cent of McCarthy's population ran off to Lindsay's wedding!" Nearly 200 folks attended the grand celebration. Our congratulations to this fine couple.

Jim was quick to remind me that the 2008 annual Long Lake Fishing Derby is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to mark your calendars and stay tuned to more details in the next issue of *WSEN*.

Upon his return from his travels, Jim discovered winter had arrived. The lake was frozen over, the ice was a foot thick and there is now 14 inches of snow on top, making for beautiful scenery outside Jim's cabin windows. Time to get his reading material out and dig out those winter time crossword books and settled in for the long haul. Now you know what Jim does in his spare time!

**Kurt, Peggy and Kelsey Smith:** December 21<sup>st</sup> —the shortest day of the year —was special in more ways than ever. McCarthyites enjoy the winter season, but we have to admit, we also greatly appreciate the extra

daylight we begin accumulating after the 21<sup>st</sup>!

The McCarthy Mercantile, owned and operated by the Smith family, is doing its very best to keep the winter population stocked in fresh produce, meat, and fruit. Before mail arrived, the door of the store opened and several eager shoppers arrived by pickup truck, snowmachines and foot to check out Peggy's selections for this month. We did not go home empty handed. I can vouch for that because Rick and I were two of those "shoppers!"

Hot cups of coffee and treats were waiting us. (Did that hot coffee ever thaw us out so we could make the proper choices, Peggy! Thanks much!) Other neighbors meandered into the store to see what Peggy had on hand this month's day of shopping. Items like cottage cheese, sour cream, butter, ICE CREAM, bread, pineapple, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, cream cheese were high on the list of purchased items. Thanks, Peggy, Kelsey and Kurt for serving our community in such a wonderful way —summer and winter!

When I contacted Peggy for an item of interest from out Nizina way, she wasn't expecting me to write all of the above so now I'll include the "item" she gave me: "Miles Erickson is here, from Wa, for the school year tutoring Kelsey - we LOVE it, and Kelsey is doing better than ever in school. She is enjoying a short Christmas vacation while Miles is home in Wa.

"Katy moved to Deland, Florida, on Christmas Day, so we are anxious to go visit in the warm!

"The store will be open again on Wednesday, January 30, 2008. Of course, if any one needs something before then, like dry goods, meat, dog food or hardware, we would be happy to meet them sooner to help out."

**Howard and Chris Haley:** It was haircut time for Rick and I so we called on Chris to perform wonders

once again. Every time we visit the Haleys, we see something new either in progress or finished. This time there was a 16' x 20' building sitting next to the generator/battery building! The new construction is a shop and Chris said it was now enclosed, insulated and almost ready for use. Of course the Haleys had called on neighbor John Adams to perform his expertise of framing in the building while Chris and Howard were off on an adventure.

In early October Howard accompanied a friend to Michigan where he purchased a new truck for Chris. Breaking in the new vehicle, Howard drove to Seattle where Chris met him. They visited family on the west coast, picked up solar panels in Idaho, visited her dad in Canada then took the ferry from Prince Rupert to Skagway. She is pleased with her truck, reporting that it is quick to start and produces plenty of warm heat when called upon.

Also, she said to be on the lookout for a new 440 Scandic snowmachine. It just could be Howard under that helmet!

**Jim, Audrey and Shelly Edwards:** Shortly before Christmas I decided to take my snowmachine for a spin in the direction of the Edwards' house. I figured Audrey should be recuperated from the Ladies' Annual Cookie Exchange she hosted about a week ago. Besides, I wanted to say hello to Jim's daughter, Shelly, who is visiting from Anchorage.

By the time I arrived, Audrey had the tea kettle on the stove and ready to pour. Jim even joined us ladies and gave me quite an item of interest!

A couple of days after Thanksgiving, Jim and Audrey had their quiet morning abruptly come to an end. Audrey was doing the dishes; Jim was on the computer in the other room. A loud "BANG" sounded off not far from Audrey's head and just over the wood stove heater. A

fine, yellow dusty powder descended on the room, spewing at full power. Audrey yelled for Jim to come quick who soon discovered the source of the yellow fog that was filling every nook and cranny of the house — an automatic fire extinguisher.

Although the outside temperature was below zero, Jim opened doors and windows in an effort to rid themselves of the invasive dust. It may have encouraged the entrance of fresh clean air, but it didn't do a thing for the already accumulating yellow dust collected on all of Audrey's clean clothes folded up in the living room. Even the china cabinet with all its delicate dainties inside was inundated with the disgusting dust, says Audrey.

Needless to say, they needed help to do a major cleanup. Neighbor Jurgen Ogodnik was called upon to come "help!" Jurgen spent 3 days giving Audrey a hand. Jurgen encouraged Audrey to look on the bright side of things. "At least you are way ahead on your spring cleaning!" Audrey estimates there was a good inch of that thick dust on everything and in everything. Thankfully, the dust was not toxic.

Jim is sure the extinguisher was not activated by heat from the stove, but by a worn-out fuse which should have been changed long ago.

Now that that adventure is pretty much out of the way (except for the hidden yellow dust they are still discovering in odd places), Jim is finding Audrey's "to-do" list keeping him out of boredom's way. Like hooking up the new dishwasher which should be in operation as I type this.

I know WSEN readers are always curious as to what folks do out here during the winter months. The "Items of Interest" this issue may give you a sample of ideas. When Audrey isn't attending to all of the above, she enjoys keeping the Pine Grosbeaks and chickadees well fed at her kitchen window feeder. Once in awhile there is a glitch, however.

Like recently when two stunned grosbeaks were being nursed back to normal in an enclosed container. Jim innocently lifted the lid and out flew one "not-so-stunned anymore" bird, eager to try its wings. The only problem is the flight pattern was in Audrey's kitchen. Once again...Jim to the rescue. Open the doors. Thankfully, Mr. Grosbeak found his way to freedom, and Audrey was spared another early spring clean-up!

**Trig Trigiano:** Even McCarthyites need a touch of "culture" once in awhile. That was the thought that crossed my mind today as Rick and I were sitting in Trig's house on the "J" Road. The three of us were drinking a cup of coffee made from his new coffee maker with a built-in grinder and listening to opera music being played in the background.

Trig had driven in the day after Christmas, reporting that the McCarthy Road was in good shape. Glaciers between Mile 30-36 and at Long Lake were working but not seriously. His pickup truck didn't break through so that's always a good sign! The trip this time was to bring in more building supplies and the carpeting, he said.

When Rick and I arrived at his hilltop McCarthy home, he graciously invited us into what he calls his "construction zone." That just means he is still at work, inside and out. He gave us a tour of the upstairs which has taken on a more finished look since the last time we visited. The new paneling in his bedroom was now in place and new carpet squares were laid out for our inspection. Trig is doing a wonderful job on his home, little-by-little getting things ready for full-time occupancy in the near future.

**Jack and Susan Smith:** Communication between us and the Smiths are mostly via e-mail. There is phone service but it is not reliable at this point in time. Although Jack and Susan live a couple miles off the McCarthy Road at Mile 26, they have managed to install (with the assis-

tance of neighbor Tim Nelson) a satellite dish which enables me to receive the latest news from Chokosna on a regular basis. The latest of technology has arrived even in off-the-grid places in our area.

Susan writes with the following update from their cabin to ours and now to yours: "Jack got home the day before Thanksgiving and it's a pleasure having him back. He's been busy getting the traplines set up and he's out at least 4 days a week on his lines.

"I had a booth at the Chitina Christmas bazaar on Dec. 15 and had a good day, selling some leather work and fur items. Also enjoyed visiting with the local ladies. I have several orders for fur hats and mitts for some of our local neighbors.

"I had my first teleconference for the Citizen's Advisory Commission for Federal Areas and I'm looking forward to our first formal meeting in Juneau in early February.

"Jack spotted fresh wolf tracks the other day right across the river, a stone's throw from Maya's dog lot. I'm keeping out a watchful eye on our outside dogs these days."

**Neil Darish:** I just called Neil and he was getting ready to head out on his daily walk which has progressed from a stroll to a healthy workout these days. Since Neil's last item of interest in the previous WSEN, he estimates missing only 4 days of walking during that time frame. I commend him for his diligence!!

The winter is treating him well this year; although that doesn't mean he is doing nothing. Jeremy Keller is putting the last of the finishing touches on Neil's house. The stairs and railings are nearly completed.

Neil loves gardening and even though it is winter in McCarthy, that doesn't deter him from planting *something*. Right now he is doing a new thing — for him, that is. A past guest of his works for a large nursery in Holland. She sent Neil a box of bulbs and seeds. He is busy planting the bulbs in containers and is eager to see what develops! I am, too, Neil, so keep me updated on their progress.

# Local climber miraculously survives enormous fall

BY BONNIE KENYON

“By all accounts I should be dead, or at least completely paralyzed. By some major miracle, I am neither,” writes Kennicott resident Meghan Seifert, to her many friends on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2007, about 2 ½ weeks following her climbing accident in Yosemite.

Meghan and her climbing partner and husband, Matt Smith, were climbing the route "Royal Arches" as two teams of two on November 20<sup>th</sup> when Meghan fell at least 80 feet as she fumbled through a less-than-desirable situation of trying to extend her rappel to the anchor that she was just a few feet short of reaching.

Matt, located above Meghan, was having a hard time communicating over the valley hum. But what he did hear shortly was, “a scream, and a most horrible CRASH!!!” Then silence. This was at around 5 pm, an hour or so before dark. Assuming the worse, he immediately found the correct rap-

pel route to get to Meg. He recalls: “The ropes did not pull through the anchors, nor did anything slow down her descent except the ledge below her.” It was a ledge full of boulders and Meghan fell in the only spot of gravel on the whole thing!

The other team, friends of Matt and Meghan, (one being another McCarthy area local Greg Runyan) was at the station above and quickly arrived to give much-needed assistance. While their friend Rick (not from McCarthy) made the last rappel and ran for help, Matt and Greg stabilized Meghan for the two-hour wait.

Meghan was taken by helicopter to Modesto, CA where she underwent a 9-hour surgery, spent about a week and a half in the hospital and is busy recovering with friends and family. Her injuries are best described in an email I received from her on December 14<sup>th</sup>. She writes: I broke my neck at C2, also knocking C3 severely out of place, so they borrowed bone from my iliac crest (top of the hip in the back) and

fused 1, 2 and 3. I am in a halo for 3 months. I also broke 4 ribs on the back left and punctured that lung. I broke my talus bone on the right heel so I am currently in a wheel chair for at least 6 weeks. The neck injury prevents me from being allowed to use my arms for things like crutches or a walker.”

Matt says two days after the surgery Meghan was up walking and seems to have no long-term disabilities at all. A full recovery is expected.

Meghan ends her email with these words, giving us all insight into the strength and gratitude in her heart, “Basically, we’re feeling really amazingly lucky, really surprisingly happy, and we’re just laying low and getting healthy for a few months while staying within reach of Modesto for all my follow ups. Life is still good. I have an amazing husband, wonderful friends, great family and such faith in the goodness of humanity. I’m so happy to be alive!”

## Established and maintainable access to inholdings

### Programmatic Environmental Assessment available & open for public comment

COPPER CENTER—

The National Park Service proposes to issue right of way certificates of access to people with established and maintainable access to land holdings within or effectively surrounded by Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Access to State or privately-owned land in Alaska national parks is governed by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Section 1110(b), which provides that "the State or private owner or occupier shall be given by the Secretary such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate and feasible access for economic or other purposes." The envi-

ronmental assessment evaluates the effects of the no-action alternative as well as the proposed program to issue the right of way certificates of access. (NPS Preferred Alternative).

Established and maintainable routes and methods of access qualifying for consideration in this EA are those that currently exist, have not resulted in unacceptable impacts to park resources and values, and can be maintained in their present condition and character essentially within their existing footprints. Examples of established access facilities include constructed and bladed roads, off-road vehicle (ORV) trails, airstrips, and waterlines.

Issuing right of way certificates of access to these inholders is necessary to describe and document their methods and means and to assure the landowners' or valid occupiers' their access interests. To protect park resources and minimize potential impacts to park resources and values, the NPS would identify these routes and methods of access, including the suite of maintenance methods and tools the inholder may use to ensure the surface tread is useable as intended.

Public comments are requested on the environmental assessment through January 31, 2008. To comment, please visit

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. If you have questions about the EA or need a printed copy of the document, please contact Danny Rosenkrans, Land Man-

ager, at 907-822-7240 or email at [Danny\\_Rosenkrans@nps.gov](mailto:Danny_Rosenkrans@nps.gov) or contact Bud Rice, Environmental Protec-

tion Specialist, at (907) 644-3530 or email at [Bud\\_Rice@nps.gov](mailto:Bud_Rice@nps.gov).

## McCarthy area ladies celebrate 13<sup>th</sup> annual Cookie Exchange

BY BONNIE KENYON

**M**cCarthy: —On Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, the 2007 Cookie Exchange for the McCarthy area ladies was once again hosted by Audrey Edwards. Jim and Audrey's home is nestled in the spruce trees by Swift Creek and makes a handy hub for our local ladies traveling either from the Nizina or Long Lake. The rest of us live in-between both extremes.

Peggy Smith and daughter Kelsey snowmachined from their home on the Nizina River, then transferred cookies and themselves to their pickup truck parked in downtown McCarthy. Newcomers to the annual event and unsure of the location of the Edwards' home, the Smith ladies stopped at my cabin and they gave me a ride while I gave them a mini-tour of who-lives-where in my neck of the woods.

We were the first to arrive and took the opportunity to give Audrey a hand at preparing her delicious lunch. Kelsey took charge of the hot, spiced tea preparation. She did a wonderful job! Each lady was served their tea in one of Audrey's fancy china tea cups —a welcome bit of culture for us McCarthy ladies.

A steady stream of this year's cookie bakers began arriving: Laurie and Hannah Rowland, Dee Frady, Betty Adams, Dorothy Adler, Stephanie Kerr (Long Lake) and Chris Haley —making the total for this year's celebration eleven. Last, but certainly not least, and out of the "lady" category was Dorothy's 8



WSEN staff photo

Hostess Audrey Edwards arranges the delicacies.

month old son, Logan. He seemed to be quite enthralled with all our oohs and aahs and took well the female chatter that filled Audrey's living room.

Lunch was served and before long each lady (and Logan) was sampling Audrey's Seafood Casserole, salmon dip, fresh dinner rolls and chocolate cake for dessert. It is always prudent to eat lunch PRIOR to exchanging our cookies and homemade candies. This way very few Christmas goodies disappear before reaching their final destination.

With 11 ladies participating with about 3 dozen cookies each, Audrey's kitchen table was soon full of a wide variety of sweets —

molasses cookies, almond balls, pumpkin chocolate chippers, chocolate macadamia nut candy, chocolate-covered cherries, several different kinds of sugar cookies, jelly-filled cookies and fancily decorated snowmen. Once individual containers were full, a few volunteers helped fill the 7 bachelor plates for the lone men in the community.

Before long it was time to say our goodbyes, don our winter gear once again and return to our respective homes. Each lady would be welcomed by someone at the other end who was eager to sample the delicate fare. Another year, another successful Cookie Exchange, and a wonderful McCarthy tradition lives on!

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*"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble." —Helen Keller*

# CVTC attempts to activate digital system at McCarthy



WSEN staff photo

Left to right: Dave Dengel, Tom Fulton, Brian Thomas, Wan Lixm and Jim Gifford.

Copper Valley Telephone Engineers, along with Engineers from ZTE, the telephone equipment vendor, were on site in McCarthy November 27<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>. The new CDMA telephone switch and systems at both McCarthy and Sourdough Ridge are in place and completely operational, in test mode at this time.

Turning the system on to full commercial service is pending ZTE's completion of final connection settings for calls to and from the long distance network; otherwise, the system is completely operational and ready to provide service.



WSEN staff photo

Tom Fulton in a world of transistors and electrons. The "switch house"—at this point housing both the old analog and the new digital systems.



WSEN staff photo

This is the new CVTC satellite uplink. It looks just like an overgrown Starband dish!

Wireless customer signals will be routed through this new uplink. Fixed cellular calls still have to go through the original AT&T uplink. The interface to the AT&T dish is what caused the problems that prevented putting the new equipment into service in November. Apparently the new equipment did not want to talk to the old equipment.



WSEN staff photo

Temporary office quarters. The equipment was leased in Valdez and transported to McCarthy by Rowcon Services.



# The sentencing of Robert Hale "Papa Pilgrim"

BY BONNIE KENYON

Monday, November 26, 2007, was the first of a two-day sentencing hearing for Robert Hale, known to many as Papa Pilgrim. Hale was indicted by a Palmer grand jury in September of 2005, on 30 felony charges, including sexual assault, kidnapping and incest committed between 1998 and 2005. After a two-week manhunt, Hale, was arrested in Eagle River.

The Anchorage courtroom, presided over by Judge Donald Hopwood, filled with family members, friends and those who have followed the Hale (Pilgrim) story for the last several years.

It was not an easy decision to testify at the hearing, but, feeling the need for Judge Hopwood to see the true picture, and in hope that their father/husband would tell the truth, the family chose to make more fully known the details of the abusive lives they lived behind closed doors.

For 4 agonizing, pain-filled hours Hale's wife, Kurina Rose, and 14 of their 15 children testified, in extensive detail for some, the abu-

sive treatment she and the children received at the hand of a man they called husband and "papa."

Prepared statements were read by the children—the older children having more difficulty than the others. Descriptions of beatings, cruel and unusual punishment, sexual assault of the oldest daughter, isolation, manipulation and incest became public in the presence of their father.

The following day it was Robert Hale's turn to give his statement. Handcuffed to his wheel chair, Hale, 66, delivered a 2 ½ hour rambling discourse, denying any wrong doing or sexual assault, instead blamed his wife, sons and especially oldest daughter, Elishaba, for his legal trouble and predicament.

According to Judge Hopwood, the victim's statements about the years of abuse, were credible; Hale's denials were not. "I just don't believe it," he said. The judge was quoted as saying that Hale had perpetrated "one of the worst cases of domestic violence I have ever seen."

Judge Hopwood ordered Hale imprisoned for 14 years—10 years

for sexual assault and two years each for incest and coercion.

In spite of the nightmares of the past, there remains gratitude, thankfulness, love for truth and the hope for bright, new tomorrows. Jim Buckingham, the head of the family who opened their home to the Hale family since early 2005, has this to say: "We are thankful that the sentencing is complete and that Robert Hale is in prison. We are very grateful as well that the judge in the case (Judge Hopwood) could clearly see that the Hale children's statements were truthful and that they corroborated each other in their recollection of past events. We are all prayerful and hopeful that God will continue the process of healing in the lives of each one affected by this very difficult situation."

*Editor's note: On December 2, 2007, Anchorage Daily News' reporter, Tom Kiszia, wrote an article entitled: After hellish abuse, one Hale daughter fled from 'Heaven'. This well-done true story is available in the Archives section of the online version of the News. Please go to [www.adn.com](http://www.adn.com).*

## Wrangell-St. Elias ornament on President's Christmas Tree

COPPER CENTER

When the White House requested of all national parks back in July that they decorate a Christmas ornament for the President's Christmas tree, Wrangell-St. Elias turned to artist-in-residence Jona Van Zyle. Jon and Jona Van Zyle, well-known Alaskan artists, served as artist-in-residence in Wrangell-St. Elias during the summer of 2006. Since that time they have continued to partner with the Park; Jona released a Wrangell-St. Elias coloring book in August 2007.

"We are very fortunate to be partners with Jon and Jona Van Zyle," af-

firmed Superintendent Meg Jensen. "They have contributed much to the experience of visitors and local residents who have attended their workshops or enjoyed their inspiring artwork."

On Wednesday, November 28, Jon and Jona traveled to Washington, DC where they joined hundreds of other artists who had decorated ornaments for the tree in a reception at the White House hosted by First Lady Laura Bush. Laura greeted them, and artists from across the United States mingled. There were 391 Parks, 11 from Alaska, represented on the 18-foot Fraser Fir Tree from North Carolina that decorated the Blue Room.

The Wrangell-St. Elias ornament stood out, due to the extreme detail and imagination Jona had given it; all other artists who received the 6-inch diameter golden orb painted them as directed in the detailed instructions. Jona, after gaining special permission from the White House, used natural materials from Alaska to decorate the ornament. She overlaid salmon skin, moose hide, and calf skin to create a three dimensional representation of the mountains, lakes, and rivers.

Jona wished to represent the people and ideas of Alaska and to show respect for the ideas of subsistence by using these natural materials. She incorporated elements from the park

logo by illustrating the Kennecott Mill Building, a raven, leaves and berries, and mountains found in the logo. Wishing to feature also the world famous Copper River salmon, she bead-

ed spawning colors of red and green into the design. This work required a Glover's needle for sewing the heavy leather and a fine beading needle, as thin as a hair, for the intricate bead

work. Although the work was exhausting, Jona was proud to have been chosen to represent the nation's largest national park in the Nation's capitol.

## Progress on access to inholdings

BY SUSAN SMITH

The National Park Service (NPS) issued their third draft of *An Interim Guide to Accessing Inholdings in NPS Units in Alaska* in July of 2007. To satisfy requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), NPS has proposed the use of Programmatic Environmental Assessments (PEAs) to analyze multiple routes with similar characteristics in one document. On November 21, 2007, NPS presented their first PEA for Established and Maintainable Access to Inholdings in Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST). The document is now open for public comment.

Established and maintainable routes and methods of access which qualify for consideration under this PEA are defined as those:

- 1) that currently exist,
- 2) have not resulted in unacceptable impacts to park resources and values, and
- 3) can be maintained in their existing footprints.

Examples of established access facilities include constructed and bladed roads, off-road vehicle trails, airstrips, and waterlines.

Access not considered in this PEA are routes which:

- 1) are new,
- 2) require further development,
- 3) need relocation,
- 4) are unmaintainable as is,
- 5) divert streams,

- 6) impact wetlands,
- 7) ford fish-bearing streams,
- 8) affect fish habitat,
- 9) are park-designated roads,
- 10) are overland winter routes, or
- 11) relate to mining operations.

This assessment evaluates the environmental effects of two alternatives: 1) The issuance of ANILCA 1110(b) Right-of-Way Certificates of Access (RWCAs) as outlined in the Interim User's Guide (the NPS-preferred option), and 2) a no-action alternative. The impact of both options are considered with respect to aquatic resources and fish, cultural resources, inholder property, public access and recreational use, soils, vegetation and wetlands, and wilderness.

Chapter Two of the PEA categorizes the access routes in WRST into five classes:

- Class 1 - Gravel Driveways and Roads for highway vehicles,
- Class 2 - Constructed routes, created with a blade and minimal gravel fill, used by trucks, tracked vehicles and off-road vehicles (ORVs),
- Class 3 - Motorized tracks or trails with limited improvements and minor maintenance, used by 4-wheel-drive vehicles, ORVs, and tracked vehicles,
- Class 4 - Unimproved routes with intermittent discernable motorized tracks, such as

floodplains, used by ORVs and tracked vehicles, and Class 5 - Waterlines and associated paths.

Half of the PEA document provides a long analysis of the environmental factors found along the proposed RWCA routes, followed by a thorough breakdown of the environmental consequences of both alternatives. Even with the no-action option, only minor adverse impacts are anticipated for the WRST environment in all areas except vegetation and wetlands where moderate adverse impacts could result from undocumented or unmonitored use, facility expansion, the spread of exotic plants, or loss of rare plant species.

Minor to negligible adverse impacts are expected for the NPS-preferred alternative along with moderate beneficial impacts in some areas. According to the NPS, property values for inholdings with authorized rights-of-way have sold for 30% more than similar properties without rights-of-way because of the real estate market's policy of measuring and adjusting for risk.

For several years now, representatives from local organizations, the State, native corporations, and others have worked with NPS to arrive at a mutually acceptable agreement in the form of the Interim User's Guide. Favorable public comment on this PEA will allow for the smooth and timely transition to the NPS issuance of RWCAs for this first group

of access routes in WRST in early 2008. Many questions remain with respect to routes not included in this PEA. Hopefully, future PEAs will group like routes in other categories to prevent other inholders from needing individual environmental assessments for each route.

Your comments are important to this process. A copy of this PEA may be retrieved online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Se-

lect "Plans/Documents Open for Comment," "Alaska," and "WRST." A copy may also be obtained by contacting WRST Headquarters at the address below. Comments must be received by January 31, 2008. They may be entered online at the above website or mailed to:

Superintendent Meg Jensen  
Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve  
P.O. Box 439

Copper Center, Alaska 99573.

All comments will be made available to the public with any identifying information that you supply.

If you feel that your access route in WRST qualifies for this PEA and you have not yet been approached by NPS, please contact Danny Rosenkrans, WRST Land Manager at [Danny\\_Rosenkrans@nps.gov](mailto:Danny_Rosenkrans@nps.gov) or (907) 822-7240.

## Supreme Court will not hear Pilgrim access case

BY RICK KENYON

The U.S. Supreme Court in December declined to hear the case of the Hale family and its dispute with the federal government over access to their land inside the country's largest national park. No reason was given for the refusal.

Readers of WSEN will remember that the "Pilgrim" case gained national attention after the National Park Service (NPS) told the family they could not use the nearly 100 year old mining road to access their property.

The NPS argued the family needed to go through a lengthy and expensive process if it wanted to use the road, including doing an environmental assessment on the impact of the road.

The Hale family sued the NPS, saying they had a right to access their property, and that the access pre-dated the park by decades.

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the family in February, rejecting their claim that the Park Service had violated their rights by requiring the environmental analysis.

The Pacific Legal Foundation, which helped the Pilgrims wage their property-rights lawsuit, appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court.

The route the Hale family used to access their remote property is actually a state road, called the McCarthy-Green Butte Road. During the Clinton presidency, the Interior Department said they would not recognize these state and country

roads, claimed under federal law RS2477.

The McCarthy-Green Butte Road is the only access to numerous pieces of property besides the Hale cabin. It was not covered under the initial Programmatic EA done by the NPS partly because of the numerous stream crossings.

In earlier days there were over a dozen bridges along the 14-mile road. When the mining activity ceased, it didn't take long for McCarthy Creek to destroy all of those bridges.

Locals still used the road with 4-wheel drive pickup trucks and, more recently, with 4-wheelers and snowmachines. Stream crossing with the wheeled vehicles is limited to low-water conditions, normally in early spring and late fall.

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*"What better way to show our appreciation for the First Amendment than by exercising it to defend the Second Amendment?" —Alan Gottlieb*

*"The argument for gun control has always been based more on utopian visions than empirical facts. That, and the Left simply does not trust an armed citizenry." —David Niedrauer*

*"Arms are the only true badges of liberty. The possession of arms is the distinction of a free man from a slave." —Andrew Fletcher*

*"Pick up a rifle and you change instantly from a subject to a citizen." —Jeff Cooper*

*"A good general range rule for pistols is that, if what you want to hit appears larger than your front sight, you are within range." —Jeff Cooper*

*"Today, we need a nation of Minutemen, citizens who are not only prepared to take arms, but citizens who regard the preservation of freedom as the basic purpose of their daily life." —John F. Kennedy*

*"The object and practice of liberty lies in the limitation of government power." —General Douglas MacArthur*

# Good News from the Wrangells

## *Feeling the Joy!*

*Editor's note: New subscriber and friend, Ken Lord, recently Emailed Rick and I the following story along with his own heartfelt thoughts. What a great start to our new year —easing the burdens of others and feeling the joy of it. Thanks, Ken, for spreading a good dose of joy to us all.*

I cry when a down-and-out family gets a new home on the ABC program *Extreme Makeover*. You should know that about me. I also cried when I first read the following. I didn't write it; I cannot tell you who did. Nevertheless, it's possibly the most uplifting and motivating story you'll read today. At the end I have a message.

Read this story when you can be by yourself. You could cry, as well. Hankies at the ready...

\* \* \*

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves learning-disabled children, the father of one of the school's students delivered a speech that would long be remembered by all who attended.

After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question. "Everything God does is done with perfection. Yet, my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is God's plan reflected in my son?"

The audience was stilled by the query.

The father continued. "I believe," the father answered, "that when God brings a child like Shay into the world, an opportunity to realize the Divine Plan presents itself. And it comes in the way people treat that child."

Then, he told the following story:

Shay and I walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they will let me play?"

Shay's father knew that most boys would not want him on their team. He understood that if his son were allowed to play it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging.

Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance from his teammates. Getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said, "We are losing by six runs, and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him up to bat in the ninth inning."

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three.

At the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the outfield. Although no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base. And Shay was scheduled to be the next at-bat.

Would the team actually let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less how to connect with the ball. However, as he stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved closer a few steps to lob the ball in soft-

ly so Shay could at least be able to make contact.

The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed.

The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly toward Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow grounder to the pitcher. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could easily have thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have ended the game.

Instead, the pitcher took the ball and threw it on a high arc to right field, far beyond reach of the first baseman. Everyone started yelling, "Shay, run to first. Run to first."

Never in his life had Shay ever made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second!"

By the time Shay was rounding first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman for a tag. However, he understood what the pitcher's intentions had been, so he threw the ball high and far over the third baseman's head.

Shay ran toward second base as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the bases towards home.

As Shay reached second base, the opposing shortstop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base, and shouted, "Run to third!"

As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams were screaming, "Shay! Run home!"

Shay ran home, stepped on homeplate, and was cheered as the hero, for hitting a grand slam and winning the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of the Divine Plan into this world."

\* \* \*

We all have thousands of opportunities a day to help realize God's plan. So many seemingly trivial interactions between two people present us with a choice: Do we pass along a spark of the Divine? Or do we pass up that opportunity, and

leave the world a bit colder in the process?

Wasn't that an amazing story?

The first time I read it, I missed something important. I don't want you to miss it.

Shay had played baseball a number of times. Before that day, no one had helped him. He'd never made it to first base before.

Shay may never completely be able to appreciate what happened that day, even though it was probably the thrill of his young life.

The biggest thing that happened was that more than 20 other kids got to experience what helping someone else can do for them. They

got to feel the excitement that you can feel by putting yourself second, instead of first.

The world was made better just then... from the ripple effect it had on them, and now that this story is getting out.

And I too feel privileged to be able to share this story with you so that you can get closer to what may be the meaning of life.

I think it's to help ease the burden of it for others...and feel that joy.

I didn't write it—but I wanted you to be able to read it.

Ken Lord

## Book review —The Alaska Homegrown Cookbook

BY BONNIE KENYON

I am always eager to open packages containing review copies of the latest creations coming forth from Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company, the publishing arm for Alaska Northwest Books. Accompanying their most recent project —*The Alaska Homegrown Cookbook* — is a letter from Sara Juday, Associate Publisher. She is obviously as eager for me to enjoy this newest cookbook, but also hopeful that I will share my findings with you, the *WSEN* reader.

Sara writes of the recipes and contents: "I thought your readers might appreciate this collection from around the state, representing the best of our past and present. I'm sure you'll recognize some of the contributors! I am personally excited about this project. I've been a part of Alaska Northwest Books now for more than 20 years. For years I had been thinking about a compilation of recipes from all of our cookbooks, but it was one of those

simmering ideas that never got presented. Finally at an editorial brainstorming session a couple of years ago, I had the opportunity to pitch this idea. Then, of course, I had the treat of helping pick out the recipes and going through all of our books for the food-related quotes. It was such fun to revisit all of the books. It was a bit of a trip down memory lane, and I was thrilled with how it all came together."

With a cup of tea in hand, I nestled down into my corner of the couch. I began my stroll down "memory lane," stopping at each of the 224 pages, and tasting of the flavor, culture and spirit of the Last Frontier.

I discovered my favorite Halibut recipe —Halibut Delmonico —on page 112, a contribution by Dr. Ernest Gruening. Tips for cooking dry beans (which I do regularly) were found on page 63. I tried the suggestion to use olive oil while cooking the beans to prevent frothing. It worked!

Excerpts, or maybe I should say "tidbits," from other books published by Alaska Northwest Books are sprinkled throughout the book. One I found most interesting was the very simple description of a fish wheel such as we use to get our yearly supply of Copper River Salmon near Chitina. Now that is something I can understand and even share with the summer guests we see each tourist season here in McCarthy!

Illustrating the cookbook are historic photos from around the state and line art from favorite illustrator, Mindy Dwyer.

I recommend *The Alaska Homegrown Cookbook* as a gift that will share the true flavor of our wonderful state or an addition to your collection of cookbooks. It comes in softbound, measures 6 ½" x 8 ½" and contains 200+ recipes. The cost is \$15.95. Look for it at your favorite bookstore.

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"If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."—Daniel

Webster

# THE COPPER BEE

VOLUME ONE McCARTHY, ALASKA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1916, NUMBER ONE

## DEAR JUDGE BE MERCIFUL

This is our first offense, or perhaps better say, Attempt: At having anything to do with either Type or Press.

If our readers knew, the conditions, under which this little Infant Paper was born, they would be surprised, and we will not take up your time here, explaining the circumstances, as you may have troubles of your own.

We have been asked by friends, to roast those whom they dislike. This, we decline to do but: We will Roast those who wantonly Destroy Wild Life. We are Heartily in accord with the principles on Game Protection, As set forth in, OUT DOOR LIFE MAGAZINE. The best Sportsman's Magazine Published.

Quite a little business aroud town these days, we sold a post card photo, the other day, and went right straight down town and blew in the money but we have always been a spendthrift, so what's the use.

Miss Frankie Hall, from Chisana, called at the Studio, and purchased a SENECA ROLL FILM KODAK, with corrected Anastigmat Lens, just about the best thing made in the KODAK line, for Alaska. Miss Hall, has that Northern Spirit, Alaskans want the best.

Messrs, James Johnson, Nelson and Stanley. The Shushanna Operators, are moveing the largest outfit over the trail that has ever been undertaken in these parts, and everything appears to move along like clock work, A clear case of Brawn, and years of experience in the North.

The James party is so well known in Alaska, that comments are unnecessary.

## McCarthy Copper

Will some Inteligent person show us why McCarthy is not going to make A Butte, or an Anaconda. We have more Copper in the Imediate vicinity, than all Montana holds.

The Bonanza and Jumbo, are shipping over Two Million Dollars worth of Ore monthly And this output, is to be doubled in the near future.

The Mother Lode, Another good property but handicapped for want of transporation, Hauling their

Ore, fourteen miles on bob Sleds, and without a semblance of a Road, But if they had a Rail Road to the Mine, it is possible that they would be shipping, a Million or more every month.

The Tjoswig, Property, Undeveloped as it is, shows an immense body of Ore.

The Harper Syndicate, has taken over, the Lakina Copper CO's holdings, and will go ahead with the work as soon as the snow is off the ground, Employing Motor Trucks in Transporting the Ore to Long Lake for shipment. We have been, intimately Acquaintd with M. V. Harper for thirty years and know him to be a successful and practical Miner.

Next we come to the Kuskulana, where Angus McDougal, is holding down a group of Claims that will astonish the smart one,s

Angus, is now in Philadelphia, where he was called by Telegram to Confer with men connected with the biggest Mining Syndicate in the World.

Close by, is the Hubbard and Elliot, mine, holding unbounded wealth.

And we must not overlook the Gray Properties, on Regal Mountain, as they have lots of High Grade in sight.

The Bonanza Gold Mining Company, Have their assessment work done, and it is the belief of every one, that this property will equal the great Kennecott and Jumbo Mines, only two mines distant,

President Geo. Rust. Informs us there will be an Expert here in the early summer to go over the ground and make a final report.

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## THE COPPER BEE

**A Paper Published in the interest of copper development**

**THE RESOURCES OF ALASKA AND ALL THE LATEST WAR DOPE AND SCANDAL EDITED BY THE CAPTAIN**

Price 25 cents per or one buck Rabbit

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*Excerpted from The Copper Bee newspaper, February 19 and 26, 1916 editions.*

*(Note that we tried to reproduce these articles as close to the originals as possible. It is apparent The Copper Bee did not have as fine a proof-reader as does the WSEN!)*

## OUTING

Long Lake

**FISHING HUNTING BOATING**  
**ON THE COPPER RIVER & NORTHWESTERN RY**  
**ROAD HOUSE AND STORE**

Home Comforts

Ed Mullen

All our life' have we aspired, to the lofty and distinguished position of an Editor. But this first trial—and it not half done—has cooled our ardor considerably,

Any one carrying a Fame Bug, under their Hat, Can buy this whole News Paper plant mighty cheap, good reason for selling.

Putting these nasty little letters together, in order to make them up into words is some job, they persist in getting upside down wrong end to' into the wrong box, and cracks in the floor, so we keep them in our pocket, which of course is a slow way of finding the right one, but darn em; we know where they are at.

We are Arrangeing with Colonel mcGuirn. OF OUT DOOR LIFE MAGAZINE to get Mr. Chancey Thomas. To come to our City and take full charge of the Editorial Department of the COPPER BEE. He is so well known here through his Camp Fire Talk, that we believe he could improve our Paper to some extent.

### McCARTHY JOTINGS

Rabbit Catching Anna, was seen hikeing out at four A M yesterday while our game warden was busy sawing wood.

Tenas Jennie. Called at our sanctum a few days ago and left a smile, come again Jen.

Fred. Bode. is preparing to do very extensive work on his Copper Creek property the comeing summer, haveing already shipped In eighty five ton's of supplies. Fred. Is there.

Judge Al. Doze. will freight an outfit to the headwaters of the little bremer some time in april.

Mr. William Godfrey. Manager of the Mother Lode Mine is sure some hustler, freighting the ore down to McCarthy for shipment to the smelter, keeps Bill on the trail day and night.

Quite a number of Shushana Mineing men are to be seen on the streets these days.

The Dog Poisoner is out again stringing his baits; Johnnie Barrett, loseing his leader a few days ago. A person that will poison your dog will also set your house on fire, and shoot you accidetly, he is to be feared and despised.

## THE COPPER BEE

VOLUME ONE McCARTHY, ALASKA,  
 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1916,  
 NUMBER TWO

The school children gave an entertainment at Johnson's hall Friday night, when the kiddies just out did themselves.

Urgent business prevented us from attending which we regret very much.

Mrs. G. A. Strattman, Wife of the local Agent, for the Copper River and NorthWestern Rail Road, left last thursday, for the outside. After a short visit in Seattle, she will go to Dodgeville, Wis. Where Mr. Strattman's people reside.

A few days ago, Mr. G. A. Strattman Called at our Sanctum, and during converstion, it was discovered that our fathers and granfaters were old Cronie's, and had lived but a short distance apart for fifty years.

Mr. Peter Johnson. of Blackburn, is completing his Hotel building on second street McCarthy. This will be one of the best and most substantial buildings in the country. Built of heavy dry logs, hewn to a line, Calked with burlap, then Rustic on the outside and Beaver Board inside, some building.

Mike Shannon. The Daring Oiler on the Jumbo Cable Tram, Was in the City A few days ago.

Uncle "Hi" and Mrs. Sheridan. Will leave for the States about the first of April.

After a three day battle with the snow slides and drifts, the train reached McCarthy with freight and mail for everyone.

McCarthy Alaska. Febr'y 19, 1916

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to Certify, that I Julian Ollivier formerly of the firm of Rust & Ollivier, Conducting the Club Pool Room at McCarthy Alaska.

Hearing that certain people have made statements to the effect that, I had been Swindled by my Partner George Rust, in our Partnership Dealings, Wish to make the following statement,

The misunderstanding which arose between Mr. Rust and myself was caused by certain trouble makers who; having no business of their own, Attempted to make trouble by making lying statements in which they pretended to have knowledge of crooked dealings on Mr. Rust's part.

Now I have had our Paptnership Books, Experted and can say of my own knowledge, that Mr. Rust has dealt honestly and fairly with me, Any statemen to the contrary is a false and malicious lie..

Very Respectfully,

Julian Ollivier.

## Heating today with an idea from yesterday

*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.*

**W**ith the rising price of heating oil, some people are looking to the past for ways to heat their homes.

Masonry heaters, huge masses of stonework wrapped around a sinuous channel through which hot gases flow, are now appearing in Alaska homes. The clean-burning, efficient heaters existed for centuries in Europe and Scandinavia, but didn't reach the shores of America until after the oil crisis of the 1970s.

Bill Reynolds and his wife Brenda Norcross of Fairbanks have heated their 1,400-square-foot house with a masonry heater for more than two winters. Reynolds said they have used two-and-one-half to three cords of wood per year to heat their home, which stays at a constant 70-to-72 degrees Fahrenheit in winter.

A masonry heater looks kind of like a traditional fireplace, but it fires like a wood stove, only faster and hotter. Reynolds fires his heater once a day if the temperature is warmer than minus 10 degrees Fahrenheit outside and twice if it's colder. He stacks an armload of dry wood in the firebox and lights a golf-ball size piece of paper beneath the wood. Air drafted from outside his home gets the fire going like a blast furnace. After his wood disappears in about an hour, the stonework slowly releases the heat, warming the house for the next day or so. When he is firing

the heater, the stovepipe leading from his house emits no smoke, just squiggly air distorted by heat.

Reynolds, the owner of Solutions to Healthy Breathing, a company he designed to improve the air quality of peoples' homes, said his wife has asthma, which made it difficult to use a traditional wood stove.

"In two years (of using the masonry heater), she's had no (asthma) attack," he said. "I couldn't open a wood stove door in the past."

He likes the heater for other reasons, too.

"Not only is it efficient, it's a clean way to heat and it's a work of art in your home," Reynolds said.

Dan Givens of Stonecastle Masonry in Ester built Reynolds' masonry heater, and he has built 27 others. When called on his cell phone recently, Givens answered from a large Fairbanks home in which he and a partner were installing two masonry heaters.

Dave Misiuk, the Wood Energy Specialist at the Cold Climate Housing Research Center in Fairbanks, said more people are stopping in all the time to see the masonry heater just inside the entrance to the center. Givens also built that one.

"A lot of young couples are coming in, thinking of designing their houses," he said.

Masonry heaters are so large (typical models weigh from

4,000 to 12,000 pounds) that it is often easier to build houses around them than to add them to existing homes, said Misiuk, who designed his own house with a masonry heater in the center and an open floor plan.

Europeans historically used smaller masonry heaters to heat portions of their homes while closing off certain rooms during the winter, Misiuk said. Americans tend to want larger masonry heaters that can heat the entire home, but Misiuk said he sees masonry heaters as "a really good component of an integrated heating plan" that would also include a back up heat source and possibly other renewable energy systems.

Because they burn so hot (with the stonework remaining cool enough to touch), masonry heaters are extremely clean and are among the most efficient ways to get heat from cordwood. They are also expensive (Givens has charged between \$8,000 and \$20,000 for his masonry heaters), and materials for them are spendy even for do-it-yourselfers.

"The refractory concrete for the firebox sells for \$22 a bag in the Lower 48, but costs \$117 a bag up here," Misiuk said.

The Cold Climate Housing Research Center is now sponsoring a design contest to make masonry heaters viable for more Alaskans.

"We'd like to try and create a more affordable masonry heater for Alaska," Misiuk said.



## Guns in the parks

BY RICK KENYON

Alaska's U.S. Senators Stevens and Murkowski have joined 45 others in signing a letter asking the Interior Department to repeal federal gun rules for national parks and wildlife refuges. The letter calls the existing guidelines "confusing, burdensome and unnecessary."

The letter, drafted by U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, asks Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne to change rules that prohibit visitors

to most national parks and wildlife refuges from carrying loaded guns.

Alaska's parks have differing regulations concerning carrying of firearms. Wrangell-St. Elias (WRST) is one of the "ANILCA" parks that generally allow loaded firearms.

The only restriction in WRST is the prohibition of the discharging of a firearm at the Kennecott mill site during the summer season. Even that restriction carries the caveat "unless required for defense of life or property."

Other Alaska National Parks are much more restrictive, confusing visitors.

Operable firearms aren't allowed at all in Klondike Gold Rush or Sitka national parks. They're also not allowed in the older parts of Denali, Katmai and Glacier Bay national parks. In Denali, they are not allowed in the area of the park seen by most visitors: the park road, between the Parks Highway and Wonder Lake. In Katmai, operable guns are off-limits at the popular Brooks Camp.

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*"[T]he simple truth—born of experience—is that tyranny thrives best where government need not fear the wrath of an armed people. The prospect of tyranny may not grab the headlines the way vivid stories of gun crime routinely do. But few saw the Third Reich coming until it was too late. The Second Amendment is a doomsday provision, one designed for those exceptionally rare circumstances where all other rights have failed—where the government refuses to stand for reelection and silences those who protest; where courts have lost the courage to oppose, or can find no one to enforce their decrees. However improbable these contingencies may seem today, facing them unprepared is a mistake a free people get to make only once." —Federal Appeals Judge Alex Kozinski*

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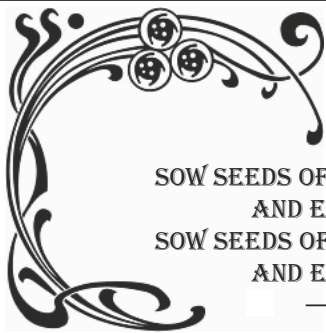
## Alaska National Parks Seeking Public Comment

Alaska's National Parks are inviting comment on each park's Compendium.

The Compendium is a compilation of all designations, closures and restrictions imposed under discretionary authority within the regulations covering national parks. The Compendium, as part of the park-related regulations, helps provide for the use, enjoyment and protection of Alaska's National Parks.

A copy of each park's proposed compendium for the 2008 season is available at [www.nps.gov/akso/compendium](http://www.nps.gov/akso/compendium). A written copy may be requested directly from the park or the National Park Service, 240 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501, Attn: Compendium.

Comments will be accepted by mail or e-mail between January 1 and February 15. Comments are welcome at any time in addition to this timeframe, but comments received after February 15 will be considered in future compendium revisions.



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# The Old



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and

# The New



*Items of Interest*

*Cooking with Peggy*

**A LOOK AT THE WEATHER**

# News

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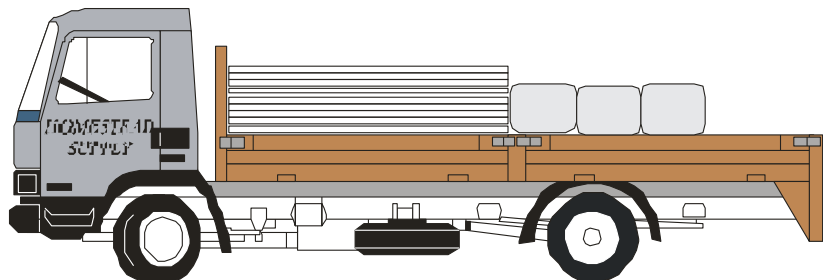
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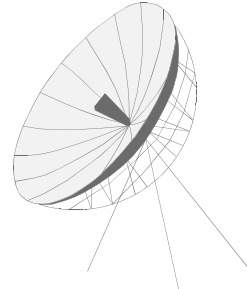
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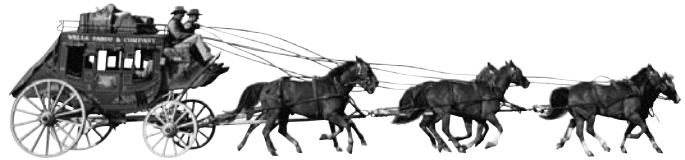
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# Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

**H**i Friends, Hope your holiday season was filled with joy and good food. Ours was so good I'm back at Weight Watchers and actually trying to exercise a couple of days a week! It's because of recipes from folks like you that I'm in this condition but believe me, I loved every bite I ate.

*I have more recipes from those good cooks in McCarthy I would like to share. Katy Englund, Peggy Smith's daughter, worked in the Mercantile with her family this summer. I was hoping she would move to Alaska this winter but I just had a note from her saying she's moved to Florida. It's our loss and their gain, but Katy, we wish you good luck. Katy would like to share a recipe from her Grandma Toot (Peggy's Mom) for **STUFFED GREEN PEPPERS**.*

- 6 large green peppers
- 1 pound ground beef
- 2 cups chopped onion
- 1—16 ounce can tomatoes, cut up
- 2 cups long grain rice
- 2 cups water
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 cup shredded American cheese

Cut tops off and clean peppers. Chop 3 cups of the tops. Cook peppers uncovered in boiling water for 5 minutes. Sprinkle inside with salt.

In a skillet cook the ground beef, onion, and chopped peppers till meat is brown and the vegetables are tender. Drain off

the fat. Add the undrained tomatoes, uncooked rice, water, salt, the Worcestershire, and a dash of pepper.

Bring to boiling, and reduce heat and simmer 15-18 minutes until rice is tender. Stir in the cheese.

Fill the peppers with the meat/rice mixture and stand up in a 10 x 6 x 2 dish. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes.

This recipe is very similar to the one my mother used so I know it's good!

*The next one that Katy wanted to share with you was from her Great, Great Grandma Naylor. She was her Grandpa's Grandma and the recipe is well over 100 years old. It is for **RICE PUDDING**.*

Put 1 quart of milk and 2 cups rice in a pan. Place in a 350 degree oven. Stir the mixture 2 or 3 times during the first 10 minutes. Cook 45 minutes to an hour until the rice is cooked. Remove from the oven and add 2 cups of sugar. Stir twice during the next 5 minutes and let it cool.

Doesn't that sound good to eat on one of these nice cold days. Thanks, Katy, and to your Grandpa Joe who was kind enough to send you the recipe.

*Now I want to give you one that Bonnie Kenyon served us one night when we went to dinner. It was so.o.o. good. It was for **FROSTY KEY LIME PIE**.*

- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
- 6 tablespoons key lime juice

- 2 cups heavy whipping cream, whipped (divided)
- 1-9" graham cracker crust

In a large bowl, combine the milk and lime juice. Refrigerate 3 cups of the whipped cream for the garnish. Fold a fourth of the remaining whipped cream into the lime mixture and then fold in the rest of the whipped cream. Spoon the mixture into the crust. Cover and freeze overnight.

Remove from the freezer 10-15 minutes before serving. Garnish with the reserved whipped cream. It makes 6-8 servings unless I'm there! And then it makes only 4 or 5!

*Remember the last (Nov./Dec.) issue of the WSEN and the article about Barbara Rice and her friend Linda Whitman canoeing down the Yukon? I promised you a recipe from Linda for her delicious **PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES**. She gave me the recipe when they got back to McCarthy and of course, I made them right away. Enjoy.*

- ½ cup margarine
- ½ cup peanut butter
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 ¼ cups flour

Mix all the ingredients and freeze. After they are frozen at least 24 hours you cut the "hunk" into 1 inch size pieces without defrosting. Roll into balls. Roll in sugar and place in your baking sheet. Smash with a



fork and bake at 375 degrees until done.

The thing I like about this recipe is that you could make up several batches and freeze and then just take them out and make them as you need a dessert.

*The next one I found in Chitina, Alaska. We were headed into McCarthy for the first time that season and we stopped in Chitina for gas and a cup of coffee. Right there on the counter was that thing I absolutely cannot resist — a cookbook. It is called Cooking at the Cabin by Carol Alley. Of course I bought it and took it with me out to McCarthy and when my daughter Kim and her husband Richard shared their bountiful catches of salmon with us I tried one of Carol's recipes and it has now become a fa-*

*vorite. It's called*  
**ASIAN-GLAZED ALASKA WILD SALMON.**

2 cups brown sugar  
1/3 cup soy sauce  
2 tablespoons hoisin sauce  
2 tablespoons peeled and sliced ginger  
Dried red pepper flakes  
2 teaspoons chopped garlic  
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice  
1½ to 2 pounds red salmon fillets

Place the sugar, soy sauce, hoisin sauce, ginger, a dash of red pepper flakes, garlic and lime juice in a medium non-reactive saucepan. Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce the heat to medium and cook for 15 to 20 minutes or until the sauce forms a glaze. Set aside.

Preheat the broiler. Place the fillets on a broiler pan and baste

with the sauce. Let set for 15 minutes. Broil them until cooked through, about 8 minutes, basting again with the glaze. Remove the salmon from the heat and baste once more with the glaze before serving. This works very well on the Barby. Cook on non-stick foil and turn once.

By the way, in case you are wondering what a "non-reactive saucepan" is. It is Stainless Steel, Glass, or Ceramic material. They are called non-reactive because these materials don't react with acidic ingredients the way copper and aluminum do.

*In case you would like to buy a copy of Mrs. Alley's cookbook, just write to me here at the paper and I'll ask her to send you the information. Have a good winter and I'll see you here in the spring.*

## A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

October 2007 was just about average in both temperature and precipitation.

The average temperature for October was 30.3 (33.2 in Oct. '06, 30.0 in Oct. '05 and 31.1 in Oct. '04). This was about 4 degrees above normal. The high was 50 on October 14<sup>th</sup> (50 on Oct. 12, '06, 53 on Oct. 3 '05, 52 on Oct. 7, '04 and 75 on Oct. 2, '03). The low was 4 on October 19<sup>th</sup> (6 on Oct. 29, '06, -1 on Oct 30, '05, -5 on Oct. 23, '04 and 0 on Oct. 31, '03). There were 3 days with the low 10 or lower and 1 day with the high of 50.

The total liquid precipitation was 0.82 inches (5.65 in Oct. '06, 0.40 in Oct. '05, 3.27 in Oct. '04 and 0.61 in Oct. '03). Total snowfall for October of 7.8 inches (8.4 in Oct. '06, 3.7 in Oct '05, 12.3 in Oct. '04 and 3.5 in Oct. '03). The snow depth at McCarthy was 0 inches on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and increased to 5 inches on the 25<sup>th</sup> and ended the month with 2 inches on the ground.

The first half of November saw above average temperatures and heavy snowfall. The data for the second half will be missing as I will be away until February.

Here are a few totals as of November 15. The high was 43 on November 1<sup>st</sup> (26 on Nov 1, '06, 15 on

Nov 10, '05 and 43 on Nov 10, '04) and the low was -7 on November 13<sup>th</sup> (-29 on Nov 15, '06, -32 on Nov 6, '05 and -7 on Nov. 17, '04). Liquid precipitation was 1.40 inches with 17.5 inches of snow, compared with 0.01 inches and 0.2 inches of snow in '06 and 0.55 inches and 10.4 inches of snow in '05. There was 17 inches of snow on ground, most of it fell on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

I'll do my best to summarize November in the next issue.

December and January are usually the coldest months with lows falling to -50 and colder.

Daylight is down to just under 5 hours by December 21, before it begins to increase again.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oct. 31, 2007

Dear Bonnie and Rick,

There are so many interesting stories in the WSEN. The coverage on Tischeria and Joshua's Alaskan Wedding — how holy and romantic it was! May their lives be richly Blessed.

The Robert Hale story was sad indeed.

I do so enjoy reading and clipping some of Peggy's recipes which are quite unique. Keep them coming, thank you.

It was good to read the article on the "Zak House" and the fire protection it will receive (you may recall my maiden name was Zak, and Tony was my cousin—Helen and I still keep in touch.

While my health holds out I have been trying to take more "far away trips" and was in Israel again on a pilgrimage, also going to Athens and Ephesus and several Greek Islands in the "footsteps of Paul."

I still think of McCarthy, my happy visits there and hope I can return some day. Still keep in touch with "Denny" too.

Keep up the good work and hope you keep the WSEN as is and not get too fancy.

Take care and have a good year.  
Many Blessings,  
Wanda Peddle

Dec. 28, 2007

Hello,

I recently came upon your December 2006 article which spoke about Martin Radovan and the Ra-

dovan Prospect. Actually, I had Googled "Radovan" just out of curiosity. I've found myself reminiscing lately about some of the grand adventures I enjoyed while growing up in the Copper River Valley.

I was raised on a homestead in the Kenny Lake area. After high school, while looking for summer employment, I came upon a recruitment put out by Geneva Pacific Corporation. They were looking for laborers for a copper prospect in the McCarthy area. I responded to their ad and was immediately hired. At that time, a man named Johnny Wilson was the Superintendent for Geneva Pacific. I met him when I was flown out to the Peavine Bar.

Johnny explained that I would be working on one of several prospects that the company was looking at; the Radovan Prospect. With a hand drawn map, I was sent to join up with two Mexican miners (Mike DelGado and Frank Ruiz) who were working that location. I think this was a "trial by fire" as it was clear that no assistance would be given in finding the prospect.... So I set off up the Glacier Creek trail and turned right at the Chitistone. Martin Radovan's camp was located on the map and I passed it just before I began the climb up to the prospect. And quite a climb it was. I was 19 years old at the time and thought I was ten feet tall and bullet proof. I found out that day what "tough" really is. In any case, I met up with the miners and took up my duties as pack mule. Now about Martin;

I did not meet Martin Radovan until later in the summer. I saw

him from time to time as I passed his camp going to and from the mine. I did not approach him as Johnny had informed me that he kept to himself and did not really appreciate company. He would, however, always lift a hand in greeting as I passed by. On one occasion, he did wave for me to come over to the camp and there, without the formalities of introduction, asked me if I would help him turn over a large wooden trough. He said he wanted to use it for a planter. Of course I was glad to help him, but the somewhat pointed silence that followed let me know that the interchange was concluded. The only other time I actually had contact with Martin was late that summer (1972) when Johnny asked me to help get him to a plane, explaining that he would be going out for a while. I suspect that this may be the plane ride to Cordova referred to in the article.

It is a marvel (well, not really) that these memories have not faded over the years. It seems I can recall every detail of that wonderful summer. Many articles have been written over the years detailing the prospects and the hardy miners who worked them in that area. When I do find a thread about those times and places, I follow every detail. I hope that I have the chance to revisit Peavine and the Glacier Creek at least one more time.

For now, thanks for the article and I believe I will be following this letter with a subscription request.

Yours truly,  
Dennis C. Helkenn Sr.

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*"We must never forget that no government schemes are going to perfect man. We know that living in this world means dealing with what philosophers would call the phenomenology of evil or, as theologians would put it, the doctrine of sin. There is sin and evil in the world, and we're enjoined by Scripture and the Lord Jesus to oppose it with all our might." —Ronald Reagan*

# FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

## Some thoughts on competition:

“Like many businessmen of genius he learned that free competition was wasteful, monopoly efficient.  
—Mario Puzo, *The Godfather*, 14, 1969

“The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win, you’re still a rat.”—Lily Tomlin

“The breakfast of champions is not cereal, it’s the competition.”—Nick Seitz

“Don’t look back. Something may be gaining on you.”—Leroy “Satchel” Paige

BY RICK KENYON

Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative (CVTC) has asked permission from the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) to raise the rate ceiling for its McCarthy customers some 315% for residential and business customers and 2293% for “Lifeline” customers.

This in response to GCI’s announcement that it plans to compete with CVTC by offering service in Valdez.

If implemented, residential customers in McCarthy who currently pay a base rate of \$13.45 could see that rate increase to \$55.93 per month, which is what CVTC’s CEO and General Manager Dave Dengel says it costs the company to provide service here. Business lines could climb to \$81.50 for simple or \$98.35 for complex, or for pay-phones.

“The filing reflects what our actual costs are today to provide residential service in the various exchanges,” says Dengel. “Today, it costs CVTC \$55.93 per month to provide residential service in McCarthy,” he says.

Why have McCarthy residents been paying less than what it costs the company to provide the service?

Dengel explains: “Because we are able to average out total costs network-wide we are able to provide residential service to all of our cus-

tomers at \$13.45 per month. However, because of how GCI is proposing to enter our market and ‘cream skim,’ CVTC must be ready to adjust rates in the other higher-cost exchanges as local revenues are lost in the Valdez exchange.”

On a recent trip to McCarthy Dave explained that the GCI competition would not only reduce the number of Valdez customers, but will likely result in CVTC having to lower its rates in Valdez in order to compete. Since the large base of Valdez customers help make up for the losses in outlying areas such as McCarthy, that loss would have to be made up somewhere.

Copper Valley’s first filing was turned down by the Commission. However they have asked for a reconsideration which is pending review. The notice of filing was not advertised in McCarthy. We only became aware of it by seeing it in the *Copper River Record*, the Copper Center/Glennallen area newspaper. Likely those readers were not too alarmed, as their rates would only increase 13%, to \$15.21. There are some 2056 customers in the Glennallen area, and 94 in McCarthy.

Hardest hit would be the Lifeline customers who currently pay \$1 per month for wireless service. If the new rates are approved, that could skyrocket nearly 2400% to \$23.95. It is not known how many of

these customers there are in McCarthy, but it is difficult to imagine that there are enough to make any real difference in the company’s bottom line.

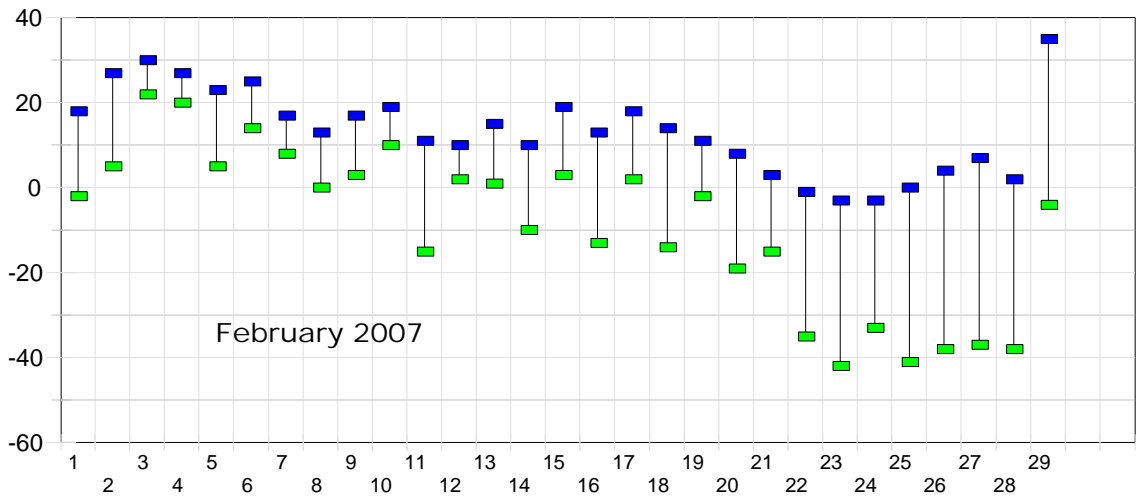
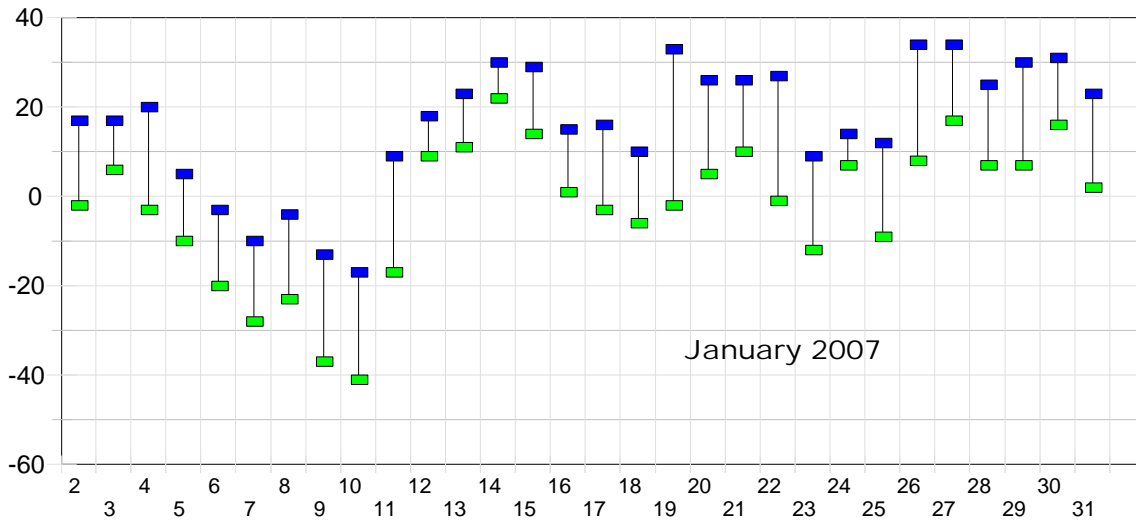
In it’s filing, CVTC acknowledges the hardship the rate increases would bring, and blames it on GCI. “CVTC believes some of its requested exchange-specific local rates are well above a likely affordability level. This is an unfortunate consequence of competition.”

Dengel says that even if the Commission approves the rate increase, it will not be automatic. “It is the intent of CVTC to keep rates affordable for all of our customers,” he says. “The proposed postage stamp rate of \$18.94 per month for residential service is what CVTC will most likely institute over time.” (Postage Stamp is the term used for “everybody pays the same rate, no matter how much it costs to serve them.”)

*Wrangell St. Elias News* has decided to “do our bit” to help the company cut costs. Since our FAX line was costing CVTC a revenue loss of \$42.48 each month (the difference between what we were paying and what it cost to provide the service) we have canceled that phone line and gone to an Internet based FAX service. If you want to send us a FAX please use our new, toll-free number of (866) 487-7657.

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“An opinion, right or wrong, can never constitute a moral offense, nor be in itself a moral obligation. It may be mistaken; it may involve an absurdity, or a contradiction. It is a truth, or it is an error; it can never be a crime or a virtue.” —Francis Wright



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