

# Wrangell St. Elias News

*"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"*

Volume Twenty Issue One

January & February 2011

\$2.50



Photo courtesy Ray and Lee Ann Kreig

Paul Hanis, Jenny Rosenbaum and dog Opus, of McCarthy, are taking time out from Ice Carving at Town Square in downtown Anchorage—all in time for New Year's Celebration. Subscribers Ray and Lee Ann Kreig were on hand to snap a photo for *WSEN*. Paul and Jenny teamed up to chain saw, shape, shave, smooth and etch blocks of ice, creating a winter theme titled, "Celebrating Winter." Large and small snowflakes, a down-hill skier and several other designs brought their ice fountain piece to the attention of *Anchorage Daily News* as well as this humble publication. Be sure to check out the photo gallery at [adn.com](http://adn.com) and find other pictures of this fine couple and Opus who was dubbed, "the cutest member of the team." Congratulations, Paul, Jenny and Opus!



WSEN staff photo

"You've got mail!" says Kennicott resident, Marie Thorn, who is helping mail pilot, Dave Parmenter, unload McCarthy area mail. A handful of other locals showed up for the first official mail day of the new year—Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Copper Valley Air Service, based out of Gulikana, is our mail carrier. Starting in 2011 our bi-weekly mail days are changing from Wednesdays and Fridays to Mondays and Thursdays. An extra day in-between should help even out the amount of incoming mail to sort. In the past, with the influx of summer folks, Wednesday's mail load was extremely heavy and Friday's, low in volume. Now it's just a matter of getting the word out to all our mail day participants.



# A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

**H**APPY NEW YEAR from our house to yours! Rick and I pray 2011 is the best year of your life. *The Wrangell St. Elias News* is turning 19 years old this summer with the July/August issue. We appreciate all our subscribers and advertisers. Thank you for your support and participation in this publication.

Please take note of the inclusion of the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum’s January 2011 newsletter. We were asked to print it in its entirety in this issue. If you are not a member of this fine institution, please consider joining. It’s also a good reminder for those of us who need to renew our existing membership.

Rick and I left McCarthy November 5<sup>th</sup> and traveled to Daytona Beach, Florida, where we enjoyed visiting with family and friends. Dad Kenyon is 91; my mom is “almost” 90. Both of our folks still drive and are thankful for good health. Our son, Rick Jr., his wife, Maria, and our 4 grandsons, ages 10-17 (Caleb, Joshua, Stephen and Jonathan) drove down from Georgia to spend several days during the Thanksgiving holiday. We relished our quality time together and managed to fit in a few rousing games of dominoes and visit a couple educational/tourist attractions.

Rick and I and our friends, Mark and Suzie Malcolm, did our annual excursion to Canaveral National Seashore Park, where we viewed numerous alligators. All of them were basking in the sunshine and seemed quite oblivious to our eagerness to capture their pictures. Actually, I was glad they

ignored us! At the end of our “scenic” drive on what is called the Bio Lab Road is a favorite restaurant where sampling seafood is a priority for the four of us. Last year when I saw the name of the road we were driving on, I had a few misgivings. The name sounded ominous. When I think of that dirt road, I am more inclined to call it “Alligator Alley.”



When we arrived home on December 21st, the outside temperature (mid-afternoon) was -30. That was probably the high for the day! The next day the low was -43. Our minimum thermometer read -48 F. which occurred while we were gone. Once again, our neighbor Jim Edwards, had plowed our driveway enabling us to drive up to the shop/garage. Thank you, Jim! On Christmas Day we ventured out on a snowmachine to enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by Audrey. Several hours later the tem-

peratures continued to drop to -36. It took a bit of coaxing to get the snowmachine track to turn and keep moving towards home. Thankfully, it’s only about a mile between our homes.

On a sad note, we are saying goodbye to three subscribers and friends—Kennicott Kid, Nan (Moore) Henderson; Dee Leray Wilson; and Joseph “Harold” Michal. Thanks to those of you who made sure *WSEN* was informed of their passing and for submitting the material.

*Wrangell St. Elias News* welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Julie Loxley, UK; Diane Minish, NC; and Ann Dure, AK.

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# Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

**Jim Kreblin:** Rick and I left home the first week of November to visit our family in Florida. Driving past Long Lake, we noticed the lake was only partially frozen. We called Jim to say our good-byes. With the ice not safe for traveling, we could see why Jim was sticking close to home.

When we returned to McCarthy on December 21<sup>st</sup> Jim was in “winter mode.” The lake was frozen at last and safe for travel. Jim met us by the road to surprise us with donuts. Just what we needed to get us the rest of the way home. Thanks, Jim!

In spite of the extreme cold temperatures that had found their way to our valley while we were gone, Jim managed to get his truck started so he could visit daughter Lindsay, Kurt and grandson Luke Allen who are in Palmer for the winter. (Be sure and read the next *item* for the exciting news behind the motivation for his trip!) His neighbors, Jim Stripe and Mark Vail, did Jim a great favor by keeping a wood stove fire going for him and checking in on Jim’s two critters: his own dog Max Pheeble and Lindsay and Kurt’s dog, Maverick.

Until the temperatures decide to head up instead of down, Jim

says he’s going to “hang loose” indoors as much as possible. It’s a good time to plan the next **Long Lake Fishing Derby**. March 12<sup>th</sup> is the day and 11 a.m. is the starting time. Jim’s hoping that some of the Anchorage-based “McCarthyites” will be able to make it this year. There could be one down side to this year’s derby—Mark Vail who always makes the chili will be in Anchorage working. It’s hard to imagine our annual derby minus Mark’s delicious chili!

**CONGRATULATIONS to the Jensen family!** Kurt, Lindsay and Luke Allen have added another Jensen to their “family.” **Alayah Cecile Faith Jensen** was born on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 a.m. at the Matsu Midwifery in Wasilla. She weighed 8 lb. 4 oz. and “came out with a bang,” says Kurt. Unlike Luke Allen’s arrival (55 hours labor), Alayah caught everyone by surprise. Arriving at the Midwifery at 4:20 a.m., Lindsay and the midwife only had 10 minutes to prepare for Alayah’s entrance to the world. Shortly after her arrival, Alayah was transported to Providence Hospital for treatment of possible pneumonia. She and her folks spent a week in Anchorage but made it back to Palmer in

time to celebrate Christmas together.

Thankfully, “Grandpa” Jim was on hand to babysit Luke Allen the night of Alayah’s delivery. Don and Lynn Welty, who were also in town took over (or should I say rescued) Luke’s care.

According to Kurt, Luke loves Alayah and makes sure she gets plenty of hugs and kisses. There are exactly 20 months age difference between brother and sister.

Kurt says they are enjoying their winter stay in Palmer and making new friends. He is substitute teaching for the Matsu Borough. They plan on staying in town through the winter and returning to McCarthy in early spring.

**Mark Vail:** When I called Mark, he was busy cleaning house, packing his bags for Anchorage, and wishing for warmer weather. I asked him what his coldest temperature was while we were gone and he said, “-43!” No wonder he’s heading for the big city. (I’m kidding, of course.)

Mark is no slouch for McCarthy winters. He enjoys the peace and quiet of the season, especially after a very busy summer with numerous activities in McCarthy. Feeding the winter birds such as the chickadees, Grosbeaks and

**Wrangell St. Elias News** (USPS 011301) VOL. Twenty, Issue One, January & February 2011 .

Published every two months at McCarthy, Alaska. McCarthy, PO Box MXY, Glennallen, AK 99588-8998. Phone (907) 554-4454. FAX 1-866-487-7657. **E-mail: WSEN@wsen.net** “Copyright © 2011 by Wrangell St. Elias News. No part of this publication may be reproduced by any means without the express permission of the publishers.”

Contributors to this issue: Peggy Guntis, Dee Frady, Meg Jensen, Tim Mowry and Ned Rozell. Subscription price is \$14 for one year in the USA. Canada \$16. Other countries \$23. Advertising rates upon request.

Deadline for publication in next issue is February 15.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT GLENNALLEN, AK. 99588.

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

woodpeckers, is one of his favorite pastimes. The flocks of Grosbeaks are decreased in numbers this year, he says. His somewhat tame Hairy woodpecker has returned for his third year in a row. Although his nest is about a mile away, "Hairy" seeks Mark out to get the usual peanut butter fix.

With binoculars in hand, Mark's entertainment has been watching a band of sheep on Fireweed Mountain. They appeared in October and made their departure Christmas Eve. He also enjoyed viewing a moose cow and her calf foraging on willows at the 3,000 ft. level. Mark says they were wintering "in the Banana Belt."

Although it was chilly, Mark ventured out with his snowmachine for a Christmas Eve dinner at Rick and Tara Petter's cabin on the Nizina River. Thankfully, the temperatures in their neighborhood were warmer. Also joining the Petter family and Mark were Jeremy, Ally, Bjorn and baby Jacob Keller. The Kellers live about 1 ½ miles from the Petters. They had a grand time and Mark made it back home without a hitch—except for an unexpected encounter with a ptarmigan which he flushed from its nesting spot by the road. Fresh lynx tracks greeted him when he pulled up in his yard. Looks like Mark had company while he was gone.

It's time for Mark's trip to Anchorage to "build up his grub stake." This year he'll be loading up his new transportation system—a recently acquired 2001 Subaru—with his skis and skates. In-between work he hopes to visit friends and take in the winter activities of Anchorage. Have a great time, Mark. See you in time for the spring McCarthy Area Council meeting at the end of March!

**Howard and Chris Haley:** When I called the Haley's the oth-

er night, I was surprised to hear Howard answer. He said he had taken 3 months off from his park service job. It sounds like he picked the right time. Chris is in Valdez working, keeping her Certified Nurses Assistant license current. With such a long stretch of cold weather, Howard can keep the home fires burning! And that's just what he is doing, he says. "Seriously burning wood" from his woodshed and waiting for the weather to warm so he can do a few outdoor projects.

Sometime after the new year, Chris plans on traveling to Fairbanks to attend a 2-week class to upgrade her Commercial Drivers License. It looks like Rick and I will have to get our next hair cut in the big city!

**Trig Trigiano:** Speaking of hair cuts...Trig is sporting a new hair-do! While we were still in Florida, Trig emailed us with the news he was now bald and he did it himself. I don't expect him to do a "show and tell" at mail until it warms up a bit, but I can tell you that he looks great. His beard has remained intact, however, which is good winter insulation.

This is Trig's first official winter residency since his retirement. He does not have time to get bored, he says. His coldest temperature to-date is -44 degrees F. He's getting quite a taste for the winter season! "Kitty" (his pet cat) who is 10 years old isn't impressed with cold temperatures so he is quick to let his owner know when the stove needs filling. Of course that makes splitting firewood a priority, filling the wood stove every 4 hours, as well as maintaining generators and repairing his 4-wheeler and truck (scheduled for warmer weather).

In his "spare" time he is redoing his propane plumbing system, thawing frozen pipes, cooking,

reading, emailing, moderating an internet chat room (in the evenings), going to mail once or twice a week and acting as a "stove watcher" for the church. Whew! Well, now you can understand why boredom is not in his vocabulary these days.

Recently Trig decided he could use a few supplies and some extra gas. Since it was *only* -25 at his house, he took off in his truck for Kenny Lake. However, when he arrived at Wenger's Country Store, he discovered their thermometer showed -35. Needless to say, he didn't hang around too long but did his shopping in record time and headed for home, Kitty and the wood stove! Thankfully, he didn't encounter any serious problems en route.

Although he is already planning to do a bit of "fine tuning" for next winter, he is pleased with the performance of his root cellar during the cold snap. With the use of 2 - 100 watt light bulbs, the temperature is staying in the area of 47 degrees. Congratulations, Trig, on your first winter stay in the McCarthy suburbs. You're doing great!

**Dave Williams and Marie Thorn:** This fine young couple calls Kennicott "home" but, for the last few winters, they've left in the fall to find further work throughout the winter months. Their local summer jobs are seasonal.

What a wonderful surprise to find Dave and Marie still here when Rick and I returned from Florida mid-December. They decided to stay put for the major part of the winter so they could continue the work on their house. In spite of the cold temperatures in the valley (Dave says their lowest recording has been -29.), they have made great progress on insulating their floor, dry wall work, wiring and sanding walls. Dave said it can get rather dusty inside their place, so they are thankful for

the use of Marie's parents' house for cooking and eating. Steve and Diane's house is right next door.

I asked Dave for a population count of Kennicott area and he came up with a total of 6 folks, including he and Marie. They all use the same water source which comes in mighty handy when neighbors share in keeping the hole in the ice from getting too thick in-between uses.

"Water and wood are close by," says Dave "and Marie and I are spending time reading, drinking coffee and listening to the radio." They are even finding time to do one of their favorite pastimes—cross-country skiing.

Plans in the near future include a trip to Mexico for a couple weeks then on to the New Orleans Jazz Heritage Festival where both Dave and Marie will help with the initial preparations that go into making this an annual gala. They are eager to see friends and family that also make this an annual event as well.

Have safe and enjoyable travels, Dave and Marie, and congratulations on all the hard work being accomplished this winter on your special home in Kennicott!

**Jim and Audrey Edwards:** Audrey recently returned from her annual trip to Las Vegas and Disneyland. Her sister, Marilyn, her niece, Melody, and Melody's daughter-in-law, Melissa, accompanied her this year. (Or maybe she was accompanying them.) Whatever the case, she says she had a great time. Once they arrived back in Anchorage, Audrey and her sister took their time shopping, hoping McCarthy would warm up. Looking at the forecast didn't produce much hope that a warming trend was in the works. She finally decided to head home anyway and, thankfully, made it without a problem.

While Audrey was out of state "playing," Jim was doing a bit of that himself. His new Ski-Do (model SWT) snowmachine needed a driver

and he was just the one to break it in. Besides taking him to mail twice a week, (even at -40) he gave the machine quite a workout. "It crawls up and down snow berms great. The super-wide track makes terrific paths, is very capable and stable, and great for wood detail," says Jim.

The only downside is the "complicated" overhaul manual. He's hoping he doesn't have to use it anytime soon!

According to Jim, their diesel generator got quite a rest while Audrey was gone. Instead of running an average of 4 hours a day, he said the generator only had to work about 4 hours total for the entire 3 ½ weeks Audrey was in town. I think our generator would feel quite lonely if it only had that much attention, Jim!

Welcome home, Audrey, and congratulations on your new workhorse, Jim!!

**WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT:** Paul Hanis and Jenny Rosenbaum made public the following announcement on Facebook. Saturday 10, 2011 at 2:00 pm - Sunday, September 11, 2010 at 12:00 am. Location: McCarthy, AK. "Consider this an informal save the date for our (relatively) informal big day. For anyone wanting to start making plans to make it out to McCarthy for the wedding in September (the Saturday after Labor Day weekend) feel free to contact us with questions, etc., regarding transport, best times to plan your trip and places to stay. We'll get more info out to everyone as the date approaches. We hope many of you plan on making your way out to the Wrangells for it! Ah. And here's an easy way to remember the date. It's 9.10.11."

(On Facebook there was a place to click on if you were planning to attend, maybe or not able.)

**Nik Merlino:** Speaking of Facebook...Nik responded with an *Item*. "I have been enjoying this warm temperature. Not much happens in November and December in

McCarthy, right? Basically I've been collecting wood (who hasn't) and getting ready to go to Arizona in a few days for the Canyon trip. I fly out the 9<sup>th</sup> of January. I've read a few books this winter and have done some minor projects around the house, but mostly I've been a 'homebody.'"

Nik's next float trip is scheduled for January 20-February 13. He'll celebrate his 31<sup>st</sup> birthday on the water February 8<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday, Nik, and be safe!

**Neil Darish:** Neil returned to McCarthy the same day Rick and I traveled home. We all made it just fine. The McCarthy Road was super smooth, thanks to the DOT Chitina crew! All the pot holes were filled with hard-packed snow and the ice glaciers were barely noticeable.

Now that Neil is home, he is relaxing and enjoying his winter walks; however, we are so sorry to report that Neil's faithful dog, Gulo, passed away while still in Anchorage. The good news is that the Keller "farm" just might have a dog-to-loan for Neil's walking companion.

While the town is asleep and, in some cases, in hibernation, Neil is not. He shared that I—and other locals—should be "ready for a very different 2011 season." Although he couldn't give many details yet, he stated that McCarthy Ventures is undergoing many "fundamental changes." More food and entertainment events are in the making, he said, and encouraged us to expect good things once the beginning of the summer season rolls around.

Unless Neil changes his mind, the McCarthy gift shop just might move back to its former location across from Wrangell Mountain Air.

Even though I'm not quite ready to move into the busy summer season, I am eager to see the new changes unfold for our town and for McCarthy Ventures!

# the Languid Lady

## Trees and Shurbs of the Wrangells—Part 1: “Conifers”

BY DEE FRADY

Today brought the first significant snowfall of the season. As Christmas fast approaches—the world takes on a beautiful mantle of snow, especially on the trees and shrubs. Today, Terry and I found and cut our Christmas tree. This time I planned to write a simple botany lesson but became drawn to the subject of trees instead.

Alaska does not have many types of trees. The Aleutian Islands and the far north reaches of our state have relatively few native trees. Most of the varieties of Alaska's trees are relatively slow growing. Nevertheless, we have several types in the Wrangells that are important to our surroundings, wildlife and lifestyle. The area comprises vegetation species of spruce-hardwood forests, alpine tundra, coastal spruce-hemlock forests and, of course, ice and snow. Smaller patches of bog, wet tundra and shrub thickets also occur. I am going to focus on the spruce forests first.

WHITE SPRUCE (*Picea glauca*) Pine Family

The white spruce is an evergreen and considered the most common tree of interior Alaska. As well as being the most abundant, it is also the most important commercial tree species. These conifers grow 40-70 feet high with trunks averaging up to

18 inches in diameter. On good sites, white spruce may grow to 115 feet high with 30 inch trunks. On the other hand, they can become a prostrate shrub at timberline. They are 100 to 200 years old at maturity. These trees grow best on well drained, south-facing slopes and seldom grow where permafrost is close to the surface. White spruce can also hybridize (cross-breed) with black spruce where their ranges overlap.

The character of spruce “leaves” comprises sharp, stiff needles, ½ to ¾ inch long, blue-green in color with whitish lines and grow on all sides of the twigs. These needles shed quickly when dry and have a sharp odor when crushed. The outer bark is gray and smooth or scaly plates. White spruce has whitish inner bark (cambium), and nearly white wood. (Note: The cambium layer typically shows up as darker patches on log cabins when not fully peeled off.) The brown cones are cylindrical, without stalks, up to 2¼ inches long with rounded scales that hang down on the branches. Mature cones fall off in the spring—that is, the ones that remain after the squirrels finish tossing them off in the fall. The seeds produced in the cones are brown, 3/8 inch long with a large wing. The periodic seed production occurs about once

every three years. Slightly drooping branches with upturned ends produce many, small, drooping side twigs. The young, small spruce transplants well as long as you get plenty of roots and give them plenty of water.

White spruces have shallow root systems that grow in the top few inches of soil. When the soil temperature reaches 41 degrees Fahrenheit or less the roots cannot grow, that is why the roots search through the warmer topsoil, avoid permafrost and grow near the surface. Of course this trait makes them susceptible to high wind damage. It is not unusual to find wind blown spruce lying with the uprooted base intact and out of the ground. Spruce roots also release an acid into the soil that helps deter encroaching competition from other plants.

There are many pests that attack our spruce trees. Among them are spruce budworm (eats buds and needles), gall aphids (cause galls on twigs) and woolly aphids (appear as woolly tufts on branches). Spruce needle rust occurs fairly often and it also attacks Labrador Tea as part of the life cycle. The rust produces bright orange spore masses that only attack new needles. Another rust called “broom rust” is a very common disease that invades the woody parts of spruce and results in dense branch clusters,

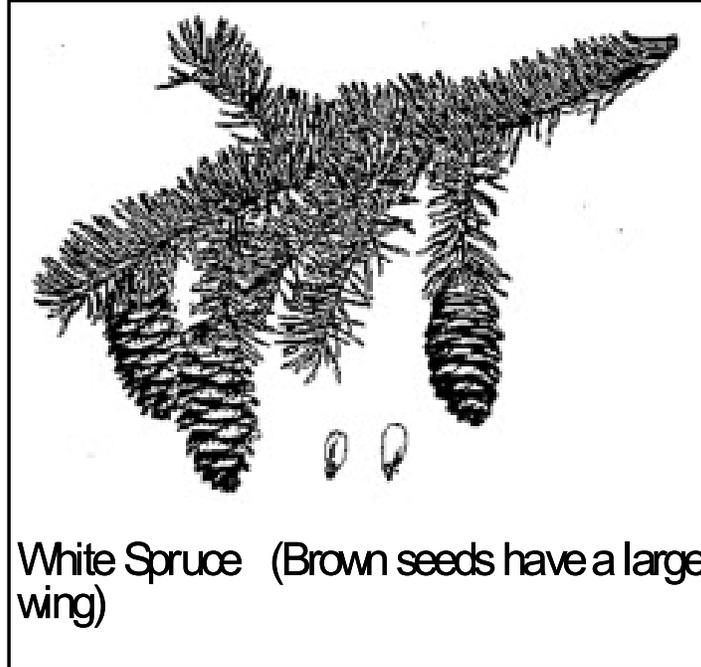
locally known as “witches’ broom.” This oddity results in frequently asked questions. We have them on most of our spruce in this area and they can grow to great proportions with many dense, twisted, intertwined twigs. Another frequent question concerns burls that cause a large growth on or encompass the trunk of the tree. This particular oddity has no known cause but the theory is that a growth over an irritant, similar to the formation of pearls in oysters. Carpenter ants are a serious problem for these trees as they tunnel into the heartwood for shelter to make nests for their young. Very impressive is finding a broken spruce trunk

that has a honeycomb system inside tunneled by these ants. No question about it, the spruce beetle tops the list of pests and causes the most damage. This bark beetle bores through the bark and feeds and breeds underneath. This kills the tree by girdling and destroying the layer of tissue that transports the nutrients by the roots to the needles. This pest can increase to epidemic numbers. Great stands of dead spruce blanket many areas and occur locally near Kennicott.

Worth noting is the conks that grow on some spruce trunks. Conks are fruiting bodies of decay fungi. Woodburning and painting on conks are popular craft uses. Finally the lichen trailing gracefully from the branches has the common name “Old Man’s Beard.” If you see a

tree with a distinctive curve or bend in it (like an elbow), the cause is not by any disease or pest but, rather from snow load when it was a sapling.

White spruce has many uses. They provide shelter and homes



**White Spruce (Brown seeds have a large wing)**

for many species of birds and mammals. Grouse eat the needles. Squirrels build nests, gather the cones and eat the seeds. Found beneath older spruce are huge piles of the cones and their remains, collectively called a midden. Porcupines feed on the inner bark (cambium layer) that results in some interesting growth areas in later years.

An important traditional and current use of these conifers includes house logs for cabin building. Log furniture constructed to furnish these cabins are another use. The roots, peeled and woven, make unique baskets. Did you know that spruce tips are edible and make tea, jelly and beer? New growth on the tips of spruce branches collected in late spring makes

spruce tip beer, a popular alcoholic beverage with early settlers. It’s an excellent source of vitamin C and on Captain Cook’s expeditions the beer was important in the prevention of scurvy. My friend Mark has made this

beer and Terry can attest to its good taste! Many other uses abound such as lumber or fuelwood and historically, corduroy roads, spruce gum and a source of fuel for steam engines.

As you might have guessed, this was a subject near and dear to me. These trees have helped to make ours and other lives possible here. My spouse, Terry, and I were able to build and create a home, business and guest cab-

in from spruce logs. These trees heat our home and cook our food. I have used a wood cookstove and its oven for nearly fifteen years now. We have been able to live a much more self-sufficient lifestyle and create our niche in the Wrangells. Our log walls have porcupine “chews” and each log brings memories of place and time. Our store sign hangs from two logs with burls that visitors enjoy. We have large patches of spruce around us and the wildlife associated with them. A large and deadly wildfire swept our area in the early part of this century. Many enormous stumps and charred trunks still remain on this hillside. The willow, birch and other deciduous trees reclaimed the forest first.

Next in succession came the spruce and although not yet as large as their predecessors they have grown to a good size. The

mountainside covered with small spruce, grows for future generations to enjoy.

*Editor's Note: This story originally appeared in our January & February 1999 issue.*

## Guns on the homestead

### Part four—The .22 rimfire

BY RICK KENYON

In past issues we have discussed shotguns, rifles and handguns, mainly from the standpoint of defense against bears. Although there are those who don't think that guns have a role to play in bear encounters, after 35 years of bush living I maintain that they do.

However, I have to admit that for every shot fired in defense or protection of property, literally thousands of rounds have been fired in hunting or plinking situations. And, at least in my case, the bulk of those rounds have been the lowly .22 rimfire. Certainly no discussion of guns on the homestead would be complete without it.

The .22 rimfire has much to recommend it. Especially if you don't reload, the rounds are much less expensive than any of the centerfire calibers. Right after the 2008 elections, there was a shortage of all ammunition, including the .22. It seems that supply has for the most part caught up with demand now, though the prices are still considerably elevated from what they were two years ago. Nevertheless the rimfires can be had at a fraction of the cost of any of the large centerfires. Even if you do reload, component prices have also climbed, making the rimfire still look pretty attractive.

There are several versions of the .22 rimfire.

The common .22 rimfire Short cartridge dates from the period of the American Civil War. It was first used in a S&W pocket pistol introduced in 1857 and it is the oldest cartridge still being loaded today. The .22 Short is used mainly as an inexpensive, quiet round for practice by the recreational shooter. The standard velocity .22 Short launches a 29 grain bullet at 1,045 fps with 70 ft. lbs. of energy from a 22" rifle barrel. It is sometimes desirable from the standpoint of low noise levels, but often requires a far different sight setting than more powerful loads.

The .22 Long came on the scene around 1871 and increased the velocity of the .22 Short by increasing the powder capacity. While adding an additional 145 fps from what the short was capable of, at least in the "high-velocity" version, it retained the 29 grain bullet. From my perspective, it has little usefulness in the bush scheme of things.

The .22 Long Rifle was developed by Peters Cartridge in 1887, and remains by far the most popular form of the .22 rimfires, and is the world's best selling rifle and pistol cartridge. It is available in target, standard velocity, high velocity and hyper velocity loads, with various bullet weights but typically between 32-40 grains, depending on whether the bullets are hollow-pointed or solid nose.

I have a wide variety of brands and types of .22LR cartridges that

I have picked up over the years. Some were bought because they were on sale, some were given to me, others were chosen for a specific task. The reason I mention this fact is that every firearm that I have tested had "favorite" loads and loads it detested. I have several rimfire pistols and several rifles, and no two prefer the same ammunition. Often the difference in group size is remarkable. Whenever I obtain a new rimfire I spend a day at the range seeing just what it likes best.

Once you find a "best" load for each firearm, you still have the option to "tweak" the ammo a bit. There are several tools available that serve to either increase accuracy, terminal performance or both.

Paco Kelly has been producing what he calls the Acu'rZR "nastynose" tools for a number of years. Basically what it does is reform the nose of the bullet, and in the process it sizes the bullet to a uniform diameter—generally either .223" or .224".

One of the virtues of the tool is that you can take low priced lead solid nose ammunition and reform the nose into hollow points of various sizes, up to something that looks like a miniature ash tray. I have found that some guns will feed the extreme hollowpoints and some will not.

Paco is up to "Phase 4" versions of his tools now. I have had mine for over a decade and have

no idea what “phase” it is. His basic tool now sells for \$65. You can read more about it and see photos at

<http://www.leverguns.com/store/acurizer.htm>.

Another tool that doesn't actually change the bullets but does help you sort the ammo for increased accuracy is the rimfire thickness gauge. There are several types and manufacturers. If you already have access to a 6" dial indicator caliper, Hornady makes a unit that sells for \$29.95. It is called the Hornady Lock-N-Load Rimfire Thickness Gauge. The gauge attaches to the blade of a 6-inch caliper and includes bushings to use for all .17 and .22 caliber rimfire ammo including the new .17 HMR, HM2 and 22 Magnum ammo. I have found that sorting rim thicknesses can sometimes shrink groups by 30% or more.

Stories abound of elephants that have been killed with the .22LR. There are two confirmed cases in the colonial era in British East Africa. In both cases, the bullet hit behind the foreleg, where the tough hide is rubbed thin by friction between leg and body, and penetrated a major artery, so that the elephant bled to death internally. The first case was accidental, and the hunter reported it to a control officer, who couldn't believe it—so the two of them set out to repeat the exploit, and did

so, to the demise of a second elephant.

Another story is told of an African poacher who was arrested after killing 5 elephants with a .22 rimfire built on a Martini action. He explained that when the elephant stepped forward with its foreleg he shot between the ribs. The elephant would run until it bled out and then collapse. The arrest was made. The game officer still had nagging doubts about all this so he secured professional



WSEN staff photo

.22 rimfires come in a wide array. Top: Marlin 1897 Cowboy. Middle: CZ military training rifle. Barrel has been shortened to 18". Bottom, Left to Right: Ruger MK 22 with local birch grips, S&W airweight .22 with Crimson Trace laser grips, Marvel .22 conversion on 1911 frame with Red Dot sight.

back up and used the poacher's .22 to drop several cull elephant.

Fortunately elephants have not been a problem in the McCarthy area!

We do, however, have grizzly bears.

Bella Twin, an Indian girl, and her friend Dave Auger were hunting grouse near Lesser Slave Lake in northern Alberta. The only gun they had was Bella's single-shot bolt-action .22 Rimfire rifle. They were walking a outline that had been made for oil exploration when they saw a large grizzly following the same survey line toward them. If they ran, the bear would probably notice them and

might chase, so they quietly sat down on a brush pile and hoped that the bear would pass by without trouble. But the bear came much too close, and when the big boar was only a few yards away, Bella Twin shot him in the side of the head with a .22 Long cartridge. The bear dropped, kicked and then lay still. Taking no chances, Bella went up close and fired all of the cartridges she had, seven or eight .22 Longs, into the bear's head. That bear, killed in

1953, was the world-record grizzly for several years and is still high in the records today. Which only goes to show that in an emergency, strange things are possible, but who wants that kind of emergency?

I mainly reserve the use of rimfire rifles or handguns to hare or grouse hunting or dealing

with the pesky squirrels that like to destroy things. With a head shot to any of these species it matters little what the velocity or bullet shape is.

Having said that, however, I have to admit that the only Lynx I ever shot was with a .22LR. We were “baby-sitting” neighbors pet rabbits one winter when just as the sun set a lynx came into the yard surveying the situation. A 22HP in the heart-lung area dispatched the cat with no further ado and the rabbits were given back to their owners safe and sound.

## Eagle residents fight back, say park service employees go too far

BY TIM MOWRY

**F**AIRBANKS — Residents in the small Yukon River village of Eagle are rebelling against the National Park Service for what they say is “harassment and intimidation” by “military-style law enforcement officers” in the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

The town’s city council sent a letter to National Park Service director, John Jarvis, in Washington, D.C., the Alaska Congressional delegation, Gov. Sean Parnell and state legislators protesting what it terms “the disrespectful and aggressive attitudes of the Park Service employees who patrolled the river last summer.”

The letter stems mainly from two incidents that occurred in August and September when rangers detained and handcuffed two men — one from Central and one from Eagle — on separate occasions.

One of the men, 70-year-old Jim Wilde of Central, was arrested and charged with four misdemeanors — interfering with agency function; violating a lawful order; disorderly conduct; and operating an unregistered boat — after rangers confronted him on the river.

The other man, Tim Henry, was eventually given a fix-it ticket for having an unregistered boat.

Wilde is fighting the charges against him. His trial was originally scheduled to begin Nov. 30 but has been delayed until mid-January, his attorney, Bill Satterberg of Fairbanks, said.

Eagle Mayor Bo Fay said the problems are the result of some overzealous rangers and a new superintendent — Greg Dudgeon — who is bent on turning the preserve into a private park. He and other residents in the village of 150 at the end of the Taylor Highway 200 miles east of Fairbanks say Park Service rangers have gotten out of hand and want them replaced.

“They make the public feel unwelcome on public land,” Fay said. “I hear it from the locals. I hear it from people from Fairbanks. I hear it from people from Anchorage.”

Rangers are intent on enforcing “the letter of the law” when it’s not necessary, Fay said.

“I think in this semi-Third World environment the spirit of the law is appropriate,” he said, referring to the remoteness of Eagle, which is located about 10 miles from the Canadian border. “I don’t think we’ve got a bunch of poachers around here. Most people are just trying to get by. I don’t think they have any sensitivity at all with low-income people. They’re harassing a poor person trying to catch a few fish or get a moose. They just want to push people around.”

Residents in Eagle are asking the park service to replace the rangers with ones “who understand our lifestyle and can fulfill their duties respectfully and reasonably,” the city council’s letter states.

“These heavy-handed enforcement efforts accomplish nothing except to create ill will in the community and cost the

taxpayers money,” the letter reads.

### Brewing hostility

Eagle city council member Don Woodruff said hostility between the community and the park service has been brewing for the past four years, ever since Dudgeon took over. Woodruff said rangers got upset with him the last two years when he ignored them. A ranger threatened to arrest Woodruff this year when he refused to talk to the ranger.

“I said, ‘I don’t have to talk to you’ and he said, ‘I’m going to arrest you if you don’t,’ Woodruff said. “It’s just harassment, that’s how I see it.”

The same two rangers were involved in both incidents but Dudgeon disputed accusations that the Park Service has been heavy handed in its enforcement. The two episodes this summer “have captured peoples’ imaginations,” he said.

The park service began doing boat safety checks three years ago, shortly after Dudgeon took over as superintendent. In the last three years, rangers have made more than 200 “contacts” with people in the preserve, including more than 60 this past summer, Dudgeon said. During that time, there have been only two occasions when tickets were issued, one of which was the Wilde incident and the other involving an elderly Eagle man in early September who park rangers say refused to identify himself and walked away from them. Rangers ended up handcuffing the man before issuing him a fix-it ticket for having an unregistered boat.

“These two incidents are the exception to what’s been the norm out there,” Dudgeon said. “The numbers speak for themselves. I don’t think it’s a pattern.” On Friday, Dudgeon said he received the letter from Eagle’s city council and hopes to meet with the council at its next meeting “to get the full flavor of their questions and concerns.”

Eagle residents say they just want to be left alone to pursue the subsistence lifestyles they have chosen without being hassled by “out of control” park rangers, Woodruff said. He suggested the park service create a subsistence council to act as an intermediary between the village and the agency.

“If we knew ahead of time they were going to throw us in the mud because we don’t have a (registration) sticker on our boat, we wouldn’t go down to the preserve,” Woodruff said. “People are fearful of going to use the preserve because of harassment. That’s a sad state of affairs. It’s our lifeblood, going down there to hunt and trap.”

### **Legal battle looms**

The park service began doing boat safety inspections three years ago to increase visitor safety and protect resources within the preserve, Dudgeon said.

“It helps us understand whose out there and what belongs to whom,” he said.

In the case of Wilde, charges filed in Fairbanks federal court allege that he threatened, resisted, intimidated and intentionally interfered with a park ranger during an official duty; fled when he was ordered to halt; and recklessly created “a risk of public nuisance and violence by engaging in threatening and violent

behavior in the form of maneuvering his boat toward the path of a law enforcement vessel, and in other ways.”

Wilde’s attorney, Bill Satterberg of Fairbanks, tells a different story. He contends that two park rangers flagged Wilde down as he, his wife and a friend were boating up the Yukon River near Woodchopper Creek. The rangers wanted to board Wilde’s boat to perform a safety inspection but Wilde told them it was unsafe to board his boat in the middle of the river and he would go ashore. As Wilde motored to shore, the park rangers followed. One of the rangers had a shotgun pointed at Wilde as he headed toward shore, Satterberg said. After reaching shore, Wilde was anchoring his boat when the rangers “roughed him up a little bit by rolling him around in the mud.”

Wilde spent three days in jail after his arrest before being released.

When Wilde’s arrest was made public, it ignited a political firestorm. Sen. Lisa Murkowski called the circumstances of the arrest “questionable” and the behavior of the arresting officers as “provocative.” Murkowski asked the park service for a full review of the case.

Wilde’s arrest also heated up a long-simmering debate between state and federal authorities over jurisdiction on the state’s navigable waters. The state contends the feds don’t have such jurisdiction and it violates the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, while the feds say amendments made to federal regulations in 1996 give them authority to enforce state law on navigable wa-

terways inside National Park Service boundaries.

A week and a half after Wilde’s arrest, Gov. Sean Parnell announced the state was filing a petition with Secretary of the Interior to amend or rescind those regulations.

But it doesn’t appear the park service will do so. Murkowski met with park service officials this week, and they said they intended to pursue the case against Wilde in an attempt to get a court decision regarding federal jurisdiction on navigable state waters, Murkowski spokesman Robert Dillon said on Friday.

“That’s certainly the appropriate venue,” Dudgeon said, confirming the park service’s intent. “We welcome the opportunity to have the question in front of the courts. That’s where it should be decided.”

In Eagle, residents are more concerned about being left alone than they are any legal battle. There have been similar situations in past years when certain rangers have overreacted and the situation has always worked itself out, Fay said.

“Historically, if there’s been a troublemaker they get transferred out of here,” Fay said of previous rangers. “All they are is overhead for the working man. They’re basically living off the backs of productive people in our society, doing something on a scale that is grander than necessary.”

*Editors Note: This story originally appeared in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner Nov 21, 2010. Used by permission.*

*Contact staff writer Tim Mowry at 459-7587. © newsminer.com 2010*

## Young chides Park Service for arrest of boater

WASHINGTON, D.C. —

Alaskan Congressman Don Young met with National Park Service (NPS) Director Jon Jarvis and Alaska Regional Director Sue Masica to discuss the egregious abuse of power displayed by NPS employees this summer in dealing with boaters in the Yukon Charley Rivers Preserve. Rep. Young requested this meeting after learning of the events that took place on the Yukon River in September.

"I was in Congress when ANILCA was passed, and I believe the Park Service is blatantly misinterpreting the law regarding jurisdiction over navigable waters," said Rep. Young. "The National Park Service has worked hard to build a rapport with Alaskans, and the rash actions taken by local enforcement authorities only serves to harm that relationship. There was absolutely no reason to have shotguns pointed at unarmed boaters, and

no reason for this to have turned into such a hostile situation. Actions taken by these officials were completely inappropriate.

"In our meeting today I made it very clear to Director Jarvis that this overreaching by the Federal Government is unacceptable. If it is not fixed, as a Member of the Majority on the Natural Resources Committee in the upcoming 112th Congress, I will have no qualms about bringing him and his team before the committee time and time again until it is resolved. Director Jarvis has assured me that he will work to ensure the NPS officials in Alaska receive proper training in how to co-exist with Alaskans who hunt and sport fish and those that depend on subsistence for their survival, and will investigate this situation further. I will absolutely hold him to that. The regulatory laws that allow incidences such as this to occur are unacceptable and un-American and it is my priority to

put a stop to such infringements on our constitutional rights."

In September, Jim Wilde was traveling on the Yukon River within the Yukon Charley Rivers Preserve, when two National Park Service rangers approached his boat and demanded to conduct a safety check.

Wilde believed it unsafe for the rangers to board a boat floating in the middle of the river, and shouted at the rangers that they should all head towards the riverbank. In response, a shotgun was trained on Wilde, his wife, and their 65 year old friend, as he headed to shore.

Just after setting anchor, the rangers threw him to the ground and arrested him. They brought him to Circle and then flew him to Fairbanks, where he was placed in jail for four days. Wilde was charged with four misdemeanors, each punishable by six months in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine.

## McCarthy telephone upgrade project

BY RICK KENYON

Copper Valley Telecom is moving ahead on a major upgrade to the communication system at McCarthy. One of the bottlenecks to the present system is that the only link from the McCarthy phones and the rest of the world is through satellite links. This project would connect the McCarthy area to an existing fiber optic cable in Chitina, and ultimately the outside world, providing local resi-

dents, businesses and visitors access to state-of-the-art broadband and telecommunications services. This upgrade will provide broadband and wireless service to those whose phone service provider uses the Code Division Multiple Access System (CDMA).

Service providers using CDMA include Alaska Communications Systems (ACS), Alaska Digitel, Matanuska Telephone Association (MTA), Sprint, Verizon, and Alltel. Those whose

phone service provider uses the Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) will not have new service. Service providers using GSM include AT&T, GCI, and T-Mobile.

The project includes constructing three microwave repeater sites— one at Chitina, one near the confluence of the Lakina River and the Nizina River, the third on the Gilahina Butte site, near the existing seismic station operated and maintained by the Alaska

Earthquake Information Center.

The Gilahina Butte site would also incorporate a repeater that would provide cell phone access along much of the McCarthy Road corridor, as well as provide for fixed service to residents in the local area.

Also, a webcam is planned for the Gilahina Butte site, which would provide visual weather information to pilots flying between Chitina and McCarthy. CVTC currently has a webcam at its Sourdough Ridge facility which can be accessed at

<http://www.evinternet.net/~watheream/sourdough/>.

Although some press reports say that McCarthy area phones would be hardwired, that is not part of this project.

Local residents seem to be very supportive of the project. A small minority voiced opposition based on the fact that CVW's project was approved and funded by an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grant.

The National Park Service has been taking comments for its Environmental Assessment (EA) of the project. Rather than fill up pages with technical details I thought you might enjoy reading one of our subscriber's response to the NPS EA.

Dear Sirs:

I am in complete accord with a determination to proceed with Alternative #2 by approving issuance of land use permits as outlined in the

"McCarthy Communications Sites Environmental Assessment."

It is my opinion that introduction of this state-of-the-art broadband and telecommunications services system will provide multiple benefits for the American public with little or no down side repercussions. Among the more salient benefits of this effort are:

1. Public Safety. This benefit is absolutely, first and foremost, the major consideration applicable to the project request. I need not go into exhausting detail as to how much a modern broad based communication system will enhance the general safety and well being of residents and visitors alike within our nation's largest national park.

2. Cost—The NPS has recognized the importance of such a communication system for its own park/preserve management efforts. Possibly they have even understated this, from a long term perspective. The NPS will in the future be required to request capital and operating funds for expenditures necessary to expand their own communications. Henceforth, a goodly portion of its existing and future communications infrastructure needs will now be born by the private sector and not the Federal General Fund; once this project reaches fruition.

3. Visitation—WRST will/is becoming a major visitor attraction for the State of Alaska. There are approximately six communities or points of inter-

est that garner the majority of visitor interest in Alaska today. These attractions are bottle-necks and in danger of being over visited and overrun. Alaska must expand its visitor options or begin to lose destination importance. Visitors are vitally necessary for the economy of Alaska as its non-renewable resources run out and the people of this state begin to look at other economic opportunities in order to support its public infrastructure. Progressive communications, such as this endeavor promises, will go a long way toward enhancing interest in WRST and the soon to be number one industry in Alaska, "Tourism."

It is my opinion the McCarthy community is overwhelmingly in favor of this project. There is however a minority which is not.

Normally, I would not be concerned over the objections of a few dissenters. Unfortunately, the McCarthy area has a history where a very few have objected to the point that worthwhile projects were scrapped to the detriment of the majority.

As a for instance: In 1978 the people of Alaska voted overwhelmingly in favor of a bond obligation proposition in which \$101,800 dollars in Alaska bond proceeds were allocated to match \$916,000 designated Federal Highway Trust Funds for a modern and safe highway bridge across the Lakina River. Prior to placing the proposal before the people, the Legislature approved the project. The

bridge funding process was sponsored by then State Senator Jay Kerttula. At the time Kerttula represented the McCarthy area. He was also president of the Alaska Senate.

The public process necessary for construction of this new bridge, because highway trust funds were involved, entailed public hearings. Two were held, one in McCarthy on June 14th 1979 and one in Anchorage on July 18th 1979. The record was held open after each hearing for a number of weeks in order to allow written testimony to arrive. Today, I still possess transcripts of the oral testimony as well as all written comments. Hundreds of Alaskans showed interest in this project. Approximately 98% were in favor. The hearing in McCarthy was held at the lodge there. Most who spoke were positive over the proposal, a few were adamantly opposed. The few opposed used much the same line of argument opponents today seem to be using to derail this telecommunications project. In summary, they are totally against progress and development of any kind.

Unknown to almost everybody, during the "dark of night," on June 26th 1980, Revised Program 80-326 was signed transferring the \$101,800 to other state bridge projects.

Then, in late September 1980 the Lakina River went on

a rampage and for all practical purposes washed the existing bridge out. After the flood, the Alaska DOT&PF cut a trench across the road on the Chitina side of the river and announced that the Chitina/McCarthy Road was closed from that location east, into the foreseeable future. Led by some who had opposed the new bridge during the hearings, a "tea party" type of hooliganism took place, a march was made over to the Lakina River and the structurally compromised bridge was dangerously reopened with shovel loads of gravel.

Eventually, it became public knowledge that the road was closed and shenanigans had taken place with funding for the new bridge. To say the least, there was a lot of anxiety and emotion.

The State Ombudsman, who had teeth in those days, suggested in complaint A79-1323 that criminal action should be taken against those responsible. However, he noted that the Alaska Department of Law, which would eventually have to defend those responsible, grudgingly disagreed, saying that the action was extremely "unethical" but the action was perhaps not criminally negligent.

The Department was besieged with criticism, the Regional Director in Valdez at the time, came up with an idea for a temporary fix. He suggested

using the old Lower Tonsina River Bridge on the Lakina. This ancient bridge had been stockpiled in Valdez for the previous decade or so. However, he said: "due to the magnitude of the project and concerns by the statewide Bridge Design section in Juneau funds are not available."

So, money crunchers within the Department came up with some minimal emergency funds and told Morrow to get it done but don't let Bridge Design know about it.

In late 1981 the current bridge was opened. When Bridge Design realized what had occurred they were very displeased. They pretty much disassociated their section from that bridge every since.

Today, as we all know, the bridge has been damaged by the irresponsible action of a truck driver. It has a severe load limit on it and the Department has again requested funds for a new bridge.

So here we are, back to a square one posture for a bridge and road funding, an effort which actually began with the Territorial Legislature in 1941.

In summary, let us not repeat what happened to the Lakina Bridge in 1980 by allowing a few to quash this new and worthy telecommunications project.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Kenneth D. Smith

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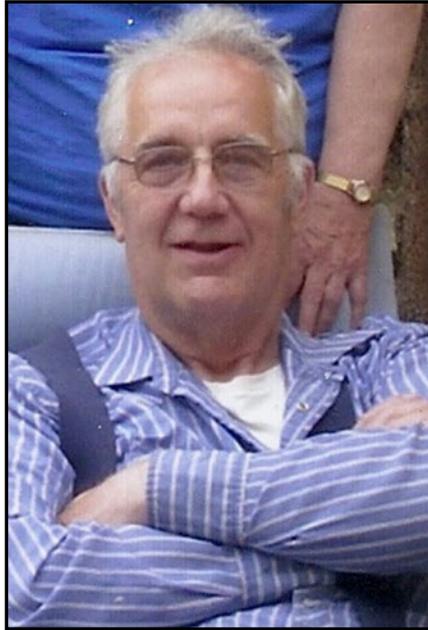
*"There is little chance that meteorologists can solve the mysteries of weather until they gain an understanding of the mutual attraction of rain and weekends."*

—Arnot Sheppard

## Dean Leray Wilson, 1941-2010

Well-known trapper and fur buyer Dean Wilson died at his home in Kenny Lake on October 31, 2010 of complications related to Parkinson's disease. Dean was born January 14, 1941 in Walla Walla, Washington to Dale and Bertha Wilson. During WWII, his father worked on building the Alcan Highway, served in the army in Alaska and became a trapper in the Northway area. In the late 1940's the family moved to Northway where Dean as well as his siblings had a happy childhood. At an early age, Dean learned how to hunt, fish and trap, from his father and from many of the Northway people. After finishing Northway Grade School. Dean attended Sheldon Jackson High School in Sitka for three years, then completed high school in Homer.

In 1963 Dean married Ada Tega of Tanacross. In 1966 they acquired land along the Edgerton Highway near Kenny Lake, where they built a home and raised their three sons, Dell, Rick and Dean Jr. Even as a young man, Dean considered trapping to be his primary livelihood although he supplemented his income by taking jobs in construction, firefighting, oil exploration, etc. After several years of increasingly successful trapping, Dean began to buy fur and sell it at the major markets. Soon he and Ada started Klondike Furs which they operated for many years. To buy furs, Dean traveled throughout Alaska, especially to many small villages where he made many friends and became highly respected for his business ethics and personable manner. To develop markets for their Alaskan



furs, he and Ada took several interesting and enjoyable trips to the Eastern US, Eastern Canada, Europe and Asia.

In 1990 Dean was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and began treatment for it. After a few years Dean found it necessary to severely limit his activities, later he was unable to continue operating Klondike Furs, and as the disease progressed it became increasingly difficult to walk or perform simple tasks. After so many years of frequent and strenuous activity, this must have been very difficult for Dean, but he accepted it with remarkable grace. Dean gave it his best effort; medications and deep brain implant surgery all helped, but ultimately the disease took his life.

In the 1980's Dean wrote a very successful "how-to" book titled *The Alaskan Trapper's Handbook*. The book was based on Dean's decades of experience as well as things he had learned from many older trappers, including his father. The book sold out and had

to be reprinted many times. Dean was also involved in both the National Trappers Association and the Alaska Trappers Association; over the years he held various leadership positions, attended many annual meetings and wrote occasional pieces for the publications of both organizations. Dean was the Alaska Trappers Association Trapper of the Year in 1985, and when the Alaska Trappers Hall of Fame was established in 1997, Dean was the first person selected for the honor. He was inducted into the National Trappers Hall of Fame in 1998. He was a lifetime member of the Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo 35 in Delta. Dean was accepted into the Kluti Kaah tribe of Copper Center in a ceremony by the late chief Jim McKinley in the 1980's, and he considered it a great honor.

Responsibilities of citizenship were always important to Dean, and he willingly gave his time and effort for many worthy causes. He was an enthusiastic supporter of education, so Dean was particularly honored when the Alaska Trappers Association established an annual scholarship for worthy students and named it the Dean Wilson Scholarship. For several years, he volunteered regularly at Kenny Lake School to help students with reading, ceasing this activity only when the Parkinson's made it impossible for him to read. He served on multiple School Boards and support groups. He also served on advisory groups for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and on projects related to wolf management issues.

Faith in God and his firmly-held religious convictions were very important to Dean, and pro-

vided the principles that guided his daily life. He was a long time member and active participant of the Kenny Lake Community Chapel and he drew a great deal of comfort and strength from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dean was predeceased by his parents and by his brother-in-law Ed Tega. He is survived by his wife Ada of Kenny Lake and by their three sons Dell of Anchorage, Rick of Anchorage and Dean Jr. and his

wife Trish of Kenny Lake. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, Travis, Shania, Corrine, Ashlyn, Trayl, Darian, David and Gracie, and also by his two brothers, Lavell (Cathy) of Tok and Monte (Helen) of Boise, ID as well as by his sister Twila (Dick) Palmatier of Willow. Other survivors include his brother-in-law Charlie Tega of Kenny Lake, several nephews and nieces plus numerous great- and great-great nephews

and nieces throughout Alaska. Dean is also survived by his mother's dear friend Ada Gallen of Northway who is Dean's "Indian Mother" and by two lifelong friends Leroy Isaac of Northway and James Gallen of Anchorage.

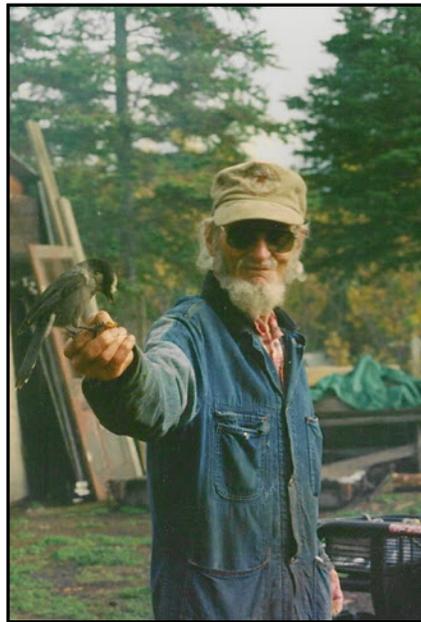
In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be sent to Ada Wilson savings account at First National Bank of Alaska.

## Joseph Harold Michal, 1911—2010

**F**ireweed Mountain pioneer J. "Harold" Michal died at home on November 11th, 2010. He was born in Millers, Nevada on October 16th, 1911 and raised on a 'ranch' in Estacada, Oregon. He moved to Alaska in 1963.

A lifetime of work took Harold on a tour of many careers. As a teen he guided foresters and helped to delineate National Forest Lands in Oregon. He operated a sheet metal business manufacturing and installing duct work and gutters. During WWII he worked as a machinist in the war effort. When Harold moved to Alaska he was employed by the Defense Department helping to establish the DEW line radar stations in western Alaska. Later he was employed by the Department of Transportation in the Right of Way division and worked to secure the States ROW for the Parks highway. During the pipeline days he operated Eastside Auto in Valdez with his son Joe.

At age 72 Harold began to fulfill a lifetime dream after winning a homesite lot in a State Land lottery. In the summer of 1983 he began his last career as



homesteader by opening the access to his property and meeting the requirements necessary to acquire his homesite title. Spring through fall would find Harold in further pursuit of his mountain home. Harold built a cabin of unique design incorporating two travel trailers and two live spruce trees. He cleared one of the finest garden spots in the valley which he irrigated from the pond after "blasting the swamp with 56 sticks of old dynamite." In his eighties he bought and remodeled a neighboring cabin and single-handedly

built a 30'x40' two story barn/garage. In his nineties he spent his time putting up firewood and keeping his properties "firewise."

He lived in Anchorage, Eagle River, and Valdez before moving to Wasilla. His musical talents were shared on the piano at the Sr. Center in Valdez where he lived for 15 years, and occasionally in the evening at his Fireweed mountain cabin he would break out his harmonica and blow a few tunes for our pleasure.

He is survived by his wife Carol, two sons, Joseph and Norman Michal, and a daughter Esther Smoot, seven step-children, ten grandchildren, many great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his third wife Muriel and two grandchildren.

No services are planned at this time; his ashes will be scattered at Fireweed Mountain.

He will be remembered by family and friends for his ability to withstand pain, his tenacity at hard work, his large hands and his big heart, and the stories he left for us to tell into the future.

## Remembering another Kennecott Kid—Nan (Moore) Henderson 1932—2010

BY BONNIE KENYON

A celebration of Nan Henderson's life was held on Tuesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. "Miss Nan," as she was so fondly called, passed away on December 25<sup>th</sup> surrounded by family.

Jeanne (Moore) Morris, Nan's sister, writes from Tennessee: "I wanted to let you know that my beautiful little sister, the one in the family who had those precious dimples and curly hair passed away. I was by her side along with her son and his family, who got here just about two hours before she passed away."

In early 2008, just before Christmas, Nan was diagnosed with a rare illness — transverse myelitis—that left her paralyzed from the waist down. Determined, Nan continued to do what she loved most—feed the homeless. "It's been the love of my life for over 20 years," she told WBIR-TV's reporter Beth Haynes. "I just feel so good when I do it." Nan continued planning to feed the homeless from her hospital bed, stating that she planned on walking again. From her wheelchair, "Miss Nan" was clearly in charge of 2 teams of volunteers who shopped, cooked

and served hot meals at Volunteer Ministries.

In 2009, with the help of The Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center, doctors, nurses and many therapists Nan did regain the use of her legs, but, as she said, "It was not pretty." She would go on to take part in a 5-K walk for Volunteer Ministries.

"In August Nan took a turn for the worse and had many, many complications," writes Jeanne. "She was taken home from the hospital a few days before Christmas as she wished. She put up such a hard fight and was cheerful right up until just about the end."

"So, another Kennecott Kid has gone on to be with all the others who have 'crossed over.' Last year Nan was here at my home to help with the final days of our little mother, Mrs. James A. Moore, who died on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Mother was just 8 weeks shy of being 101."

Mr. Moore was an engineer with the Kennicott Corporation. He and his wife and three children, Jim, Nan and Jeanne, lived in Alaska from 1929 to 1937. Besides calling Kennecott home, they also lived in McCarthy for a couple of years around 1934 where son Jim was born. They lived in the old Snyder house which

was once the home of Tailor-Made Pizza. Mr. Moore passed away in 1963. Nan, Jim and Jeanne all returned to Kennecott for the first time in 1994, to attend a Kennecott Kid Reunion. They returned again in May of 1998 for the next Reunion. During this occasion, Jeanne and another Kennecott Kid, Frank Morris, got reacquainted. Both "kids" first met in Kennecott in the early 1930s. The cottage that Jeanne lived in with her family during the Kennecott Copper Corporations' heyday in the early 1900s was across the tracks from the Morris cottage. Frank and Jeanne were playmates in their younger days. Almost seventy years later, love blossomed for Frank and Jeanne and wedding bells rang on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Frank passed away. "Nan, my mother and my wonderful husband, Frank—three Kennecott Kids— all died within a year of each other. We are left with many fond memories, but a saddened heart at the passing of all three of them," says Jeanne.

*Editor's note: The above information was provided by Nan's sister, Jeanne (Moore) Morris.*

# THE McCARTHY WEEKLY NEWS

## 1920 January & February editions

### NINETEEN TWENTY

With the moon shining brightly overhead and the temperature away above zero, the year 1919 passed gracefully away, and the new year came into existence.

For some of us the old year has sad memories, but happy ones, too. We have welcomed back many of our soldier boys we thought never to see again.

As a district McCarthy has been more than fortunate, for the terrible strikes and labor conditions which affected most mining centers have not even penetrated here.

The population here is smaller than it was a year ago, for like many other Alaskan towns it has felt the strain of the high cost of living and the scarcity of labor.

We must try to get together more in the future, and profiting by our mistakes, make 1920 a banner year and McCarthy a place to be proud of.

We have the mineral, the railroad and the spirit. Never has it been said that McCarthy failed to go over the top when called on. With the same spirit predominant in all our municipal and home affairs this coming year, we will surely reap the benefits.

### IMPORTANT OFFICIAL VISITS ALASKA

Mr. Alfred Bradley, who has recently been appointed from Washington, D.C. to be chief of the Agricultural, fisheries & fur industries of Alaska, left Chitina on December 2nd, for a long trip into the interior, accompanied by Game Warden Ed Youngs.

Leaving Chitina with horse & sleigh, they traveled 105 miles. Abandoning the horse at that point they used dog teams to the Beteinita.

This is Mr. Bradley's first trip into the interior, and he is well pleased with it.

They found game very scarce where there had been thousands of caribou last year, only a few were seen. Foxes also were scarce.

The weather was perfect although the thermometer at times went to 56 below zero.

This official considers that the expense allowance of the game wardens in this Territory totally inadequate for the

amount of travel they should do in order to properly perform their duties and some good may result from his investigations.

Arriving back in Chitina on December 27th, Mr. Bradley left immediately for Juneau, which is his Alaskan headquarters for the several departments he represents.

Jan. 3

"Tarzan of the Apes" an eight reel dramatization of Burrough's book of that name was shown at Kennecott Movies last Wednesday evening. About 30 McCarthy residents traveled up to see the play, making the trip in Charlie Lubbe's four-horse sleigh which made a special excursion.

### TRAPPERS INDIGNANT

A paragraph appeared in the News columns a few weeks ago to the effect that Mike Knowles and A. Trim had left for the head of the Chitina on a hunting and trapping expedition.

Some busybody who knew more than the trappers did, sent a copy of our paper to the Game Warden Ed Youngs, with the following notation: "If you read between the lines this means they have gone for beaver and marten."

Like most messages of this kind it was unsigned, so Trim and Knowles do not know to whom they are indebted.

Ed Youngs visited McCarthy last week before the trappers returned. When they returned last Tuesday they were angry to find they were so accused.

As they say the life of a trapper is hard, and even at the high prices furs command now they don't make a fortune, but would gladly pay well to stop such a pest.

### PERSONAL

Sam Means has left for his mining claims at Nizina, where he will spend some time.

Fred Overlander is in town from Long Lake.

J.H. Murray is spending a few weeks on his mining property at Chititu, Young and Calamity Creeks.

Tom Lynch was a McCarthy visitor this week from Strelna.

Leo Laurie, who has been confined to the house since before Christmas, is now quite well again. Leo was so ill a few weeks

ago, that his home was quarantined by the doctor.

Jan. 10

### LOCAL NEWS

The coldest spell this winter is now being experienced. For several days the thermometer has registered between 30 and 40 degrees below zero at 8 a.m. Later in the day the cold is not so noticeable as we never fail to see several hours of the famous McCarthy sunshine.

Notwithstanding the cold outdoors, the A.B. Hall was a warm and cheery place on Thursday evening when the members gave a successful dance.

The A.B.s have purchased the chairs with which the hall was furnished by the McCarthy Movies. The deal was made possible by one of the trustees, Mr. J.E. Barrett, generously advancing the money.

Skating enthusiasts have prepared a fine skating pond at a short distance below McCarthy on the Kennecott. It is much larger than the old one, and is certain to be used a great deal.

Jan. 17

### LOCAL NEWS

W.E. Trim has accepted a position at the Jumbo mine. Mrs. Trim and family arrived here today from Vancouver, B.C. and will occupy the Lewis bungalow. Mrs. Trim has spent 18 months outside and is very glad to return North.

John Bence spent Thursday in town visiting old friends, returning to Kennecott that evening.

Mrs. James' bull terrier Dan strayed from the party last fall when crossing the Scolai, and was found and cared for till Mrs. James' return, when a most joyous meeting between mistress and dog took place.

Chas. Ray who was struck by a loose rock in the Bonanza mine last week is mending nicely at the Kennecott Hospital.

### MINING NEWS

Great activity for next season is indicated at all the mining camps now and preparations are beginning to be made to receive freight and to start the deed work.

Mr. McAllister, who is in charge of the Andrus winter camp at Chititu, was in town this week, he has received telegraph-

ic instructions from Mr. Carvey, who is in New York at present.

Twenty tons of freight for Dan Creek has arrived at the Depot, & will be hauled by J.H. Murie.

Joe McClellan left last week for Chisana. He will stake the trail over the Rohen Glacier and freight into the interior camp with dog teams from the summit. Gwin & Wakefield are hauling freight to the glacier.

Con Miller and Oscar Bachman left this week for the head of the Chitina on a prospecting trip and will haul their supplies in with dog teams.

Mr. Miller has some promising copper properties at the head of the Chitina, but is confident of finding placer gold there also and that is the object of their trip.

Encho Toromanoff left this morning for White Creek in the Nizina district where he has some valuable placer property. He will ascertain the conditions of the trails, etc, with a view to sending in his seasons outfit next month.

#### VALE, GEO. E. BALDWIN

The unexpected news of the death of George E. Baldwin at Philadelphia, was a shock to his many friends in Alaska, and especially in this vicinity, where he had lived a number of years.

Though Mr. Baldwin had not been in McCarthy since 1917 he still retained his interest in copper, and kept in touch with his friends here. It was only recently that he purchased a large interest in the Big Bug Group, a property consisting of eight claims adjacent to the Mother Lode Coalition Mines Co. and had intended to develop that property next season.

He was a member of the F. & A.M. Valdez Lodge No. 168. Many Alaskans will attend his funeral at Washington, D.C. and many more would be there to pay their last respects to their old pioneer friend if it were possible.

These hills will know George Baldwin no more, but as the seasons come and go, his name will often be mentioned where Sourdoughs congregate and talk of old times and old friends.

Feb. 7

#### CHITINA NEWS

Chitina, Feb. 18th (Special to the News)

Today's train brought another tractor on the Government trail for Elmer Bros. who have decided upon this method of freighting. It has already proved a great success, having been tried out by Cleve-

land and Maloney, the latter are hauling from 8 to 12 tons without difficulty, snowdrifts are no obstacle and mud seems to be its native element. It is understood that the Road Commission will use tractors this year. Several are at Juneau enroute.

Mr. and Mrs. John Richards returned from the outside on the Alameda and are spending a few days in Chitina visiting their friends. Mrs. Richards was Miss Geneva Sheets before her marriage and taught in the Chitina school last year.

The Commercial Hotel changed hands during the past fortnight and is now owned and conducted by Harry Palmer. Mr. and Mrs. F. Spangler, the former owners, have moved to Seattle.

Fred Nicholls of "Paxsons" has secured the contract for the transfer to Fairbanks of 4000 lbs. extra mail that had accumulated at Cordova. He has excellent equipment and is expected to make a record trip. His teams left Chitina with the mail Feb. 17. The trail is in fine condition with but little snow.

#### KENNECOTT NEWS

(Special to the News)

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McGill left Kenne-cott for Juneau on last Monday's train.

Mr. Jack Howard entertained the Sewing Circle at his bungalow on Thursday afternoon of last week. Sewing enlivened by chatter occupied the afternoon at the close of which a most appetizing lunch was served by the host in his own inimitable style.

A farewell party for the McGills was given by the dancing pupils at the Recreation hall. Over forty guests were present, and a very pleasant time enjoyed by all, though the object of the gathering was a cause of great regret among the young people.

The new X Ray apparatus has arrived and Dr. Gillespie has it installed in the special new room provided for it.

While repairing the Jumbo cable last Monday, Foreman J. Dennis, Bill Weitzell and several assistants took a forty foot drop. Fortunately they landed in very deep snow or the accident might have been most serious. As it was they had a very severe shock, and were taken to the hospital to recuperate.

#### TOWN TOPICS

Freighters report the trail's in fine condition, but storms are raging at the Glacier.

J.H. Murie is busy hauling Dan Creek Mining Co. freight and is using the trail through the canyon.

Martin HARRAIS was in town last Sunday from Dan Creek.

Mrs. Huntington and Alan were weekend guests of Mr. J. E. Barrett last Saturday.

J.H. Murray has filed his application as candidate for the Territorial Legislature on the Republican ticket.

The A.B.'s have a big attraction scheduled for this evening. You are invited to attend the Hard Times Ball. Gentlemen are warned that white collars, ties and jewelry are subject to fine. Ladies, beware of silk dresses. A lunch will be served by the ladies, and we have been told there will be no hard time flavor about that. Dancing will commence at 9 sharp.

Feb. 21

Bill Longley left yesterday for Kenne-cott, we will miss Bill very much, but we understand Johnny Nickell has taken over his barber shop so the boys will be able to get fixed up dance nights just the same.

While attempting to dance the Swedish Polka last Saturday at the A.B. Hall, Pete Craig received a very bad fall which will incapacitate him for a few weeks from enjoying the terpsichorean art.

Widing and Nelson have sold their entire stock of goods and will leave for the creeks on a prospecting trip.

#### HONOR ROLL FOR FEBRUARY

Mary and Arthur McDonnell, Elizabeth Murie, Geraldine O'Neill, Marion and Frank Wells, Frank Johnson, Fred and Ted Seltenreich, Victor Marshall and Laurence Barrett.

Every pupil above First grade is working on drills employing Palmer Method Movement to send to Commissioner Henderson at an early date.

Senator Sherman calls the Ford car an 'international pest,' with a good substantial bridge across the Nizina and ten miles of a good automobile road thereto, we could stand a few of these international pests this coming summer.

The bright sunny days that have been with us the last few weeks making the snow disappear in our back yards and exposing the accumulation of refuse which is not conducive to good health, reminds us very forcibly that the Health officer will soon be on his rounds. It will be quite a novelty to beat him to it and have everything slick and clean before he comes.

Feb. 28

# Why I don't like religion

BY PASTOR RICK

People are often surprised when they hear me say that I don't like religion. "But you are a minister of the gospel," they say. "Isn't that religion?"

No.

There is a huge difference between religion and the gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact here is what Jesus said about the difference: "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (Mat 11:28-30 MSG)

True Christianity is not a religion. It is a relationship. A religion has been made out of it, and frankly it is not a whole lot different than other religions.

Words mean things.

The word religion has its roots in bondage. The word literally means "return to bondage." This is in stark contrast to what Jesus Christ came to do. Jesus came to set men free.

The word religion is from the latin religio. Ligo is to bind, and re which is anew. Thus the base meaning of religion is "to bind anew." The gospel of Jesus Christ does not bind—rather it sets free!

In its modern usage, religion can mean "something one believes in and follows devotedly." It can have a Supreme Being at it's core, but may not. I have noticed that many people make a religion out of walking their dog. They do it religiously.

In any case religion has its rules that one must follow.

"Then Jesus said to the Jews who believed on Him, If you continue in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (Joh 8:31-32 MKJV)

The Jews argued and said they had never been in bondage to anyone (though they were at the time under the iron fist rule of Rome).

Jesus said the real issue of freedom and bondage is sin.

"Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Whoever practices sin is the slave of sin." (Joh 8:34 MKJV)

And then, He gives the solution: "Therefore if the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed." (Joh 8:36 MKJV)

Jesus came to set us free from sin. Because of Adam's transgression all men came under the power of sin, were in bondage to it. They were all sinners. Not especially because they had sinned, but because Adam did.

"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." (Rom 5:19 KJV)

This is the message of the cross. Freedom from the bondage of sin through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ at Calvary. Jesus Christ came to set us free.

Jesus said the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him to preach deliverance to the captives and to set at liberty those who were broken. (Luke 4:18)

The bondage of sin breaks men and women. Jesus not only sets us free; He fixes the damage caused by the captivity.

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. (Act 10:38 KJV)

Paul knew about the bondage of religion—he had been a pharisee before he met Jesus. "For ye have heard of my manner of life in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and made havoc of it: and I advanced in the Jews' religion beyond many of mine own age among my countrymen, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers." (Gal 1:13-14 ASV)

The Spirit of the Lord lifts one up to liberty and freedom, while religion pulls one down towards bondage. At the same time it leads towards persecution of those who are indeed free.

A native American once told me that you cannot boil just one crab in a pot without a lid—the crab will crawl out. But, if you put several crabs in the pot, when one tries to escape the others will pull it back. Just like religion. Those in its awful bondage seem to abhor those who are free.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." (Gal 5:1 KJV)

Paul was writing here to people who had been set free, warning that it is possible to once again come under the bondage of religion. He used the word translated "entangled," which was a common word meaning "to ensnare by trap." A return to bondage.

And what is this snare or trap that has been set for those who

have been set free by the finished work of Calvary?

To listen to many preachers one would think that the snare is sin. It is not. It is the law. The holy, just law of God. The Ten Commandments.

“Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.” (Gal 5:4 KJV)

Christians who “fall from grace” don’t fall into sin, they fall into the law.

The Bible says that it is the law that enables sin, supplies it with power or strength. “The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.” (1Co 15:56 KJV)

The Greek word translated strength is *dunamis*, which means self-energizing miracle-working power! It is the law of God that the devil uses to attempt to pull us down from the grace of God,

back into the snare of trying to keep the law. Trying to “be good.” It sounds so innocent! So right! But it is deadly.

The Apostle Paul warned Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:5 that one of the reasons that hard times would come on the earth would be because people would “have a form of godliness, but would deny the power thereof.” They would have the rules, but not the essence, which is a living relationship with Jesus.

Some things have not changed much over the past two thousand years. That same Apostle Paul, writing to the church at Galatia, said this: “But because of those false brothers stealing in, who stole in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus; they desiring to enslave us;” (Gal 2:4 MKJV)

The crabs, enslaved themselves, trying to pull those who had gained freedom back into the pot of slavery.

Paul didn't hate these people, he loved them. “Dear friends, my greatest wish and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved. I know they love God, but they don't understand what makes people acceptable to him. So they refuse to trust God, and they try to be acceptable by obeying the Law. But Christ makes the Law no longer necessary for those who become acceptable to God by faith.” (Rom 10:1-4 CEV)

There is only one way to escape the bondage of religion, rules and trying to be acceptable by obeying the law. That way is by faith—faith in what God has already done.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

(Joh 3:16-17 KJV)

Believe it, and go free!

## Jim Baker wins national Appleman-Judd-Lewis award

COPPER CENTER—

The Director's Appleman-Judd-Lewis Awards give recognition to permanent National Park Service employees who make outstanding contributions in cultural resource stewardship. Three national awards are made annually, each in one of three categories, (1) for an outstanding superintendent, (2) for an outstanding facility manager, and (3) for an outstanding cultural resource management specialist.

Jim Baker, Maintenance Supervisor, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, is the national winner in the facility manager category. Jim Baker

was nominated for his day-to-day oversight over stabilization and rehabilitation efforts at the Kenecott Mill complex. Since 2000 he has supervised and mentored



local craftspeople in this enormous and challenging task. Over the years his skilled hands-on work has led to the preservation

of 18 separate buildings and two bridges. Jim is known for his creativity and he is especially known for his ability to incorporate modern standards of construction and present-day building codes seamlessly in his historic preservation work. He is also highly regarded for his adherence to quality in his stabilization work and his ability to juggle multiple projects at the same time.

Congratulations to Jim Baker. The Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award is the highest award given out for work in cultural resources preservation. It is truly a great honor. Director Jon Jarvis will personally present the award in March at the George Wright Society Meetings.

# McCarthy is moving up in the world!

BY RICK KENYON

This past summer we had a very delightful young lady as a guest at the Aspen Meadows B&B. Her name is Julie Elliott and she is a student at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

Julie arrived with another student and promptly went over to McCarthy and set up a GPS station. She said it had to sit for 3 days collecting data. Of course I asked her what the purpose was and she explained that she is working on her PHD and studying Tectonic block motion. Her study is mainly in Southeast Alaska and the adjacent portion of northwest Canada but also extends northward and includes the McCarthy area.

Julie shared her research material with us but I have to admit most of it went way over my head. I asked her to explain it in her own words.

“In my research, I use high-precision GPS data to investigate tectonic motions in southeast and south central Alaska. The familiar hand-held GPS devices you use for hiking or in your car generally have an accuracy of a few tens of yards. The GPS equipment I use can measure locations with an accuracy

of a few tenths of an inch. At a few locations in my field area, there are permanent GPS stations that continuously collect data. Most of my data, though, is collected at campaign sites. Each time I go to a campaign



Photo courtesy Julie Elliott

Julie setting up one of her sites next to the Bering Glacier. She uses over 150 sites overall.

site, I have to set up the equipment, wait for it to collect data for a few days, then take it down. After I collect data at a site several times over the course of several years, I can calculate how fast and in what direction the site is moving. I then use this information to develop mathematical models that describe how the various tectonic puzzle pieces are moving, where major

faults are, and how much those faults are moving.”

“In this region of the world, the major tectonic players are the Pacific plate, southern Alaska, and the Yakutat block, a wedge-shaped chunk of the earth’s crust that is actively colliding with southern Alaska. This collision is responsible for the spectacular topographic relief of the St. Elias Mountains. My results indicate that the Yakutat block moves to the northwest at a rate of about 2 inches per year. The collisional boundary between the Yakutat block and southern Alaska is in the Icy Bay area along the Malaspina thrust fault. Further to the east, the motion of the Yakutat block leads to earthquake activity along the Fairweather fault and causes part of the crust east of the fault to slowly rotate clockwise. McCarthy is north of the peak tectonic activity, but data from the GPS sites there show it is still moving along at about a third of an inch per year towards the northwest.”

Julie also told me that the movement is also causing a rise in elevation in our area. So, McCarthy is truly moving up in the world!

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*“Don't knock the weather; nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while.”—Kin Hubbard*

*“The spirit of resistance to government is so valuable on certain occasions, that I wish it to be always kept alive. It will often be exercised when wrong, but better so than not to be exercised at all. I like a little rebellion now and then. It is like a storm in the atmosphere.” —Thomas Jefferson, letter to Abigail Adams, 1787*

# Kennecott National Historic Landmark Ops plan revision

MEG JENSEN  
SUPERINTENDENT WRST

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to revise the 2001 Interim Operations Plan for the Kennecott National Historic Landmark (NHL). The Interim Operations Plan was written to develop management strategies for the NPS at the Kennecott National Historic Landmark in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Such a plan became necessary when the National Park Service acquired the privately owned site in June 1998. The Kennecott site, mined for its copper in the early 1900s, is in the center of the park, approximately 5 miles from where the McCarthy Road ends at the Kennicott River. The NPS acquired 2,839 acres, including much of the historic mill town, the subsurface rights to the mine, and the surrounding natural area.

With the acquisition, the NPS assumed new responsibility for protecting the important elements of the historical, cultural and natural landscape. In addition to being a historic site of national significance, the NHL also includes natural areas easily accessible to visitors and is a gateway to the park's backcountry. Its cultural landscape reflects a mixture of historic mining era buildings and artifacts intermixed with the ongoing life of an Alaska bush community, members of which

own lands and businesses intermingled with NPS holdings at Kennecott and in the nearby area of the town of McCarthy.

The 2001 Interim Operations Plan was intended to provide guidance for management of the NHL for a five-year period. The Interim Operations Plan needs to be revised for the following reasons:

- There are major projects on the horizon, including stabilization of the 14-story concentration mill, stabilization of the leaching plant, and construction/installation of a potable water/fire suppression system.
- Much has been accomplished at the NHL since 2001. A revision is a good opportunity to document the stabilization, preservation, and adaptive re-use of historic structures that has occurred.
- There has been discussion and concern within the Kennecott/McCarthy community regarding work that has been accomplished relative to the community vision that was presented in the Interim Operations Plan.
- The Interim Operation Plan calls for development of a communication process and procedure for joint NPS/community review of proposed projects. This needs to be described and implemented.
- New issues have developed in light of changes in access to

the NHL have occurred since the Interim Operations Plan. There is a growing component of Off Road Vehicle use and easier access to the site with privately owned full-size vehicles.

The revision of the Interim Operations Plan will be accompanied by an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA will consider the environmental effects of a range of alternative actions proposed within the revision.

At this time, the NPS is asking for comments on our proposal to revise the Interim Operations Plan. To assist the public in making comments, we have posted a copy of the Interim Operations Plan at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/wrst> under "Kennecott Rehabilitation, Maintenance, and Operations Plan and EA." Within the text of the posted Interim Operations Plan, you will find highlighted text indicating how NPS intends to revise sections of the plan, as well as an indication of new issues that will be covered.

Public comments are requested on the proposed revision through February 15, 2011. To comment, please visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, or write to the address above. If you have questions about the revision or need a printed copy of the Interim Operations Plan, please contact Bruce Rogers, planner, at 907-822-7276 or e-mail at [Bruce\\_Rogers@nps.gov](mailto:Bruce_Rogers@nps.gov).

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*"It is one of the maladies of our age to profess a frenzied allegiance to truth in unimportant matters, and to refuse consistently to face her where graver issues are at stake." —British writer Norman Douglas (1868-1952)*

## Climate Change Response Strategy Released by NPS Alaska

### NPS PRESS RELEASE

Glacier Bay without the glaciers? It's not going to happen soon, but a changing climate is causing changes to national park landscapes across Alaska.

A newly released Climate Change Response Strategy for Alaska's national parks provides details of what we know about climate change in Alaska parks, describes potential changes in the visitor experience, and provides goals for the Service to meet over time.

"A better understanding of probable rates of change and potential effects across Alaska and in specific park locations will help managers make informed decisions and consider their alternatives in issues as diverse as invasive species, historic buildings, wildland fire, and visitor destinations," said Dr. Robert Winfree, Science Advisor for NPS Alaska Region.

Climate change will challenge the National Park Service in how it manages parks because many guiding policies and legal mandates are premised on a stable climate. Requirements in law, for instance, to maintain habitat for seals and other marine life that depend on glacial ice, or to protect habitat for and populations of birds, fish and wildlife in upland areas, may be increasingly difficult to meet as glaciers retreat and the vegetation changes in parks.

The strategy document also notes several examples of changes already taking place in Alaska parks. Glaciers in Wrangell-St. Elias, Kenai Fjords, Glacier Bay

and other parks are shrinking in size. Newly unglaciated ground can slowly rise up, changing shorelines and causing hazards to near-shore navigation. Tidewater glaciers have long been a favorite destination of cruise ships in Glacier Bay and elsewhere in Alaska; as they become more difficult to see, visitation patterns may change.

Coastal erosion is accelerating as sea ice diminishes along Alaska's northwest coast, causing the loss of archeological sites from Cape Krusenstern and other northwest parks. The same forces can also cause the loss of visitor facilities.

Small and shallow lakes are shrinking, changing the habitat available for birds and other wildlife. In the past 27 years, a quarter of the small, shallow lakes studies in Denali have shrunk markedly. Warmer and drier landscapes also host different vegetation, changing the resources available for sport and subsistence hunters.

The Alaska strategy lays out four broad goals for the NPS in Alaska as part of a national response to climate change:

- **Science:** To support resource inventories, monitoring and research to better understand the current and potential impact of changing climate on park resources.
- **Adaptation:** to modify park management practices to adjust for climate change.
- **Mitigation:** Through innovation, demonstration projects and new business practices, to have parks become models of environmentally sustainable operation.

- **Communication:** To increase public and employee understanding and awareness of the causes and effects of climate change and measures that will reduce or mitigate these effects.

The NPS has already begun changing operations and priorities in response to the overall NPS focus on climate change. Planning documents are beginning to discuss climate change as parks look to the future of construction projects and other work within parks. Increased coordination of research and monitoring work is taking place between the NPS and other state and federal land managers, as well as cooperating university researchers. A vigorous natural resources inventory and monitoring program is underway across all Alaska parks, with particular emphasis on resource "vital signs" that may illustrate how climate change is affecting parks.

"Climate change will undoubtedly affect how NPS manages park resources and services in the Alaska Region," Winfree said. "We share many issues with parks in the Lower 48, but in many cases the effects of climate change are occurring more quickly and with more severity in Alaska. Working with the best available information, and with others, will help NPS to protect and preserve America's natural and cultural heritage for current and future generations."

The strategy and an executive summary are available at <http://www.nps.gov/akso/climatechange.html>

# Finding a midwinter night's roost

BY NED ROZELL

**D**uring the darkest days of Alaska as winter, black-capped chickadees stuff themselves with enough seeds and frozen insects to survive 18-hour nights. Where the chickadees spend those long nights was a mystery until a biologist tracked them.

Susan Sharbaugh has spent many winter nights trying to find out how a creature as light as a handful of paperclips survives temperatures of 40 degrees below zero. Sharbaugh is a biologist with the Alaska Bird Observatory and an unabashed fan of the black-capped chickadee, one of the most unlikely residents of the north because of the difficulty of keeping a tiny body warm in a cold place.

In her past studies, Sharbaugh has found that black-capped chickadees gain an additional 10 percent of their body weight each day by stuffing themselves. The birds then use that fat to shiver all night, which keeps them warm. The human equivalent would be a 165-pound man who spent a frigid night outside and emerged 15 pounds lighter by the next morning.

Sharbaugh wondered where black-capped chickadees performed their amazing acts of nighttime survival until a company developed a radio transmitter tiny enough to ride on the bird's back. Weighing .5 grams, the radio transmitter is about the size of an M&M, with a whip antenna approximately five inches long.

Sharbaugh attaches the transmitter to captured chickadees with two elastic loops that fit over their legs like a climbing harness.

"They ride really nicely," Sharbaugh said. "You cannot even tell the transmitter is there."

After she first attached a transmitter to a chickadee at the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus in a study she performed a decade ago, Sharbaugh watched the bird disappear into the woods. She waited for darkness and hoped the evening would provide an answer to a question she had pondered for years: where do chickadees spend the night?

People had told her about chickadees flying under the eaves of their homes at dusk. Sharbaugh had seen chickadees with bent tails at her feeder in the morning, which suggested they crammed their tiny bodies somewhere to escape the deep cold of the night.

When darkness fell on the night she attached the first transmitter, she ventured into the woods with former UAF Biologist Tom Hahn, a receiver in an insulated bag, and an antenna that resembled a green ping-pong paddle.

Sharbaugh and Hahn followed the beeping signal to a birch tree with a broken top. They returned at twilight the next afternoon to see the chickadee diving into hole on the tree bark the size of a quarter. They had found a roost, a place where the chickadee wedged itself, puffed its feathers, turned its internal thermostat

down 15 degrees Fahrenheit, and burned fat all night.

Sharbaugh said chickadees could not survive without finding such a sanctuary.

"Finding a roost is just as critical, if not more critical, than finding food," she said. "You have to find a good and an insulated place to spend the night when you are that small."

Since discovering the first roost, she has found the roosts of several other black-capped chickadees. Using diced peanuts as a lure, Sharbaugh recaptures the birds to remove their transmitters, which have a battery life of about three weeks.

All the roosts Sharbaugh has found have been in birch trees, and she has never seen more than one chickadee enter a roost. Other birds, such as bluebirds, survive the cold by huddling together, but that appears not to be the case for black-capped chickadees in the north. Roosting alone seems to fit their character, Sharbaugh said.

"They are fairly aggressive towards each other," she said. "It would be difficult for them to share a space."

If chickadees around Fairbanks endure long winter nights in birch trees, the nighttime haunts of their relatives farther north in Russia's Arctic and the gray-headed chickadee of Alaska's Brooks Range might roost in snow, Sharbaugh said.

*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.*

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## RAILROAD AND HISTORY BUFFS — PLAN AHEAD

You will not want to miss the Centennial Celebration commemorating completion of the 196-mile Copper River and Northwestern Railway. Dubbed "*Can't Run and Never Will,*" it did run 196 miles from Cordova to McCarthy and Kennecott, Alaska, from 1911 to 1938.

Representatives of the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum and the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park are meeting together to plan a gala weekend full of events on **JULY 8-9, 2011**

Watch future *WSEN* issues for updates on events planned. For more information and/or to offer your own ideas/help with the planning, **CONTACT:**



**McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum**

**ATTN: Patt Garrett**

**PO Box 671643**

**Chugiak, AK. 99567**

**Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve**

**ATTN: Erica Edmonds**

**PO Box 439**

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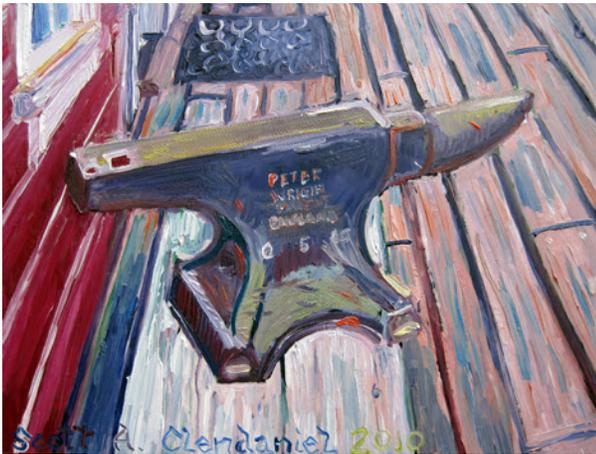
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# McCarthy - Kennicott HISTORICAL Museum

January 2011



Anvil artwork by Scott Clendaniel

## The Anvil

By Patt Garratt & Mark Vil

Some of the guys were whooping it up down at the McCarthy Lodge one summer evening many years ago. One man stated he had a rich gold mine nearby. "It is a working gold mine, and I am the only one that knows where it is. I have made my poke and I am on my way to marry my sweetheart in Seattle," the miner slurred.

His drinking buddies coaxed him, asking where the mine was located. The gold miner promised it was on a nearby mountain, and yet very well hidden. "No one can find it."

His two drinking buddies stated that was impossible, that they had been prospecting around McCarthy country for years and they knew about every producing mine around.

"Not mine," stated the inebriated gold miner. As they all kept drinking, the man with the goldmine became so sure of himself and that his mine was not able to be found. He told the other two men, "If you guys can find my diggings, bring me something from it, that proves you were there and I will buy you both all the beer you can drink!"

The daylight is long during a McCarthy summer, and the

two drinking buddies were sure they could find their friend's gold mine, so they agreed. They told the gold miner to stay put and they would return soon with the proof.

About twenty-four hours or so later, the two beer drinkers returned to the bar, sunburned, tired and thirsty. Their arms and chests were scratched from bushwhacking up, down and around. They demanded the beer promised them. The gold miner asked for his proof first.

The two men picked up the steel anvil they had waiting outside. They sat it on the bar with a loud and heavy bang. "Here is your proof!" they exclaimed.

The gold miner agreed it was his anvil, from his mine, and he bought the boys their beer. The three men swore on their lives to keep the site of the gold mine secret! They all agreed the mountain is too steep to take the anvil back up and so it sits in the McCarthy Museum today.

### RAILROAD AND HISTORY BUFFS - PLAN AHEAD!

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Copper Center, AK 99573-0439  
[crnw2011@gmail.com](mailto:crnw2011@gmail.com)

## 2010 Annual Membership Meeting Highlights

The Annual Membership Meeting was held on August 19, 2010. Museum President Sunny Cook acknowledged the many volunteers who staffed the museum this past year. Museum doors are open only when a volunteer is present, so volunteers are more important than ever.

Plans are underway for the CR & NW Railway Centennial Celebration scheduled for July 8-9, 2011 marking the arrival of the first train into McCarthy and Kennecott. The Museum Board is co-planning the event with the National Park Service.

The Centennial Celebration brings special significance to the old CR & NW Depot which houses the museum. A display dedicated to the event is planned on the ticket sales window wall in the old depot office, now identified as the Museum Reading Room.

This Spring, the Reading Room will benefit from much needed improvements thanks to the McCarthy Area Council (MAC), which approved a \$5000 grant proposal from the museum. MAC has agreed to fund solar lighting, a propane heater and a bit of redecorating. MAC will also fund a 12V battery for lighting the caretaker's cabin. Also, the Cap Hubrick panoramas will be reframed and additional shelving installed.

Treasurer John Rice presented a tightly balanced budget of \$4000. (Note, the MAC grant money will be managed separately.) The limited budget led to a fundraising discussion. It was agreed that the Museum will sell a centennial poster, designed and copyrighted by Scott Clendaniel. Additionally, Patt Garrett suggested creating and selling a "Can't Run and Never Will" bumper sticker as well as copies of historic photographs.

Finally, a slate of officers and directors was approved for 2010-11. Many thanks to outgoing board members Meg Hunt, Dick Anderson and Neil Darish. Your years of dedicated service are greatly appreciated!

### 2010-11 MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sunny Cook, President  
Scott Clendaniel, Vice-President  
Janet Hegland-Weaver, Secretary and AK Agent  
John Rice, Treasurer  
Patt Garrett, Docent  
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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 2011 season is available at [www.nps.gov/akso/compendium.html](http://www.nps.gov/akso/compendium.html). 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 15 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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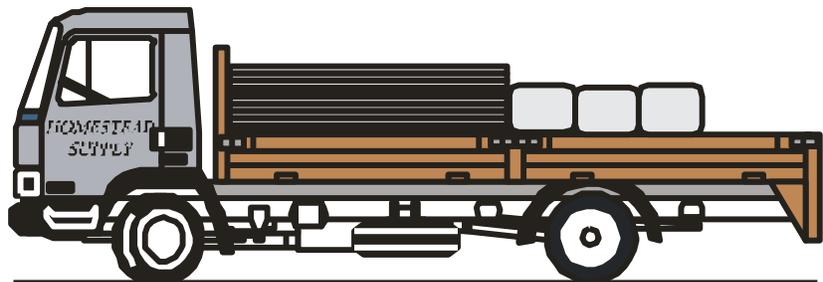
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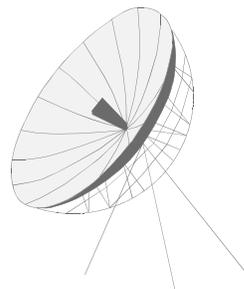
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# Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

**H**i Everyone, It is December 7 as I write this so I expect many of you are covered in snow. You should move to Tucson with us. I'm sitting in the window; the sun is pouring in and all the windows and doors are open. Our weather is fantastic right now. Hope your Thanksgiving was a wonderful one with family, friends, and lots of great food. Can you believe it, I still haven't mastered mashed potatoes that I can make the day before and have them still be light and fluffy!

*I Must confess to all of you, I broke another promise I made to myself that I wouldn't buy another cookbook. After all, how many do you need! Well, I went to a Bake/Craft sale being held at a local church and they were selling a cookbook made up with the recipes from the people at their church. Of course I bought it just to help them out. If you believe that you don't know me! So I'm going to give you a few of the recipes from it that I've either already tried or that look good.*

*Couldn't resist a recipe for another meatloaf!*

## BUSY DAY MEATLOAF

1 lb. lean ground beef  
 ½ teaspoon salt  
 2/3 cup cracker crumbs  
 2/3 cup milk  
 1 egg, beaten  
 3 tablespoons onion, minced or chopped  
 ½ teaspoon each dried sage and thyme leaves  
 ¼ teaspoon black pepper

¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg  
 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar  
 1/3 cup catsup  
 ½ teaspoon each ginger and garlic salt  
 2 tablespoons soy sauce  
 1 teaspoon dry mustard  
 ½ cup green pepper, chopped  
 ½ cup red pepper, chopped

Crumble beef into large bowl. Add salt, cracker crumbs and milk. Let stand for a few minutes until crumbs are soft and blend together. Mix in egg, onion, green and red peppers, sage, thyme, nutmeg and black pepper, mixing well. You can shape into 4 loaves and bake on a baking sheet or place in a loaf pan to bake. Mix brown sugar, catsup, ginger, garlic salt, soy sauce and mustard together and spread mixture over the top of loaves or pan of meatloaf. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes. (I baked in one loaf pan and the 30 min. isn't enough. For the one loaf I would figure 45 min to 1 hour.)

*Now here is one from the same book that I haven't tried yet but will this week because it looks tasty and easy!*

## MEXICAN CHICKEN

1 can cheese soup  
 1 cup salsa  
 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts

In a bowl combine the soup and the salsa; mix well. Place chicken in a baking dish coated with non-stick cooking spray and cover with the soup and salsa. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45

minutes or until juices run clear. Serve over noodles or rice.

*This next one is for you Moms and Grandmothers of young children. Just fun!*

## ANTS ON A LOG

Celery stalks  
 Peanut butter  
 Raisins

Cut celery stalks into thirds. Spread peanut butter into middle of celery stalk (I used to love this). Stick a few raisins in the peanut butter.

*How about another!*

## SPIDER PRETZELS

2 round crackers  
 2 teaspoons smooth peanut butter  
 8 small pretzel sticks  
 2 raisins

With the peanut butter, make a cracker sandwich. Insert 8 pretzels (legs) into the filling. With a dab of peanut butter, set 2 raisins (eyes) on top. Makes 1 spider.

*Now I want to give you a recipe that I found on the net right before Thanksgiving. I was a little afraid of it because it was a 4-layer cake and my layer cakes always tilt or sag, etc. I tried this one with the hints they gave and it was fantastic. I was so glad my guests didn't eat it all so I had some leftover. Jim doesn't believe in throwing anything away so I HAD to eat it! One of the ingredients is canned pumpkin and even though I would eat it anytime of the year, I'm wondering if there is another product (like something apple flavored) that could be used instead of the*

*pumpkin. Some people think pumpkin should only be served at Thanksgiving and this cake though mildly pumpkin flavored is so good I would hate to limit it to Thanksgiving. Here goes...*

**Four-Layer Pumpkin Cake**

- 1 (18.25 oz.) package yellow cake mix
- 1 (14 oz.) can pumpkin, divided
- ½ cup milk
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ teaspoon pumpkin pie spice, divided

**FILLING**

- 1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 (8 oz.) tub Cool Whip, thawed
- ¼ cup Caramel topping (usually sold to top ice cream)
- ¼ cup chopped pecans

1. Preheat oven to 350.

2. Grease and flour 2 (9 inch) round cake pans.

3. Beat the cake mix, 1 cup of the pumpkin, milk, oil, eggs, and 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice in a large bowl with mixer on medium speed until well blended. Pour evenly into prepared pans.

4. Bake 20-25 minutes until toothpick comes out clean. Cool completely on wire racks.

5. Meanwhile beat cream cheese in small bowl with mixer until creamy. Add powdered sugar, remaining pumpkin and remaining ½ teaspoon pumpkin pie spice. Mix well. Stir in whipped topping.

6. Remove cake layers from pans. Cut each layer horizontally in half with serrated knife.

HINT: You probably all know this but I didn't. If you take some toothpicks and stick them in the middle of the side of the

layer about every 2 inches all the way around and then lay your knife on top of the toothpicks and slice in about 2 inches, turn the cake, cut again, turn the cake, cut again until you are all the way around then slice that little bit in the middle and your one layer is now two perfect layers. I baked my cake and cut the layers the day before and then put it together on Thanksgiving.

7. Stack the layers on a serving plate, spreading the cream cheese mixture between the layers. DO NOT frost the top. Drizzle the top and sides with the caramel sauce and sprinkle with the chopped pecans. Store in the refrigerator. Serves 16.

*I have another pie for you (Black Forest Brownie Pecan Pie) but I'll have to give it to you next time. I think I'm out of space for this issue. Enjoy cooking and eating everyone. See you in the Spring.*

# Aspen Meadows



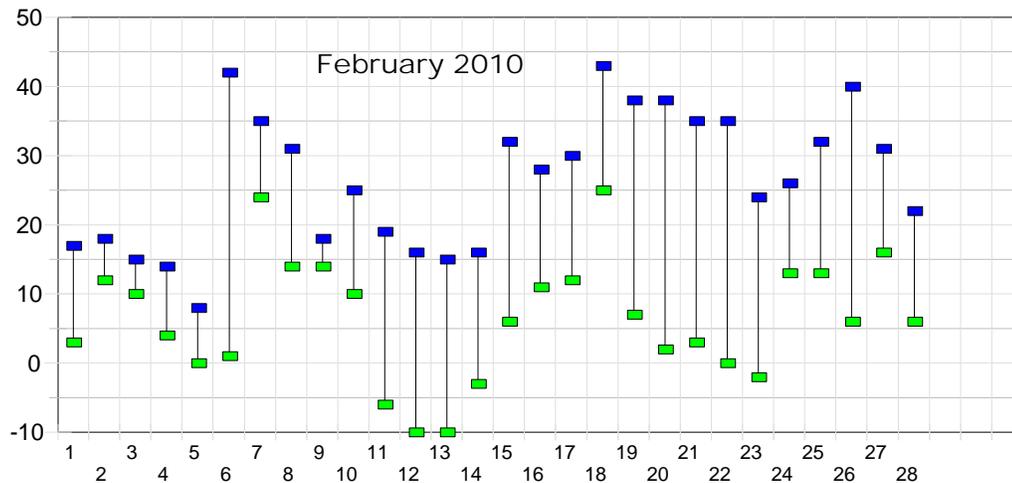
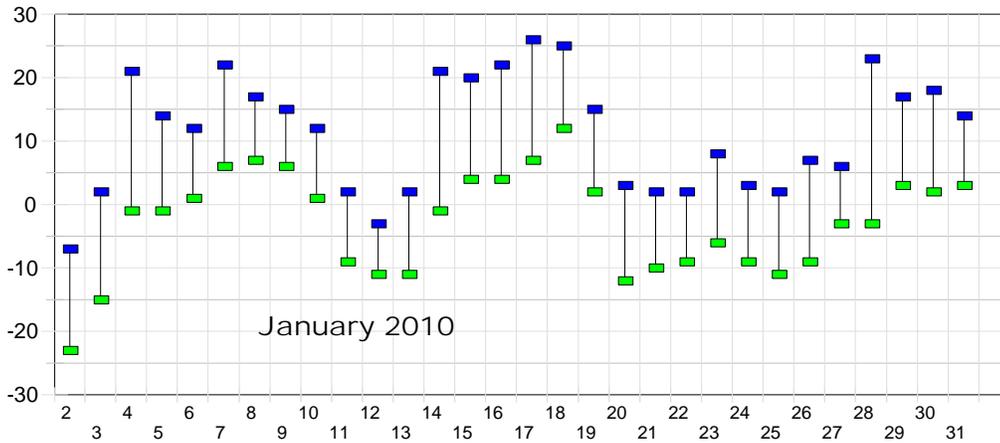
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