

# Wrangell St. Elias News

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

VOL. TWO ISSUE THREE

MARCH & APRIL 1993

ONE DOLLAR

## Senator Georgianna Lincoln

**WSEN:** I understood you to say your home is in Rampart.

**Lincoln:** That's right. Rampart is my home. I have always since 1963 been going back to Rampart for three months, and often up to six months (each year) until 1986, when I moved back there permanently and am loving every minute of it. We are also a very small community, 63 people strong. I say 63, but that was a census I took a year and a half ago, so we might be in our 50's now. I have two children, a daughter 26 years old who graduated from UA-Fairbanks last year in Justice, and a son of 24 who is still plugging away at college.

**WSEN:** What are your background and interests?

**Lincoln:** My educational background is that I graduated from Lathrop High School. I went to elementary school both in Rampart and in Fairbanks. I spent most of my teenage and earlier years in Fairbanks. I then went on to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. I'm still plugging along toward my degree and I'm still going to get

it one of these days, but I keep getting detoured—willingly! I'm probably a semester away from getting my degree.

**WSEN:** And what will your degree be in?

**Lincoln:** Business administration and eventually toward public administration.

## Representative Irene Nicholia

(Rep. Nicholia's name is pronounced like "Nikolai.")

**WSEN:** Can you tell our readers in McCarthy about your home and background?

**Nicholia:** I'm from the village of Tanana, where I was born and raised. I attended Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka for two

years, and I also attended the University of Alaska through the rural education system. I lived in Nenana for five and one-half years working for the Yukon-Koyukuk School District and then after that I worked for the local Native Council for eight and one-half years, working with higher education, adult vocational training, employment, wildlife and parks, agriculture, and realty—and a little bit with social services as well.

**WSEN:** That's quite a resume! Have you held any previous political office before this one?

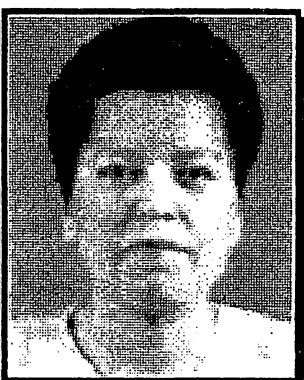
**Nicholia:** I was a school board member, and I also was an advisor to the U.S.-Canada-Yukon Salmon Negotiations Team. I was also a board member of the Alaska Native Federation Board. I was a member of the Interior Education Council, which is part of the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, and I also sat on the Nenana Rural Education Center policy team. I was also on the Galena Rural Education policy team.

### Get to know your new senator and representative.

Our "roving correspondent" Ed LaChapelle was able to talk with Senator Lincoln and Representative Nicholia while on a recent trip to Juneau. We thank you Ed, and we wish Senator Lincoln and Representative Nicholia all the best as they go to bat for us all.



Georgianna Lincoln



Irene Nicholia

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## SENATOR LINCOLN, cont.

**WSEN:** What's your previous political experience?

**Lincoln:** I have, I guess, been teething on Native politics all of my adult life. I got started in it really with the Fairbanks Native Association, and then tried to get on the Borough Assembly one time and didn't make it there. It was an

we've got fish, timber, minerals—you name it, we've got it in our district. Third was transportation, because we've got ferries, 57% of all highways are within our district, and 91 communities with airports. I was not selected for Finance. We have only one minority on Finance; that's Sen. Kertulla, who is the most senior member.

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***"We have to have good communication to our communities and whatever means that is, this (interview) is certainly one of them."***

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appointment actually for a vacancy. I was involved with the EEO office on a board in Fairbanks and served on the governor's Interim Task Force, also on the Judicial Conduct Commission for a number of years and various boards and commissions. It seemed that I just gradually moved into State politics. When I ran two years ago for the House, it was the first time I ever ran for Statewide office, and won. I have had a real strong desire all my life to help those who perhaps are not in a position to help themselves. So I feel real good about my last two years in the House, just real good about my position here.

**WSEN:** How do you feel about your first week as a Senator?

**Lincoln:** Actually it is much busier than I thought it was going to be, considering that I am in the minority (party). A lot of interviews and, surprisingly, there are a lot of constituents who are down here from various communities the first week.

**WSEN:** Have you got your committee assignments yet?

**Lincoln:** Some of them. Of the three committees I wanted, I chose Finance Committee as number one because of the size of our district. Second to finance was resources, because

I was not put on Resources, but I did get Transportation. The second committee I got was Labor and Commerce, which was not a choice, but we'll make do with it. And then I was elected as the Minority Whip for the Senate. Within our minority, without exception, there wasn't one person who got the committee assignments that they wanted, so I don't feel left out.

**WSEN:** Do you have any specific legislative goals for this term?

**Lincoln:** Because of our minority status I don't intend to put in a lot of pieces of legislation. I will be putting in some, but rather if there is a piece of legislation we need to see come to pass, I would like to see if I can't get a majority member (to do it). But I will be working on things other than bills and legislation. We have to have good communication to our communities and whatever means that is, this (interview) is certainly one of them. The other is through the radio system, through teleconferences, through the written word, newspapers. So I really am going to put a lot of emphasis on that.

**WSEN:** Do you have any particular political philosophy that you are bringing to the job here?

## REPRESENTATIVE NICHOLIA, cont.

**WSEN:** The name "Nicholia," spelt differently, is well-known in the McCarthy area as part of our history. Is there any connection?

**Nicholia:** Probably no connection. There are a lot of "Nikolais" throughout Alaska and they are all spelt differently.

**WSEN:** How was your first week of experience with the Legislature?

**Nicholia:** The first week was spent in orientation, and there we learned a lot about the system. Then we talked to senior advisers. It was good and I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed listening to Al Adams and some other legislators talk about their experiences.

**WSEN:** Have you had any committee assignments yet?

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***"I'm a committee member of Health, Education and Social Services and also a member of Fisheries. I'm also on the subcommittee for Fish & Game Finance."***

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**Nicholia:** I'm a committee member of Health, Education and Social Services and also a member of Fisheries. I'm also on the subcommittee for Fish & Game Finance.

**WSEN:** Were there any committees you wanted to get on that you missed?

**Nicholia:** I wanted Resources, but being on the minority side you can't get all your choices. But HESS was more important at the time, and I got my first choice. And Fisheries was my next choice after Resources, so I pretty much got what I wanted.

**WSEN:** Do you bring any legislative goals when you come to this office?

**Nicholia:** Yes, I have a legislative goal, and that is to get funding for the schools. We have 75 communities in my district, and my goal is to make sure that those schools get funded. I'd also like to see capital projects get funded, based on their priorities and their needs. I also want to work with drug and alcohol programs and make sure that they get their funding—that would be under Social Services. I also want to work with adoptions and children who are in troubled homes who need suitable foster homes. I also want to work with Fisheries. We have a problem right now in that we have poor funding for fisheries in Alaska. Fisheries is a renewable resource, and if we are going to have any type of economic development, fisheries should be a priority. Another goal is to work on the needs of my

district, to work with individual communities and what their priorities are.

**WSEN:** Have you ever had a chance to visit McCarthy?

**Nicholia:** No, I didn't have a chance. I can't even find McCarthy on the map! It's got to be way at the end of the road.

**WSEN:** McCarthy is right in the middle of Wrangell St. Elias Park. It may be unusual in your district because our main concerns are the impact of tourism - fisheries is probably a fairly small issue for many of us!

## SENATOR LINCOLN, cont.

**Lincoln:** I'm a people person. I'm not "The Senator." Regardless of whether I am in the majority or minority, I have an obligation to do my best for the people and with the people. I try not to do for the people, but **with** the people; that is a big difference. That has always been my management style. Another key management style I've got is that I feel the folks I've got (on staff) who are working out here are a part of a real critical team, and we have to work together as a team. Otherwise, we end up spinning

the care of our people, our land, and our wildlife be based on the experience and judgment of those who live here, or on the well-meaning but often uninformed opinions of others?" We have an urban mentality that says, "Gee, all of Alaska must look like Fairbanks, Anchorage, or Juneau, or you just don't exist." Well, do we rely on those who live in rural Alaska to make those decisions, or on those urban people who only **think** they know?

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***"I'll read my version of what the governor said, and I'm standing in McCarthy right now: 'Will the care of our people, our land, and our wildlife be based on the experience and judgment of those who live here, or on the well-meaning but often uninformed opinions of others?' "***

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our wheels. The people of Alaska have got to get the feeling that this is their government; whatever decisions are made must truly be made with the people. We shouldn't be sitting here as sixty people saying, "I'm the Senator," or "I'm the Representative; therefore, I know best." I don't know what's best for McCarthy.

Did you get a copy of the Governor's State of the State address? In it he said something I am going to quote ten thousand times. He was talking about the wolf control: "Will the care for our people, our land, and our wildlife be based on the experience and judgment of those who live here, or on the well-meaning, but often uninformed, opinions of others?"

I'll read my version of what the governor said, and I'm standing in McCarthy right now: "Will

This was the end of the formal interview. In a short discussion that followed, Sen. Lincoln mentioned two important topics that are summarized here:

1. She believes that the State has to plan from the bottom up, not from the top down with the consequence that local communities get left out of the loop.
2. She strongly emphasized the importance of having some kind of local community organization as a point of contact for her and for other agencies and offices.

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## REPRESENTATIVE NICHOLIA, cont.

**Nicholia:** Tourism is something that I am interested in. I did talk to the chairman of Trade and Tourism today and requested that I would like to be on the committee if she could get me on it. They don't meet all that much during the session. She said, "What is your special interest?" and I said that I have a lot of communities on the highway that are into tourism, one of their main industries. She is going to look into that. Tourism is also one of the economic development interests of the governor.

of community organization. Perhaps we need to present our interests and trust you to sort out the priorities. Another big issue is preserving our lifestyle while also participating in economic development.

**Nicholia:** I read that newspaper (the WSEN) and the speech by Mark Vail and what they have. I liked the fact that he wrote that the subsistence lifestyle is protected through law by ANILCA. I like that. We need to keep in mind that there are people here who want to



WSN staff photo  
On the right, Rep. Irene Nicholia. On the left, her staff person, Pat Jackson. 1/15/93

**WSEN:** Stabilization of the historic mill site buildings at Kennicott is a current activity in our area supported by both state and federal funds. Does this fall within your interest in tourism?

**Nicholia:** I'd have to look at what the priorities are for each community, being that there are 75 communities. I'd like to hear the priorities from the McCarthy community, I wouldn't want to tell them what they want. I am hoping to hear from the community—it helps. If I went for every project that came along, I would be overburdened.

**WSEN:** McCarthy is presently looking at some form

maintain that lifestyle. I was very happy to read that. I would like to hear from Mark Vail speaking for the community and also from the (individual) people of McCarthy.

**WSEN:** We hope you will come and visit us if the size of your district allows it.

**Nicholia:** I certainly will try to get to McCarthy. I am sure I can make it this summer.

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**Staff:** Pat Jackson  
Judi Taber

# Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

**Kim Northrup:** Kim took a "leave of absence" from her winter's tutoring job and is presently in Tucson, Arizona, visiting family. She is due back in early March. Those of us who have stayed behind to brave McCarthy's cold hope Kim is soaking up extra warmth for us!

**Livingston Hickling:** The nephew of Gary Hickling is another "escapee" of our area's cold temperatures. He is visiting his family in Hawaii, but we expect him to return for the summer. Once the McCarthy Lodge opens, Livingston will no doubt be back "on the job."

**Gary and Betty Hickling:** Speaking of McCarthy Lodge, Gary and Betty are out—doing whatever lodge owners do in the winter. I'm sure they are gearing up for another busy season.

**Cal and Pat Ward:** Besides being much-sought-after baby-sitters for their grandchildren, Cal and Pat do find time to fly out and visit their Fireweed Mountain

homestead. They arrived January 7 and spent several days relaxing. (I guess in "their" book relaxing is shoveling roofs, inviting neighbors in for dinner, cooking up a meal and snowmachining it to another neighbor several miles away...)

**Paul Goetzman:** Paul—a new face to some in the area—announces he has purchased the McCarthy General Store from Jim and Jeannie Miller. He was in McCarthy January 8 where we had the opportunity to visit with him. At that time, Paul was uncertain to his future plans for the store. Among other activities, Paul has done some commercial fishing out of Cordova. We welcome him to "our town."

**Jim and Jeannie Miller:** The Miller family have got their hands into something new again! This time it's pizza dough. And tailor made to our likin'. What used to be a dress shop in the early days, is being made over to fit Jim and Jeannie's latest family project. "Tailor-Made Pizza." Maybe this news item isn't that interesting to our readers who

can drive a few miles for pizza, salad bar, and an ice cream cone. But for us here in McCarthy, it's an adventurous 100 miles or so to sample the "goodies" the Miller family is making available to us this summer.

**John Adams:** On a recent trip to Wasilla, John got a pleasant surprise. He found out he wouldn't be making the trip back to McCarthy alone. His 12 year old son, *Adam*, decided he would like to spend time out here. With school books in hand and Lilly Goodman as tutor, Adam is enjoying the "quiet" of McCarthy. And, we are pleased to have Adam in the community!

**Thea Agnew:** Thea returned from her trip to England and is back into the swing of Kennicott living. She is once again tutoring Aaron, Matt, and Stacie Miller.

**Thom, Catie, and Frances Bursch:** Even though some are returning from outside trips, we had to say good-bye to the Bursches. Not a permanent good-bye, of course, unless they find Costa Rica a better place to call home than Fireweed Subdivision! Catie informed us they hoped to be back home around the first of March. A recent post card from them told of sweating it out in 87 degree temperatures and hiking through the jungle to an inviting swimming spot. Catie added that she wished she could step out her door to a "cool" -20 degrees!

**Kelly and Natalie Bay:** Well, the news is out and we at WSEN are finally "allowed" to print the following announcement! Kelly and Natalie are expecting a baby the end of April. They have

been in Anchorage at the Fur Rondy but are due back to their home at Nizina sometime the end of February.

**Terry and Dee Frady:** Friday, February 12, was no ordinary mail day for Terry and Dee. An "adorable" but noisy package was delivered by our mail pilot, Lynn Ellis. Terry and Dee were quick to inspect their new German Shepherd. The papers on the "pup" call him Big Boy and that's understandable! He's certainly trying to live up to that description—even at 8 weeks. Because of Terry and Dee's fond memories of the Shoney's Big Boy restaurants, they decided to name their cuddly addition *Shoney!*

**Ben, Marci, Gaia and Ardea Thurston/Shane:** Back from a three month break to Port Townsend, Washington, Ben, Marci, and girls are glad to be home. According to Marci, their return to Kennicott was delayed because the girls came down with the flu while still in the states. All are doing fine now; in fact, Gaia is already getting prepared for the summer. She brought home a new bike! Maybe Ardea will take over the one Gaia outgrew.

**Ken and Carly Kritchen:** Ken and Carly of Cordova are back in the McCarthy area. They arrived safely February 14 and are busy opening their cabin. Ken is already shoveling snow off their incomplete addition so he can start adding a few more logs. Looks like it won't be too long before Ken will have a place to store all of Carly's "stuff!"

**Fred Denner:** The Kenyons are always glad when this time of year rolls around. Fred of Dan Creek stores barrels of gas

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at their place and, when conditions are right, Fred starts his annual freighting. This year he has 7 barrels to carry by way of his snowmachine and sled. Only taking one barrel at a time, it's about a 2 hour trip each way. Some days he makes two trips which gives Rick and Fred a good opportunity to chat over a cup of coffee!

**Nancy Cook/Bob Pinney:** Nancy and Bob decided to spend the winter at a small cabin near Spruce Point. Their nearest neighbor is Fred Denner but they have had occasional visitors from

McCarthy. This is Nancy and Bob's first winter in this area.

**Howard Mozen/Malcolm Vance:** Howard and Malcolm were two of Nancy and Bob's "occasional" visitors. Their mode of transportation—dog teams. They even took time to stop and visit Fred and Irene at Dan Creek. Malcolm has since packed up dogs and gear and is off on another trip in the even farther north. (We will do our best to keep our readers informed on Malcolm's present adventure.)

**Bob Hammer:** Those of us who tend incoming mail at

McCarthy's mail shack are certainly glad to see Bob! His mail box is overflowing with letters and packages. Bob has been gone for awhile but is now back at his beautiful cabin at Nizina.

**Mike McCarthy:** Mike and **McKenzie** (Mike's 4 year old son) are back home at their place on Silk Stocking Row. Mike informed us he had been doing some traveling during his absence. Between December 6 and January 25, he was visiting Thailand and Vietnam. This was his third trip to Thailand and considers it a wonderful vacation spot. From there he

decided to visit Vietnam for the first time. He was surprised to find plenty of Americans and found them well received. (We have asked Mike to write an article for WSEN and share his experiences.)

**Tim Mischel:** This is fair warning to all our local readers. Tim is back at his "post" on the mountain. It's quite a job for Tim to get to his cabin and back down the mountain for his mail as he lives at the highest elevation of all the local residents. Welcome home, Tim!

## McCarthy area residents choose name

McCarthy Lodge was the place; January 6, 1993, was the date for another gathering of McCarthy area residents. On the agenda for this town meeting was choosing a name, clarifying the ground rules, and agreeing on issues to be discussed at the next meeting.

Suggested names for the group ranged from "Outlaws of McCarthy" to "Wrangell Saints Alliance." (Some showed concern that they could not live up to the latter name and definitely should not live up to the first.) So, when it came to a show of hands, "McCarthy Area Landowners Association" was the name chosen by most popular vote.

According to an introductory M.A.L.A. newsletter, membership is open to all property owners in the McCarthy/Kennicott area. The boundaries of this area are from Crystal Creek in the

West to the Canadian border in the East. A member must be at least 18 years of age and pay a yearly fee of \$5.00 if he or she receives mail in McCarthy and \$10 if he has an outside mailing address. The dues will enable M.A.L.A. to produce and mail a newsletter to members covering town meetings and any other pertinent business.

One item brought up at the January meeting was the need for community support for public radio station KCHU of Valdez. James Winchester, General Manager, sent word that KCHU was seeking funding through the State Legislature to install a solar-powered FM repeater in the McCarthy area. This upgrade would give better reception. M.A.L.A. voted to send a letter in support of that action.

Three issues were offered for future discussions: Access/Trams.

Trash/Sanitation, and the Kennicott/McCarthy (NPS) Management Plan. Access and trams were chosen to be on the agenda at the February 3 meeting; however, due to cold temperatures, this meeting was canceled. The next town meeting is scheduled for March 3. Several people have told WSEN that they hope the resident zone issue will be discussed because of the March 26 deadline for comment.

## New hiking guide to be released this spring

The Wrangell Mountains Center is working with the Alaska Natural History Association to publish a hiking guide. According to Ben Shaine, who is working on the final draft, it will be 5-6 pages of information "to help orient visitors, along with a bit of travel safety information." See Ben for further details.

### Slana Ranger Station to be rebuilt

The National Park Service announced on February 10 that the Slana Ranger station will be rebuilt. The building was destroyed when it burned to the ground the night of November 6, 1992. No one was injured in the fire. Although the building and its contents had been valued at \$150,000, NPS was able to obtain \$229,000 in funding to replace it. Karen Wade, Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, said that planning and design work has already begun. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring.

# Kennicott Cleanup Plan

BY BONNIE KENYON

Gerald Schurtz of Kennecott Corporation met with various agencies on December 14 to discuss cleanup of potentially hazardous substances. The site in question is Kennicott, Alaska—an area that once held one of the richest deposits of copper ore ever found. Kennecott Copper Corporation closed the mines in 1938 but still holds the mineral and subsurface rights. The surface—including some of the abandoned buildings—is owned by the Great Kennicott Land Company. In 1986 they offered to sell the property to the National Park Service. The presence of possible hazardous substances has been a major obstacle to NPS acquisition.

The meeting covered subjects such as: the removal of asbestos, lead paint, oil-impacted soils, the ash pile, historic and current dumps,

mine entrances and tailings. Among those attending were Superintendent of Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Karen Wade, and ten other park service representatives. Jim Harrower, Official Agent for Great Kennicott Land Company, was also present.

The group discussed the removal of above ground and underground materials containing asbestos. According to a meeting summary provided by the National Park Service, Kennecott Corporation said they had no problem with completely removing all above ground asbestos. They remarked, however, that removing underground asbestos could create a worse health hazard than simply leaving it alone.

The group also discussed a disposal site for the asbestos. Kennecott Corporation reported that asbestos does not leach or

pollute the ground water and is hazardous only if airborne. Therefore, once asbestos is buried and the site is permanently marked with iron stakes, no maintenance is required. The National Park Service said they needed written assurance that the buried asbestos will not become a hazard in the future. The Kennecott Corporation proposed a site adjacent to the cemetery but NPS objected because the cemetery is within the boundaries of a National Historic Landmark. It would visually disturb a cultural site, states the summary. Kennecott Corporation will search for another disposal site.

As far as lead paint goes, the summary notes that it is only considered a hazard to young children who are exposed over a long period of time. It goes on to say: "National safety standards were designed for residential buildings. Kennicott is a very

different situation. There are no resident children and future residential use is improbable."

Since the December meeting, another meeting was held with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to determine what the state will require for cleanup. According to an update from Karen Wade: "Discussions are on-going and final decisions have yet to be reached with the regulatory agencies—ADEC and EPA."

NPS and Kennecott Corporation agreed to keep the local people informed of any plans to dispose of asbestos in the Kennicott area. In a recent letter from Karen Wade, she said the Kennecott Corporation would like to meet with the community sometime between now and June. This will provide McCarthy/Kennicott residents an opportunity to ask questions regarding the cleanup.

## A piece of Kennicott history fades into dust

BY ED LACHAPPELLE

Much of the copper ore mined and milled at Kennicott ended up being turned into metallic copper at the American Smelting & Refining Company (ASARCO) smelter in Tacoma, Washington. One unwelcome byproduct of this process was arsenic that blighted the surrounding town of Ruston and eventually turned the smelter into a major superfund cleanup site. This cleanup meant that a major historical landmark of Puget Sound had to go.

ASARCO Day, Sunday, January 17, turned out to be one of the biggest public events ever seen in the Puget Sound area. According to police estimates, a crowd of 100,000 people was on hand for the fun. People traveled from all over the Pacific Northwest just to be there for the climax. Boats were so closely packed offshore in Commencement Bay that it was rumored possible to walk part way across the Bay stepping from boat to boat. Nature cooperated fully by providing a bright, sunny winter day.

At 12:40 p.m., a series of explosions rippled through the 562-foot high smokestack and it majestically collapsed into a huge pile of bricks, mortar and dust. The highest smokestack in the world at the time it was built in 1917, this structure had been a familiar landmark of Tacoma. It became known both for its distinctive profile visible from many miles away and for its equally distinctive plume of dense pollutants that ended when the smelter was finally closed in 1985. A piece of Puget Sound, and Kennicott history vanished that Sunday to the cheers, groans, whistles and

silent awe of the assembled thousands.

All in all, rather a decent and dramatic end for a historic structure that had outlived its time. What better way to go than to throw a big party and send it off in style?

*"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."  
-Jeremiah 29:11*

# Subsistence — New proposal may exclude many rural residents

## Local Commission bows to Park Service pressure, draws boundaries.

Twenty-six local residents attended the last meeting of the McCarthy Area Landowners Association. If new park service regulations are adopted, twenty-two of them may be banned from subsistence use in the park. Why? Because only 4 of them live within the proposed boundary for McCarthy. McCarthy area resident's first saw the maps that identify proposed boundaries of 18 "resident zone communities" for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park on the February 12 mail day. The maps caused no small stir.

The two sets of maps represent two alternatives being considered by the Subsistence Resource Commission. Proposal "A" draws rather tight boundaries around the 18 areas and favors those who live close to roads or town centers. Proposal "B" is a 15 mile wide belt around Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, plus

separate zones for Tok and Yakutat. From the copies received at McCarthy it was not possible to tell who would or would not be included in the local area under proposal B.

According to Federal Regulations, a resident zone is defined as "the area within, and the communities and areas near, a national park or monument in which persons who have customarily and traditionally engaged in subsistence uses within the national park or monument permanently reside." For Wrangell-St. Elias, the resident zone includes 18 communities and areas. Local understanding has been that McCarthy is part of the "area within" the park. The maps infer a more strict interpretation of the regulations which could mean that only areas located in the "hard park" are included, not areas located in the preserve.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, better known as ANILCA, describes subsistence as "the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or

transportation; for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible by products of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption; for barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade." Only people who live in the resident zone are allowed to use the park for subsistence purposes. Anyone else needs a permit from NPS in order to participate in subsistence activities in the park. (This applies only to the park, not the preserve.) In order to get a permit a person must show that they have a history of subsistence use in the park (not preserve) without the use of an airplane.

The Subsistence Resource Commission was formed under the provisions of ANILCA as a means to provide local residents a forum concerning subsistence matters. They also review proposals for regulations and other matters relating to subsistence use of fish and wildlife within a region. Bill Ellis is the Chairman of the SRC for Wrangell-St. Elias. We asked him why the commission felt the need for the boundary maps. This was his reply: "From the very beginning the

commission was against drawing lines on a map. At each meeting, we would ask (ourselves) if the subsistence needs were being met, and if they were, we would do no line drawing. Finally the Regional Office of the Park Service made their own boundaries and we were told that they could do this legally and make it stick. We were given the maps from Anchorage and the boundaries were ridiculously small. However, we were told that if we would consider boundaries at the November/December 1992 meeting and submit a plan to the Secretary of the Interior, the Regional Office would not put those maps in place. If we did not address the boundaries, they would. So, we added to the original maps and that is what is out for public review now."

The deadline for public comment is March 26, 1993. (Wrangell St. Elias News has asked for an extension, but at press time have not received one.) Copies of the maps are posted at the McCarthy mail shack and at Post Office buildings in the Copper Valley area. If you would like to comment on this proposal you may contact one of the Commission members.

### Subsistence Resource Commission members:

Bill Ellis	SR Box 370, Slana, AK 99586.	822-3426
Don Horrell	PO Box 364, Glennallen AK 99588	822-5815
Ray Sensmeier	Box 8, Yakutat, AK 99689	784-3339
Donald (Doc) Taylor	SR Box 340, Gakona, AK 99586	822-3239
Lorraine Titus	PO Box 465 Northway, AK 99764	778-2271
John Vale	PO Box 193, Yakutat, AK 99689	784-3423
Paul Claus	PO Box 109, Chitina, AK 99566	823-2233
Frank Entsminger	Mile 91, Tok Cutoff, Tok, AK 99780	883-2833
Roy Ewan	PO Box 242, Gakona, AK 99586	822-5213

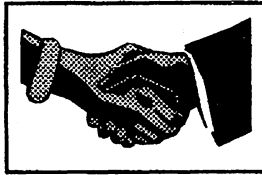
# Alascom, Copper Valley Telephone join forces to provide phone service

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

Although efforts to provide temporary phone service to the residents of the McCarthy area last fall were not successful, it looks as if permanent service will become available this summer. By teaming up with Alascom, the Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative hopes to have service for those who want it by July 1993.

In a letter dated January 27, Jim Gifford, System Engineer for Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, said that the Board of Directors

approved a budget and work plan to provide the service. He also said that the staff was currently gathering the necessary equipment for the project. They plan to bring a building, with the equipment installed, into McCarthy before spring break-up. CVTC will



provide the local service and equipment. "We have been in contact with Alascom, whom has also budgeted for and will be

providing the satellite toll interconnect to CVTC's equipment at McCarthy. At this time we expect that Alascom will be placing their equipment in CVTC's building at the McCarthy site," said Gifford.

Last August CVTC held a public meeting in McCarthy to see whether the residents wanted phone service. The response was very positive, and CVTC spokesmen said they hoped to provide temporary service by November. The plan was to use satellite equipment that had been taken out of service elsewhere. After further study they found out that the available equipment would not be able to provide reliable service from this area.



The engineers studied several options, including using a VHF or UHF radio link using mountain top repeaters similar to the ones the Park Service

uses. They ruled out this type of system because of the high costs involved with installation and maintenance. A microwave network linking facilities in Glennallen to the McCarthy area was also ruled out as being too expensive.

Under the new plan, the McCarthy town site, Kennicott and surrounding areas that are within radio range of the equipment will be hooked up first.

Outlying areas such as May Creek and Dan Creek will require further engineering work.

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

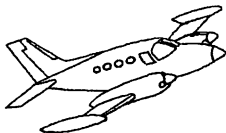
**NOW YOU CAN LEAVE ANCHORAGE AT 8:30 ON WEDNESDAY OR FRIDAY MORNING AND ARRIVE IN GULKANA AT 9:45, MCCARTHY AT 11:00. OR, YOU CAN LEAVE MCCARTHY AT 11:15 AND BE BACK IN ANCHORAGE BY 2:00PM THE SAME DAY! (LEAVES GULKANA AT 12:45) THIS SERVICE IS YEAR AROUND.**

Rates:	
Gulkana/McCarthy	\$40
McCarthy/Gulkana	\$40
Gulkana/MayCreek	\$60
May Creek/Gulkana	\$60
Anchorage/Gulkana	\$105
Gulkana/Anchorage	\$105

Baggage allowance 40 lbs.  
(charge for excess baggage)

### *Ellis Air Taxi, Inc.*

Gulkana Airfield Box 106, Glennallen, AK 99588  
Phone 822-3368





# The McCarthy Road Study

The McCarthy Road is to have yet another study done on it. This time, The National Park Service will join the State of Alaska in an effort to determine what, if anything, should be done with the one lane dirt road to McCarthy.

The present road began life as the Copper River & NorthWestern Railway right of way. Completed in 1911, it carried copper ore from the mines at Kennicott to the seaport of Cordova. The Kennicott mine shut down and the railway was abandoned in 1938. The railroad actually donated the right-of-way to the people of Alaska in 1941, to be used "for the purpose of creating a public highway." In the early 1950's the Bureau of Public Roads surveyed a route generally following the railroad alignment. The intent was to reconstruct the embankment and decaying structures. No actual construction took place.

Finally in 1962 the Alaska Department of Highways awarded a maintenance contract for removal of the rails, placing of culverts and grading of the road bed. This made it possible to drive from

the east bank of the Copper River to the Kennicott River — if you had some means to cross the Copper River at Chitina. It was not until 1971 that the present bridge across the Copper River was completed.

The road was scheduled to be rerouted and upgraded to 2-lane in the mid seventies, but a challenge by environmental interests stopped the plan before any actual construction had begun. The State of Alaska did another study in 1989. This one called for 2 lanes and some rerouting to avoid the more hazardous areas. Construction was to have been completed in 6 years, by 1995. It is not clear just what happened to this plan. It supposedly addressed such environmental factors as "noise and air quality, right-of-way, wetlands, and visual aesthetics."

This latest study is part of an agreement between the Alaska Department of Transportation and the National Park Service. This agreement raises the question of whether the state really has clear title to the right-of-way. If they do, why didn't they continue with the 1989 plan? We asked

Jonathan Widdis, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Capital Projects Planning Manager, to comment. His reply? "Cooperation with the NPS is useful and we are proceeding with that goal. However, as a state highway on a state-owned right of way, the ultimate responsibility for improvement, maintenance and operation of the McCarthy Road lies with the State of Alaska."

Historically, the State of Alaska claimed ownership and did maintenance at the May Creek Airport. When they tried to do their maintenance work several years ago, NPS said they would need a permit, and that no permit could be issued. Now, the Park Service maintains that it owns not only the May Creek, but also the Chisana and Kantisna Airports. The question is whether this agreement between NPS and DOT might lead to the state losing control of the McCarthy Road also.

A brochure describing this latest study features artwork by artist Gail Niebrugge and a color photograph of the Kuskluana bridge. Some of the

stated goals of the study are to "enhance aesthetic values, establish contributing partnerships with adjacent landowners, enhance visitor use and appreciation," and finally, at the bottom of the list, is to "provide a safe and maintainable road."

According to the brochure, the number of visitors using the road has increased from approximately 8,000 in 1990 to an estimated 20,000 in 1991. Not mentioned were the 2 automobile accidents on the McCarthy Road this past summer that resulted in serious injury to the occupants of the vehicles. Both involved cars going over steep embankments.

Area residents have been divided when it comes to road upgrades. One school of thought is that keeping the road more or less "as-is" helps to keep the number of tourists down. Others believe that the condition of the road has little bearing on the amount of traffic and that a safer road needs to be built.

This latest plan calls for construction to begin in 1998.

## Massive landslide in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park

"For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee." So said the prophet Isaiah thousands of years ago.

Part of the Chugach range literally started on a journey to the sea sometime the first week of January. According to local mail pilot Lynn Ellis, it is one of the largest landslides he has ever seen. "The whole side of the mountain just fell off and part of it ended up in the Chitina River," said Ellis. The Chitina River flows into the

Copper River, and ends up at Cordova on Alaska's east coast.

The mountain is located on the south side of the Chitina River and about 15 miles east of the Copper River. The landslide was so massive that it could be seen at Dan Creek, some 50 miles away.

"Politics is the diversion of trivial men who, when they succeed at it, become important in the eyes of more trivial men."

— George Jean Nathan

advertisement *A "False Image of Justice" & No "Utopia to Look Forward to"*

I am deeply distressed over the most recent episode of the U.S. Park Service versus the people of Alaska. We can see in this yet another example of discrimination of the most blatant nature.

This discrimination, under the guise of the most ambiguous of terms called "subsistence," defies all reason in a society that has condemned discrimination of all kinds by implementing through legislation such things as hiring quotas and school busing not to mention the less savory attempt to legitimize the homosexual "life style." This is the epitome of hypocrisy and is completely devoid of any semblance of consistency. To draw narrow lines around the communities of the Copper River Basin and then deny everyone who lives outside those lines their God given rights to hunt on public property is nothing short of the worst kind of tyranny. For a government agency to dictate that I can hunt but my neighbor can't based solely on prior use is discrimination at its worst. Is not use of public resources an ongoing privilege guaranteed to every generation and user group by the constitution of these United States? The last time I read this document it was so.

Since the park service was formed in 1916, this

bureaucracy has developed an amazing aptitude for deceit and manipulation of the American people. The pretense of public meetings such as we just went through, only serves to bolster this organization's false image of justice and fair play when their policies are already set in stone. When have we ever seen the park service do anything except exactly what they wanted to do? Due process and the consent of the governed is a foreign concept to them. They have set themselves up as Big Brother and consequently, having the full power of the environmentalist movement behind them, they answer to no one.

Man is an integral part of the ecosystem but this is not recognized in park service philosophy. According to their belief system, man is the archenemy of the earth and for man to "interfere" in the process of nature is not consistent with park management. So beware, those of us who have been "classified" as subsistence users because it will be only a matter of time before our use will be eliminated also. (Watch for further limitations on access as the park service seeks to eliminate the use of certain motorized vehicles in the park.)

On a broader scale, I realize that this most recent

attempt by the park service to severely curtail our freedoms is only one small frame in the motion picture of modern day life. As I watch the rapid destruction of the Biblical principles that formed the very foundation of this great nation of America, I have to wonder what my children and grandchildren will face in the future. Will they have to fight a war to restore the freedoms that have already been paid so dearly for by those in the past? I fear it may be so.

I do not pretend to predict the future but I do know one thing about it. The world does not have a utopia to look forward to as the humanists would have us believe. Man will never solve his problems by looking to himself for the answers and we will never know world peace until Jesus Christ lives in the hearts of all men. Absolute statements? Yes they are and they are **absolutely** true.

If anyone would like to read an eye-opening history of park service management, I would recommend a book call *Playing God in Yellowstone* by Alston Chase.

Randy M. Speckels  
Kenny Lake

# Rick and Ed's Radio Rap

*With this edition of WSEN we introduce an occasional column offering advice to our readers who are coping with various problems of radio reception, and communication with ham and CB radios, peculiar to residents of remote areas. Rick Kenyon is an experienced amateur radio operator. Ed LaChapelle is a retired geophysicist with an electronics background.*

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

**Dear Rappers:** I just moved to the McCarthy area and can't seem to get any radio reception. I have an AM-FM portable with a whip antenna. I hooked an outside antenna wire to the whip, but this made no difference. My neighbors seem to get stations in the AM band, like Glennallen and Valdez. What's going on?

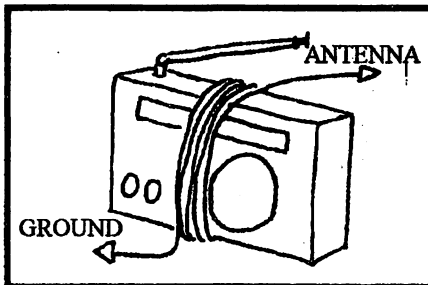
—A confused WSEN fan

**Ed:** Your basic problem is you have a radio designed for city living and you are a long way out in the country, surrounded by big mountains. That whip antenna is for FM reception. FM signals tend to travel in straight lines and can't get around those big mountains to reach this remote valley.

**Rick:** Your radio's AM (broadcast band) antenna is hidden inside, a device called a "loopstick." This consists of your radio's tuning coils wrapped around a ferrite rod. Ferrite is a ferro-ceramic material that makes a small coil act as a big one and hence become an antenna. It works fine with strong radio signals but not with weak ones like we have here. (The AM signals do bend around the mountains, or skip over them.)

**Ed:** When you were in a place where you could pick up stronger AM signals, you may have noticed that your radio reception is directional. The loopstick acts like a direction-finding loop. Reception from a given station is best when the station is located on a line at right angles to the loopstick (usually also at right angles to the long axis of your radio). A station on a line parallel to this axis is received very weakly or not at all. So the first thing to do is rotate the radio and see if you can pick up a "local" station like KCAM (790 khz). If you do, it probably is still fairly weak.

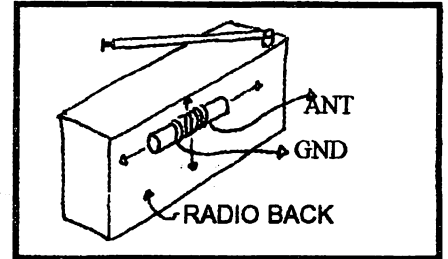
**Rick:** Your next step is to feed a signal from an outside antenna into the loopstick. Since there are no external connections for this on your radio, you have to do it by "inducing" the signal with the aid of another coil outside the radio. The easiest way to do this is to wrap 10 to 15 turns of light, insulated wire around the outside of the radio. Hook one end of this coil of wire to a good outside antenna and the other end to ground (see sketch).



**Ed:** A good ground is very important for AM reception. Your outside coil won't work unless you connect it to a good ground. Be sure to scrape the insulation off the ends of the wires to assure a good contact between the antenna and ground wires.

**Rick:** If you don't like all those messy wires wrapped around your radio, try a more elegant method. Take a few inches of 1/2" or 3/4" plastic pipe (don't use metal) and wrap 10 to 15 turns of light insulated wire around it. Connect the wire ends to antenna and ground as before and experiment with moving this coil around

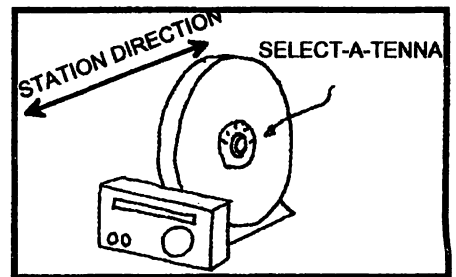
the back of your radio until you get the best reception. Tape the coil to the radio at that point. See the next sketch.



**Ed:** Here's where you can get clever. Slide a ferrite rod inside the plastic pipe and position it underneath the coil. Reception will improve dramatically. You can get a ferrite rod by digging it out of an old radio. Discard the various wrappings of wire, or use the wire to make the coil.

**Rick:** Prepackaged coupling coils with ferrite cores and connecting terminals made for just this purpose can sometimes be found in local stores. The Radio Shack in Glennallen used to carry them.

**Ed:** Or you can mail-order a device called a "Select-a-tenna" that has had good success around here. This is a round, flat box standing on its side with a knob in the middle. Set it next to your radio and turn the knob for best reception. Like the loopstick, the Select-a-tenna is directional. Rotate it around its vertical axis to find the best reception. Then position your radio with its long axis at right angles to plane of the Select-a-tenna and right next to it. Slide the radio back and forth to find the best location. See the third sketch.



**Rick and Ed:** Happy listening! 😊😊

# McCarthy residents return home

BY BONNIE KENYON

Jim and Pat Edwards are back on the ground again! This time, however, it isn't a small, grass airstrip somewhere in Northern Georgia that welcomes them, but their own private, snow-covered strip near McCarthy, Alaska.

Piloting their four-place airplane — a 1948 Clipper they recently rebuilt—Jim and Pat took a three month vacation flying around the United States and Canada.

Leaving home on October 4, 1992, with Pat in the pilot's seat most of the trip, they headed east. "I had a lot of good learning experiences," remarks Pat, "but the neat thing about every place we went were the people. Right from our first stop in Whitehorse." Friends of Jim and Pats were also hosting guests who were from Anadyr, Chuckchi Peninsula, Russia. Earlier that summer Pat had bought fur hats made by these Russian guests but now was meeting them for the first time.

Heading on to Fort Nelson they landed for fuel and discovered they weren't the only ones heading south. Two helicopters—piloted by Russian women—were on their own adventure! They were flying from Moscow to Miami on a fund-raising project. Jim and Pat's study of the Russian language paid off and they were able to exchange a few words with these Russian ladies.

Poor flying weather kept them in Thunder Bay, Ontario, for three days. Once they arrived in New York state, plenty of brothers, sisters, cousins and friends quickly took command of their attention. While in Jamestown, Pat accomplished a goal she

has had for years—taking her brother, Wally, for an airplane ride! "She has wanted to do that since he took her flying in Florida in about 1974," said Jim.

While in Horseheads, New York, Pat had a pleasant surprise. Good friends took her on a tour of a nearby greenhouse that specializes in roses. Before leaving she was presented with three bouquets of a dozen long-stemmed roses! "This is the nice things that you

More bad weather caught up with them and Pat decided she would take a bus south to Georgia to meet family schedules. Pat is a mother of nine, and she gained two more in her marriage to Jim. Staying in contact with each one is a priority in her life. Sometimes it takes a great amount of patience, however! For example: The bus she was traveling on stopped in a small town early one morning. She and some other passengers became stranded because the

While in Georgia and later on in Florida, Pat and Jim had the joy of visiting several of Pat's kids. Pat relates the highlight of her entire trip was the time spent with her family. Of special importance were the two Thanksgivings and three Christmasses they celebrated along the way.

Once they left Tampa it was 3 days before they arrived in Taos, N.M. According to Jim winds blow from the west in the winter so flying was slow going. Taos had its ups and downs for them. The upside was the enjoyable visit with Pat's daughter, Jennifer, who was able to get them a beautiful suite of rooms in the Holiday Inn where she works. That proved to be a blessing because they had to wait a full week till the weather cleared.

Taos is 7091 feet above sea level. Having to climb over a 9800 foot pass against a 40 knot headwind was no small task for the little Clipper. Jim describes the leeside downdrafts as "something else." Pat learned a lot about mountain flying that day!

Just out of Taos, their radio went out so they were without communications. They had to fly for 40 miles above a 10,000 foot cloud layer to get into Provo, Utah, where the radio could be repaired. "I think our wing angle to horizon was 20 degrees. That little Clipper just did not want to go up any higher," remembers Jim. Pat seriously considered throwing out all their baggage for awhile! Provo proved to be clear, however, and they were able to get the aircraft radio repaired.

From Provo they flew to Bend, Oregon, where Jim visited a cousin he hadn't heard



Photo courtesy Gene Sperstad

Jim and Pat with Piper "Clipper"

like to remember about trips like this," said Pat.

Twenty miles from Horseheads in Spencer, New York, lives Berndt Ogrodnik, his wife and family. Berndt is a brother to Jurgen Ogrodnik, a McCarthy resident. Being able to visit Berndt was one of the highlights of their trip. Another stop was Warwick, where Jim and Pat visited Lisa Gordon's parents, Phil and Chris. Lisa, her husband, Kirk, and two girls have a home here in the McCarthy area. Pat is quick to say that these sidelines are what made up the trip for her, not just flying the airplane from place to place.

bus left earlier than expected! She wound up in Atlanta, forty miles from where she was to go, and several hours late. It was definitely better late than never as Pat renewed acquaintances with grandchildren she hadn't seen in awhile.

Jim feels Pat's adventures on the bus trip were a poor substitute for not getting to fly with him. She could have piloted the Clipper down the Hudson River at 900 feet, right through the heart of New York City, lower than the skyscrapers, right near the Statue of Liberty, and between the towers of the Verrazano Bridge. Jim says, "That was fun!"

much from in 30 years. Passing through the Cascades, and flying through canyons under low clouds, they arrived in Newberg and had a good visit with Jim's stepmother.

Getting up the valley was another challenge. The weather cleared just in time for them to make Port Townsend Christmas Eve and spend the holiday with Pat's son, Lee, and his family. They discovered their radio was out again so, after leaving Port Townsend, they landed in Port Angeles to have it taken care of. From there they made it non-stop to Ketchikan, Alaska, in about 6

1/2 hours with 40 minutes of fuel still in the tank.

Jim is pleased with the performance of the Piper Clipper. "You know we just finished rebuilding this Clipper. Pat's skin (recover) stayed on, my engine rebuild ran like a Swiss watch, and the modifications—such as the extra fuel tank—paid off. We are pleased with it. The radio was the only mechanical glitch the whole way," says Jim.

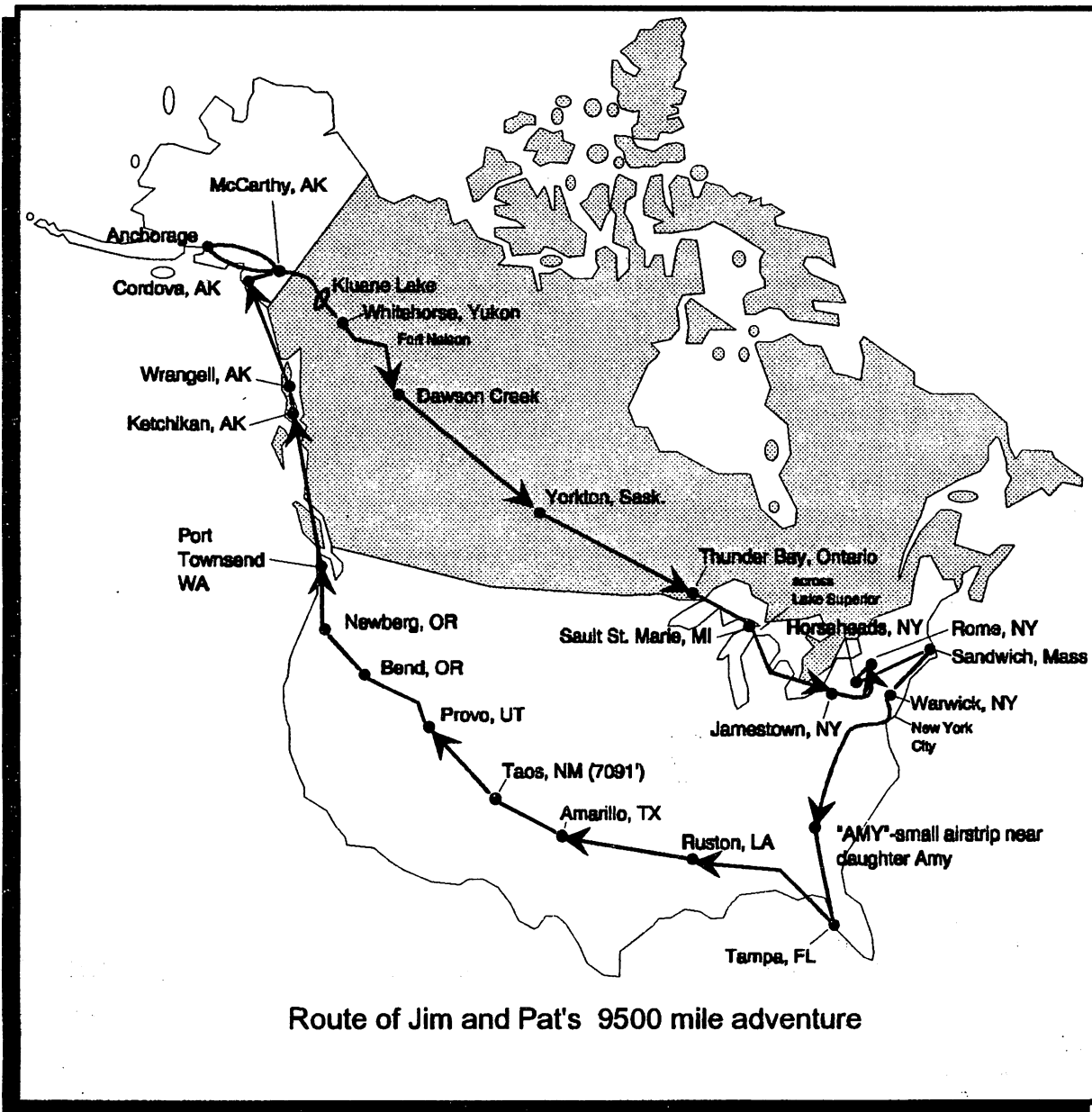
Wrangell was their next stop and weather kept them on the ground for three days. Once it cleared, they made it to

Cordova, spent three nights with Ken and Carly Kritchen, then on to Valdez to get their airplane skis.

On January 7—Jim's birthday—they arrived back home in McCarthy. The local weather that day brought fog and low visibility but it opened up just before they flew over home base. Winter living greeted them with 18 inches of snow, minus 11 degrees, and a cold house. They were finally home to stay—or were they?


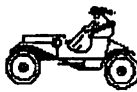
Jim and Pat could not call the trip "finished" without seeing Eric Benjamin Edwards

who was born to Jim's son, Steve, and wife, Lana, on September 30. So, after being home 3 days, they packed up again and flew to Anchorage. Seeing Ben put the total to 19 grandchildren seen on this trip. On January 15 Jim and Pat finished the last leg of their journey. "Finally we are home (for the winter, we hope) and getting slowly back into winter living. Pat is richer in her logbook by about 100 hours of flying time. Some great experience for her and us both!" says Jim.



Route of Jim and Pat's 9500 mile adventure

# OUR TOWN

March  1918  April

## CO-OPERATION

It is encouraging to know that our **Commercial Club** is taking such an interest in local conditions; and the **Arctic Brotherhood** is laying a sound financial foundation for itself, taking in new members and making elaborate preparations for entertaining the townspeople in future.



**Ecclesiastical meetings** held here lately have been well attended, even the little boys will soon realize that the Sunday School was not created for girls benefit only.

## PROPOSED ASSESSMENTS FOR FIRE PROTECTION

At a meeting of the fire committee held last week it was decided to assess all property owners in McCarthy for the purpose of buying 500 feet of hose, picks and ladders, etc., and building a shed for same. There was also quite an expenditure in the last order

which has been up to now borne by a few men only, and it seems only right that each person in this town should bear his share of this expense.

We all know what Valdez and other towns in the interior have suffered in the past and we trust that all interested parties will cooperate for this protection against fire.

The following list has been very carefully compiled by the committee - based on locations and business values, probably there are some which are too high and others too low, but this can be adjusted when the committee makes its rounds next week.

The following are assessed fifty dollars: McCarthy Mercantile Co. and Laurie Bros.

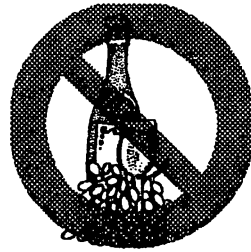
In the twenty-five dollar class: F. Cope, P. Bountain, Pete Johnson.

At fifteen dollars the following are rated: Ketterer, Chong, Brehmer, New York, Harvey, K. Kennedy, Underwood, Haney, Silberg, Gus Anderson, Widing and Nelson, Otto Lubbe, Amber, Graber, Faddis, Marshall, Millsap, Ward, Murie, Barrett, A.P. Hall, Dixie Fowler.

At ten dollars: Cloninger, Damon, Lindig, E. Miller, Strom, Lattin, Cole, Eckstrom, J. McClelan.

(March 9)

## BONE DRY LAW



Business conditions are rapidly adjusting themselves under the **Bone Dry Law** - both for the betterment of the Merchant and the purchaser.

In the Police Court this week, two convictions were made under the bone dry law. **Dolan** was fined \$10 and costs and **Graham** \$25 and costs.

## RECENT MURDER CASE

The inquest on the **Silberg** case is still sitting. **S. Shimozo**, a Japanese was brought back and placed under arrest.

The **Cordova Daily Times** says it is up to the federal officials to take some drastic action to clean up conditions in McCarthy.

People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

## PERSONAL

**Joe Feister** arrived on Tuesday's train in charge of **S. Shimizu**, who is under arrest on a charge of murder.

**Gus Priesner** left today for Fairbanks and further interior on a fur purchasing trip.

## POOL TOURNAMENT

In the Pool Tournament at the Alaskan Billiard Hall, **Jack Schulz** won the championship, **W.R. Faddis** winning the second prize.

(March 23)

## LOCAL NEWS

**Oscar S.** who had been acting very queer lately was taken into custody by **US Deputy Marshall Millsap**. Evidence showed that he had registered here last August, had no passport from his own country and there was a strong suspicion the man was shamming but owing to the unsettled conditions in the town: insanity was the verdict.

## NEWS FROM THE CREEKS

**Oscar Hansen** and **Carl Anderson** have returned to their property on **Rex Creek** where they will proceed to

mine this season. There is a drifting proposition, and they have overcome the preliminary difficulties so that their work this season should be entirely profitable.

**E.W. Brooks** intends to mine on **Jolly Gulch**, having secured a lay from **L.H. Carvey**, who will probably not return to Alaska this season as he has many Seattle interests.

It is not expected that the **Andrus Company** will do any extensive mining this season.

**J.D.F. Stevenson** will do a considerable amount of development work on **Young Creek** this season, where he has extensive holdings.

The **McAllisters**, who are mining on **Sunday Gulch**, anticipate a successful season.

It is said that **John Johnson and Co.** have an extended lease on the **Rex Alaska Mining Property**.

**J.H. Taylor**, who located some property at the head of **Rex Creek** some years ago, has written from Fairbanks that he intends returning.

**A.F. Stowe**, known to all old-timers, has a position with the Alaska Engineering commission at Indian River.

**Max Klopfer and Myers**, who have a lay on one of **Clifford Cayouette's** claims, have been purchasing their spring outfit. They will be very busy from now on and do not expect to visit **McCarthy** until they have the season's clean-up.

(April 6)

## LOCAL NEWS



Train arrived this afternoon after several days tie-up due to severe storms. Five oil tanks, six freight cars and two passenger coaches made the train.

**Max Rede**, Superintendent for the **Dan Creek Mining Co.** was a passenger on today's train.

**G.H. Birch** is expected early in May.

(April 13)

## CHITINA NEWS

**Mr. John Brower**, who has secured the Fairbanks mail contract instead of the **N.C. Co.** is in town for a few days. He has brought with him some of his equipment, among which is a gage Ford car with a long body and wide tires for travel in the snow.

**Gus Priesner** was arrested in Fairbanks as an alien enemy on a charge of evading registering.

(April 20)

## JUDGE DECLINES APPOINTMENT



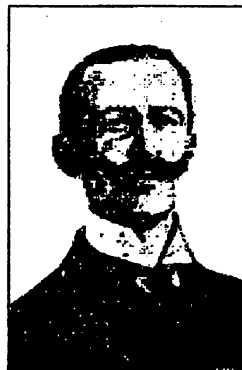
**Judge Conroy**, recently appointed by **Judge Brown** as **Judge O'Connor's** successor for this precinct, paid a visit to **McCarthy** this week: after which he decided not to accept the appointment and took today's train.

This is not so in the case of **Maloney** — the democratic opponent to our present Delegate.

His candidacy is an abuse under the primary law because this law contemplates bona fide candidates for election and NOT dummies put up to miscarry the will of the people. The attacks that the **Maloney-Wickersham** crowd have made on our Delegate to Congress, **Mr Salzer**, should assure him a re-election with overwhelming majority. **Mr. Salzer** has already done us a lot of good and it is to our benefit to elect a Delegate who will work for Alaska through the political party to which **President Wilson** belongs. We fail to see what hero it, the Democratic party, or any other party for that matter, could possibly receive from a protegee of a man like **Strong**, whom **William Britt**, a former member of the Legislature remarked in the February issue of the Alaskan "a man without a decided opinion on anything and seemingly takes a delight in tearing down as much of the Democratic structure as possible." He justly belongs to the "crowd" whose leader is **Wickersham**, a politician for personal benefit only.

(April 27, 1918)

**KODAKS**  
Supplies, etc.  
At  
Postoffice Store



## Gustave Priesner, McCARTHY AGENT,

PITNER GASOLINE LIGHT CO. CHICAGO  
VICTOR TALKING MACH. CO. CAMDEN  
CANDY BROS. MFG. CO. St. LOUIS, MO.  
AUGUSTINE & KYER, SEATTLE, WASH.  
PUROLA DRUGS, CHEMICALS,  
PORTLAND

# King Floyd

## THE TALE OF A SMALL TIME DICTATOR

### Part one

BY RANDY ELLIOT

*Not so long ago in a land nearby there was a man named Floyd. He wasn't famous or rich but he lived a rich life that became famous quite without his knowing why. This is his story.*

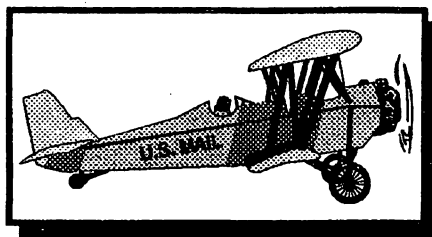
Floyd made his way slowly along a woody path leading in and out of the spruce and alder thickets on the way to his cabin. His wife Maureen waited there with lunch and Floyd let his thoughts wander to the fine fall colors as he walked. Life was fine indeed. Three small letters and a package from one of the mail-order houses they enjoyed so much. Their tenuous connection with the larger world across the Ugly river was through the weekly mail which was delivered as promptly as possible by a genial man named Wings Hauser in his old biplane with the oversized tires

Entering his own yard Floyd was greeted with excited howls from his loyal sled dogs who no longer worked for a living but were too dear to do a way with. After all, company was rare here and even the dogs had personality. He ignored their frantic charges on their chains and made straight for the door. Pushing it open he admired, for the two thousandth time, the nearly clear fir planks he had planed himself. Life was fine indeed when a man could live in his own handiwork.

"How was wings?" Maureen asked by way of greeting. "Oh

he's fine," said Floyd, "he said the new propellor lets him finish his route a full ten minutes quicker than with the old one." "Silly man," she clucked, "have your lunch while I read these letters." Doing as he was told Floyd breathed deep the steam from a lovely mouse stew since it was too early for moose.

Usually one of them ate while the other read the mail aloud. Since Floyd had done the hiking for the mail Maureen had eaten already in anticipation of the reading. This unspoken division of the labors of their lives was missed by many visitors but gave them each a sense of belonging and being needed which is a glue somewhat lacking in many lives these days.



She carefully read two letters from her sister which due to the peculiarity of the mails arrived together and then tore open an official looking envelope. "From the Department of the Ulterior, Dear resident, After careful consideration of all the options Congress has ruled that the lands on which you reside are hereby deemed to be 'ESSENTIAL' as defined in Ascpdx 45.3-2 section 8 and 9. As you know this designation entitles you to certain privileges including special tax remuneration for the timely donation of your

premises to the National Essential Land Bank. You are hereby urged to take advantage of this offer before its too late, as these privileges are ephemeral and revocable. Further consideration of the issue has concluded that you do not reside in a Resident Zone and therefore are not residents under Ascpdx 38.1 paragraph D. Consequently you are urged to donate as soon as possible. This is a critical time so please fill out the form and return it as soon as possible

Cordially yours,  
The earl of outrage  
Rathbone Fink  
First executive counselor for aquisitioness."

A small pink form fluttered to the floor as she read this and bending she perused it silently before handing it to the now quizzical Floyd. After reading it Floyd motioned for the letter and reread it silently. He munched on a tiny drumstick from his stew as he pondered the pink form yet again.

"I wonder why they want to know if we are blind." Floyd mused but Maureen was unable to provide any clue. "Well I guess we had better fill it out and send it back or we might have more problems like last year."

Maureen shuddered at that memory and finding a pen completed the questionnaire on the spot. They both heaved a sigh of relief as she sealed the special envelope with the form inside, stamped it, and put it in the outgoing mailbag. This done they opened the package and the official business was forgotten in the joy of



finding a new set of chain saw teeth and some darning needles inside.

The week passed and next mail day Floyd received a large book wrapped in official brown paper

that afternoon and the day waned as he delved deeper and deeper. The late sun lit motes of dust rising from his almost motionless form as he studied the fine print of each page annotated and footnoted and

as follows..." and he fell into the book again.

Maureen resumed her knitting but was troubled by a vision of them leaving their home in the dead of winter for a cold and uncertain future outside the essential land and especially at a critical time! She had long since retired and Floyd nursed a cold cup of tea in the late night as he pondered the plan. Then at last in the wee hours of dawn when most of us are dreaming he leaned back and a small sigh escaped him. Then he gave a little chuckle and going to join his wife he slept the sleep of the just.

---

***"What!" she said, "The Baron of Distraction is going to regulate our land?" and she dropped her knitting again which showed how serious this was.***

---

which Wings had taken from a box full of similar parcels. When pressed as to the meaning of the book Wings remarked, "I deliver the mail, Floyd, I don't make it" and then he was gone in a cloud of dust. Floyd pondered the books size all the way

numbered for clarity of marking. Occasionally he breathed a sigh or grunted in interest which startled Maureen into a flawed purl or two. She fumed at the interruptions but Floyd was impervious to the chastising eyebrows.



home but waited until Maureen had served him the last of the mouse stew to find out what it contained.

Sipping slowly, savoringly, the steaming stew sent shivering sensations singing swift silent sonnets searing to Floyds stunned senses. "This is your copy of the Department of the Ulterior's management plan for the Essential lands," she read aloud. "It is entitled the Absolutely Necessary Imposition of Land Control Act. I don't think I will read it Floyd," she said weighing its 465 pages thoughtfully. Floyd started in on it

Suddenly he sat bolt upright and his teacup flew into the corner like a startled starling. Maureen gave a squawk and her needles likewise took flight one landing on the floor beneath the stove as the other impaled itself in the hand hewn ceiling. "Heavens Bells" he cried. "Such Talk" Maureen chided as she stood on her chair to recover the

errant darning needle with a sock attached. "It says here Lord Fedgov will be writing the laws for the essential land." "What!" she said, "The Baron of Distraction is going to regulate our land?" and she dropped her knitting again which showed how serious this was. "The new regulations take effect on the new year. According to this new law all residents are subject to the regulations which outlaw residents in most cases. The offenders may be removed at their own expense for any infraction of the rules outlined herein. Exceptions to these rules are

End part one

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

***"Bureaucracy is a giant mechanism operated by pygmies."***


*-Honore de Balzac*


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We would be happy to have local area businesses join us this  
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*To receive a copy by mail, please send \$2.50 to cover postage and handling to  
the above address. (Mailing date approx. May 1) Thank you!*

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There was an old geeser and he had a lot of sense.  
He started up a business on a dollar eighty cents.  
The dollar for stock and the eighty for an ad  
brought him three lovely dollars in a day, by dad.  
Well, he bought more goods and a little more space,  
and he played that system with a smile on his face.  
The customers flocked to his two by four,  
and soon he had to hustle for a regular store.  
Up on the square where the people pass,  
he gobbled up a corner that was all plate glass.  
He fixed up the window with the best he had  
& told them all about it in a half page ad.  
He soon had 'em coming, and he never never quit,  
& he didn't cut down his ads one bit.  
And he's kept things humming in the town ever since,  
and everybody calls him the merchant prince.  
Some say it's luck, but that's all bunk,  
why, he was doing business when the times were punk.  
People have to purchase and the geeser was wise—  
for he knew the way to get 'em was to ADVERTISE.

(from the McCarthy Weekly News, December 1918)

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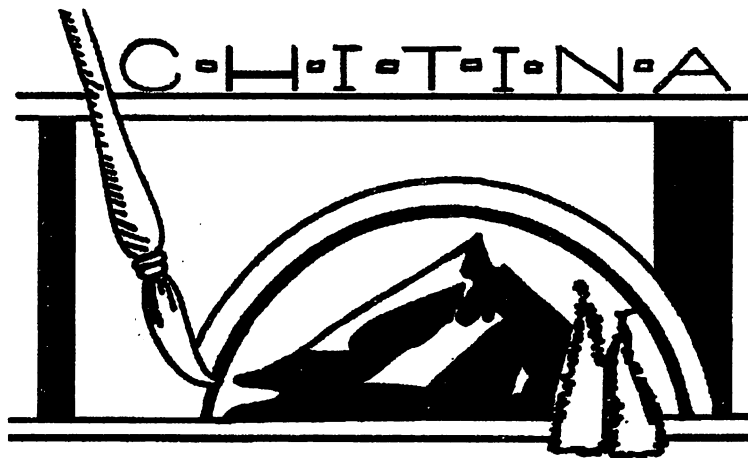
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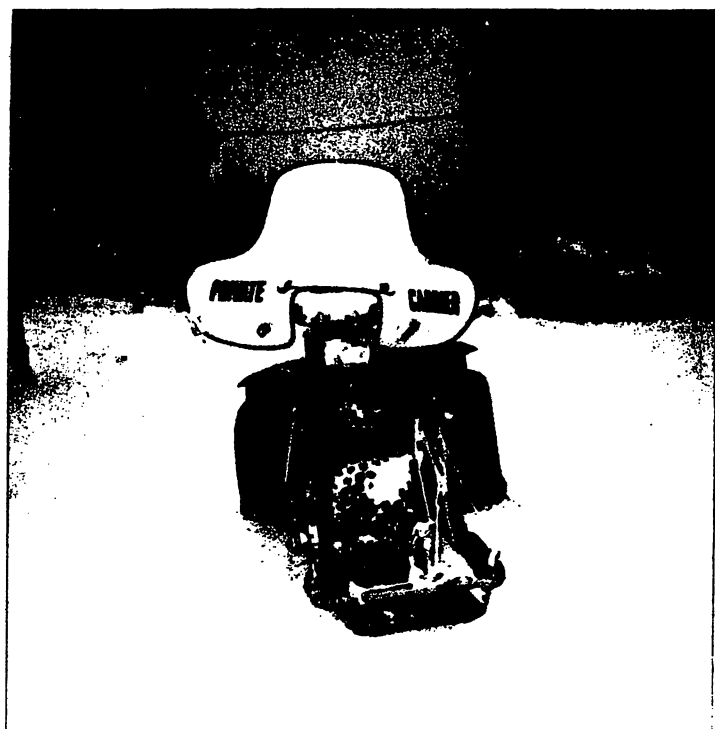
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Seen on the streets of McCarthy

# An interview with Helen McCrary March

BY CATIE BURSCHE

Helen McCrary March was born in McCarthy on October 20, 1915. The second time she came to McCarthy was in 1927 when she had a tooth pulled in Kennicott. Last summer she came for the third time-at age seventy seven. Helen's Grandfather John McCrary homesteaded in Copper Center in 1902 and had a large Roadhouse that was built in 1908-1910. It burned and he then farmed and hauled freight and ran a store.

Here are some of Helen's memories and impressions of the area from an interview with her in her home in Homer.

**Catie:** Do you remember any stories about when your mother went to McCarthy to have you?

**Helen:** Not really. . . We just accepted the fact that she went to McCarthy because that's where the only doctor was. My parents were living in Copper Center at the time on my Grandfather's homestead, and there wasn't a doctor anywhere except at McCarthy. Possibly, at Cordova, but it was easier to go to McCarthy on the train; even though she would have had to travel about fifty miles, and I don't know. . . whether my Dad took her in by horse and buggy or whether there was enough snow so that they took the dog team to Chitina. . . I don't know whether I was born in a doctor's office. I doubt there was a hospital in McCarthy. I never heard that it was a hospital. I think just the doctor's office. And then, of course, Mother had to stay in bed for at least

ten days, I'm sure, and Mrs. Eckstrom took care of her. . . My sister was born in Latouche and my brother was born in Cordova. . . I was the first born.

**Catie:** Were there many people around you on the homestead at Copper Center?

**Helen:** Actually when we moved back from Latouche, my parents homesteaded at Pleasant Lake on the road to Chitina. We were half way

Kennicott to have your tooth pulled.

**Helen:** It must have been about 1927 when. . . My parents put me on the train to go up to Kennicott. The train used to come from Cordova and spend the night in Chitina. It couldn't go all the way to Kennicott in one day. So, I took the train, and I'm sure some people met me - some friends of my folks - once I got there. The dentist's office was



Photo courtesy Lois Ann Holmes

between Kenny Lake and the junction of the Richardson Highway and the Edgerton Cut-off, what you now call the Edgerton Loop. There was a roadhouse at Kenny Lake and a few white people. Our nearest neighbors - the native family of Willow Creek George...The building the Copper Center store is in was one that my Grandfather built for his oldest son, Ralph, when Ralph was married. I suppose that would have been about 1912 maybe.

**Catie:** Tell me what you remember about your trip to

in the little hospital in Kennicott. I had my tooth pulled and probably spent the night and went home the next day on the train. I remember feeling rather large to be traveling alone at 12, also having a very sore mouth and the terrible taste of soft-boiled eggs because that's all they thought I could eat.

**Catie:** You visited the area this summer. Was that the first time you'd been back?

**Helen:** Since I was there to have my tooth pulled.

**Catie:** What were some of your impressions of the area?

**Helen:** Well, actually, we loved it - all of it. Even the old road that wasn't paved. My son, who is in his 40's and my sister and I, we kind of grew up in those kinds of areas and that kind of road. You know it just seemed good. We don't mind going slow. We think the old corduroy is kind of funny and interesting to point out to my youngest Grandson who is 12. We loved the people we met. Everybody was very kind to us. Betty Hickling was more than kind. We enjoyed meeting her. We enjoyed meeting her mother in the store. To us, it seemed more like the old, old Alaska that we knew, and it's something you don't find in very many places.

**Catie:** What do you think made it seem like that?

**Helen:** The old buildings, the old articles that are around. . . The old calendars with Jack O'Neill or J.B. O'Neill Mercantile. We knew him very well. . . People were so friendly and so kind to us. We enjoyed the family-style dining in the little cafe. And, of course, we had to go in the bar and look around. It brought back memories of other bars we'd known in the early days. It just was really pleasant to be there. And I'm so glad that so far, in spite of the many people that come in there now, (and we were astonished at how many tourists were there,) it doesn't seem to have changed yet. And I hope it won't.

## The McCarthy Lodge -- "It takes you back"

Gary and Betty Hickling have lived in Alaska all their lives. They enjoy the "bush life"— living in a somewhat more remote place. Realizing they could not do it without an income, Gary and Betty considered the lodge business. The idea of operating a lodge wasn't new to either one. They had been caretakers at a lodge for several years.

Betty recalls Gary's reaction to a newspaper advertisement. "Oh, Betty, there is a lodge for sale in McCarthy!" Even though neither one had been to McCarthy, Gary decided to follow up on the ad.

Sitting in the real estate office sometime later, the numerous phone calls that came in requesting information on the McCarthy Lodge impressed Gary. Obviously, he wasn't the only one interested. Handing the agent a hundred dollars, Gary said he wanted to look at the lodge. The real estate people agreed to meet him in McCarthy.

Gary's job on the North Slope called, and he was not able to keep the appointment. Betty went in his place. The decision to buy the lodge would be hers!

That was April of 1987. By summer, they were open for business as the new owners of McCarthy Lodge as well as the Johnson Hotel located across the street from the lodge. Researching the economics of running a lodge in McCarthy, Betty realized that the 5 rooms in the hotel would not bring in enough to pay their bills. They would have to expand.

Gary and Betty sat down, looked at where they wanted to



be and how big they wanted to get. Adding a few extra rooms wasn't going to be that easy! In fact, getting the Lodge up to DEC standards with an approved water and sewer system and getting the food service permit, were almost more than they bargained for.

Gary and Betty aren't big on borrowing money so they are upgrading as they can afford it. By the summer season of 1992, they had 14 guest rooms available. These extra rooms were gained in two additions. Last year they finished 3 rooms, a bathroom and a separate shower room. The goal is to reach their desired capacity of 20 rooms.

In 1992 they started the season with 14 employees. Betty was prone to hire Alaskans when they first took on the lodge business, but found that Alaskans were used to making higher wages than a lodge in a small, remote community could afford to pay. It was much easier to get people from the lower 48 that wanted to come up and "experience Alaska."

Most of Gary and Betty's clientele write for information. Word of mouth is their best advertising method. "If they are taken care of well, then they tell their friends, and that is where my business comes from," said Betty.

For John Doe who walks in off the street, the logistics of trying to book reservations is somewhat complicated. The lodge has radio phone service but pays a booking agent in Anchorage to answer their day to day business calls.

Operating a lodge in the world's largest national park — Wrangell St. Elias National Park — isn't all fun and games. For instance, there is the

increasing trash problem. More and more visitors are descending on the small communities of Kennicott and McCarthy. Though there is regular trash pickup west of the trams, none exists in McCarthy or Kennicott. Each business must deal with the trash it generates. McCarthy Lodge is no exception. Gary takes his responsibility very seriously.

"Our trash program is mostly recycling. It has been very successful for us. We haven't had any bear problems. The recycling program that we have is biodegradable, burnables, and aluminum. The aluminum did about 1,000 pounds, which was pretty good. Recycling helps cover expenses."

Gary and Betty offer visitors an opportunity to look back in time. McCarthy Lodge and the Johnson Hotel allow each of us to experience an era some of us can only read about. Room rates range from \$95 per night (single occupancy, ala carte) to \$225 per night (triple occupancy, with meals, entrée only). Dating back to the early 1900's, the lodge and hotel have been renovated and modernized. Gary and Betty invite us to come and relive history with them in "downtown McCarthy!"



Gary & Betty can be contacted at P.O. Box 870393, Wasilla, AK 99687.

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# A look at the weather

BY GEORGE CEBULA

December at McCarthy started out on the warm side and then settled down to be close to average. Total precipitation was 1.56 inches (1.41 in Dec. 91). Total snowfall was 20.4 inches (18.1 in Dec. 91). The snow cover at the first of the month was only 6 inches (12 on Dec. 1,91) and gradually increased to a high of 21 inches on 24 and 26-28. By the end of Dec. the depth had settled at 19 inches. In Dec. 91 the snow depth only varied from 11 inches on Dec. 2 to 17 inches on Dec. 31.

Temperatures this Dec. were on the cold side with a high of 39 on Dec. 2 (35 on Dec. 28,91) and a cold -43 on

Dec. 22 (-33 on Dec. 12,91). There were 3 days with the high above 32 and 9 days with the low below -30. The average temperature for Dec. was -14.4 (12.5 in Dec. 91).

Snow depths at other area stations on Dec. 31 ranged from a low of 11 inches at Old Edgerton to 22 inches at Slana. The rest of the stations had an average depth of 16 inches.

January is usually the coldest month at McCarthy, but not this year. The average temperature was only -5.3 (-8.5 in Jan 88). A lot warmer than the -14.4 in Dec. 92. The temperature, however, did manage to hit a low of -55 on Jan 25, just 3 degrees off the all time low of -58 recorded on

Jan 7, 1975. The highest temperature was 35 on Jan 17. There were 2 days with a high of 32 or higher and 6 days with a low of -30 or lower. The high on Jan 25 only reached -35. I guess this is the reason our observers have gone South the past three Januarys. Precipitation was on the heavy side with 1.57 inches (0.65 in Jan 88). Total snowfall was 24.9 inches (10.8 in Jan 88), with 11.3 inches falling on Jan 1. The snow depth ranged from a high of 27 on Jan 1 to a low of 19 on Jan 13-16. The snow pack had settled to 23 inches by Jan 31. Jan 88 was the last full month of Jan data that was available.

The January snow pack increase was about the same at

the other area stations. On Jan 31 it ranged from 17 inches at Gulkana Flight Service Station to 29 inches at Tonsina. The average depth was 21 inches.

As we go to press the first week of February was cold with temperatures in the -30 range. The second week saw the temperature break the freezing mark and the snow pack increase about 5 inches.

*George is the Regional Cooperative Program Manager for NOAA and a frequent visitor to the McCarthy area.*

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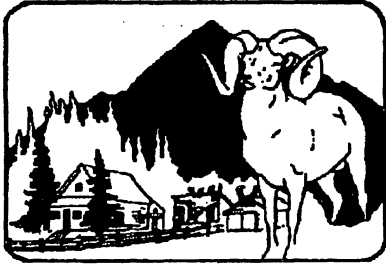


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## How to write your representatives

Letters to members of Congress should be brief--less than a page is ideal. After the salutation a single sentence states the writer's intent. This may be a simple statement about where the writer stands on a particular piece of legislation. Below that a short paragraph explains why he feels the way he does. The writer should then concisely state any special expertise he may have, or exactly how the legislation will affect him. End the letter with a sentence thanking the member of Congress for considering the views expressed. If he has done something recently the writer approves of, thank him for that, too.

Congressmen are addressed as "The Honorable" on the envelope, and either "Dear Senator," for a senator, or "Dear Mr. (or Madame)" for member of the House, at the beginning of the letter. It should be written on white paper, and mailed in a No. 10 (business) envelope. The writer's address should be on the envelope and also at the bottom of the letter. If the letter is typewritten, be sure it is signed.



Be certain the letter will receive a reply--that is, be polite. Name calling and threats will probably get the letter trash-canned, without a reply of any kind.

Personal abuse is only one way to destroy the effectiveness of any letter. Another is to ramble on about unrelated subjects. Keep the letter brief, and only cover one subject. Don't try to cover the entire legislative agenda in one letter. Always keep a carbon copy of any letter written to any government official.

If the reply you receive from the member of Congress disagrees with your stated position, don't just shrug and grumble about it. Write a follow-up letter, restating the original position, and if possible, refuting any points made in the reply. Again, keep it brief, stick to the point, and be polite.

# FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Dear Mom,

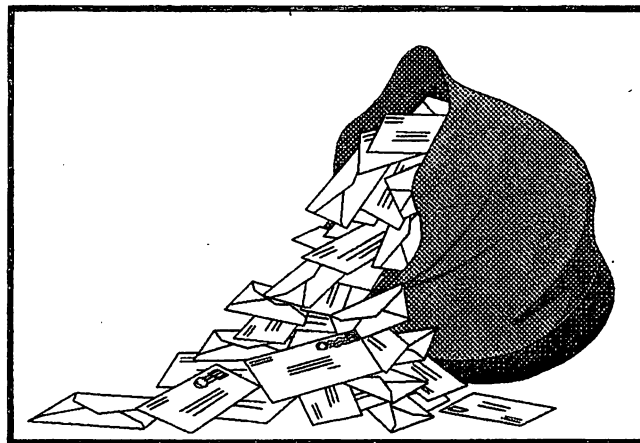
It was good to get your letter and the box of "goodies." The mail came on Saturday instead of Wednesday because the weather was so bad. Mostly ice fog, but the wind blew pretty hard on Friday. Our mail pilot is really dedicated. Thanks for the cookies, we shared them with the whole town at mail.

I'm glad you liked the pictures of the buildings at Kennicott. You're right, the snow makes them look much less decrepit than they really are. You asked what would happen when they were fixed, if people would still be able to go in them. I don't know, the Park Service is still talking with the Kennicott people about the cleanup. They say that if they get it they will manage it as a ghost town, whatever that means. We had Grace and Charlie over last week and they think it might get locked up, maybe even at the gate.

We have three more Pine Grosbeaks now coming to the feeder. They seem to get along O.K. with the Redpolls. I wish the people could get along better. We got some maps in the mail and an announcement saying we won't be able to pick berries or hunt or fish in the "hard park" anymore. They put a boundary around a few of the downtown buildings in McCarthy, looks like about 200 acres or so. Then they said that only people who live in the boundaries can use the

park for subsistence. Of course most all of us live outside the boundaries. It probably won't make a lot of difference to Andy and I, but we did enjoy picking the red currents over where we took you and dad when you were up here.

They say we can apply for a permit if we want to. We decided not to bother. Nothing is the same here anymore anyway. Remember how we used to fly into the moose camp and nearly always were able to put up our winter meat? Of course



we haven't been able to do that since they said we couldn't use the plane for subsistence in the park. Now they say in order to get a permit you have to show "customary and traditional use," whatever that means, but they stress that if you used an airplane it doesn't count. It gets so confusing. Anyway, remember we found that good hunting spot that was still close enough to pack out a moose to the road? Well, it's in the park so unless

we could get the permit we would be breaking the law. Bart said he had to fill out a 6 page form just to cut those cabin logs he wanted, and that this one would be worse. We decided we will just buy beef from town, and make a special trip out in the fall to get it.

Anyway, we are going to write some letters and see if we can somehow get included. Oh, they call them "resident zones." Funny, we heard about them and read in the squad notes that Pete gets from the NPS where the

rangers were drawing boundaries, but we didn't understand. We thought a resident zone meant an area where the residents live. They mean it in reverse: If you don't live in the zone, you must not be a resident. Sort of like that report we told you about that said we all use soap berries instead of real soap. Someone said they called it "documenting values that need to be preserved."

Well, Mom, sorry to bore you with all this official stuff.

Guess we just need to change with the times. We sure didn't come here to spend our lives trying to just preserve the few freedoms that we all cherished so much. But remember what you told us when we were younger, I think it was a quote from some famous person. You said "the only thing needed for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing," or something like that. We didn't understand it then, but it is true I think. I think that may be how the people in Russia let communism get such a strong hold. Andy and I are going to write to our senators and our representative. Connie said that it might help. We might even call if we get out to a phone. We're not mad at anyone, but this just isn't right. Andy and I would rather take that trip up the Nizina, but I guess this is more important.

Speaking of important, Andy just said we will have to go to Glennallen for two days for a meeting. He said it is April 7-8, which is a Wednesday and Thursday. Maybe we can take the mail plane out and come back on Friday. It's a lot of cost we really cannot afford right now, but we got a letter from the Subsistence Resource Commission saying it was important for as many as possible to be there.

Give our love to the rest of the family.

Love,

*Your daughter*

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Anchorage, AK  
February 3, 1993

Dear Rick and Bonnie,

An article in the last issue of the Wrangell St. Elias News indicates there is some confusion about the scope of activities of Friends of Kennicott. I hope this letter resolves your concerns. As Friends' President Rich Kirkwood described in the last issue, Friends of Kennicott was established "with the sole purpose of getting emergency stabilization work at Kennicott done." This has always been Friends' only mission.

It appears your concern stems from a recent query in the Friends of Kennicott minutes which was, indeed, clearly outside the scope described above, specifically regarding a possible "McCarthy-Kennicott coordination meeting." This would not have been a Friends of Kennicott meeting. As Secretary of Friends, I often take the opportunity to pass on other news and items of interest regarding Kennicott through the Friends' minutes. Until recently, there were no other regular forums to get the word out.

All those who have attended or expressed an interest in the two previous ad hoc coordination meetings (February of 1990 and 1991) happen to be on the Friends' mailing list: local residents, agencies, landowners. So it seemed like a reasonable option for seeking input and letting people know of the possibility of a meeting. If interest in another ad hoc

coordination meeting had resulted in a meeting, it would have been widely announced by mail and radio - including in the Wrangell St. Elias News if publication deadlines permitted.

As it turned out, no one raised any issues which would have benefited from another Anchorage-based discussion group, so no meeting was scheduled.

To facilitate good communication, I will continue to pass on related news that becomes available. Hopefully I will be able to do so with less confusion in the future! Your newspaper, as well as the newsletter of the new McCarthy Area Landowners Association, are on the mailing list and any portion of the Friends' minutes may be used in either publication.

Thanks for the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Sally Gibert  
Secretary  
Friends of Kennicott

cc: McCarthy Area  
Landowners Association

Fireweed Subdivision  
February 1993

Dear Editor,  
Concerning the "For Your Consideration" column in the last issue of WSEN I may need to re-edit my statement concerning Park Planning and due process. Although current events seem to be catching up with my statement, previous to

it's printing I felt that the NPS was (and may still be) dealing in good faith with residents in our area. As long as dialogue and understanding continue everyone involved, including the larger public, will come to benefit from a thorough planning process. Our continued efforts to develop a mutual respect for differing opinions as we negotiate the planning process is of greatest value. Everyone should withhold reservations and negotiate in good faith.

See you in the park

Mark Vail

Editors note: When we printed the speech that Mark gave at the MALA meeting on the "For Your Consideration" page, we used all caps for the words GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN as a means to designate that it is a book. Mark thought some might misunderstand and think that he had given the words added emphasis in his speech. If anyone thought that, to you we apologize. We attempted to reproduce the speech as nearly as possible as it was given.

Littleton, Colorado  
February 8, 1993

Dear Rick and Bonnie:  
My husband and I are happy to report that we have thoroughly enjoyed our first copy of the Wrangell St. Elias News and are looking forward to a good many to come. Yes, I lived in Kennecott as a child and now consider myself one of the Kennecott Kids. And yes, I admit it's a thrill to see the area coming back to life although,

for the most part, I must enjoy this from a distance.

Since I hate to think I'm missing anything, I'd like to order the back issues: Volume 1, Issues 1,2, and 3. Enclosed is my check.

Good luck with your venture. We'll be looking forward to every issue.

Sincerely,

Jean M. Lamb

p.s. Somewhere along the grapevine I seem to remember hearing about someone who had written an article in your News. I think he had bought a house in Kennecott up there on what they now call Silk Stocking Row. Since I lived up there at one time, I wondered who he was and what house he bought? Thanks.

Thanks, Jean. Mike McCarthy is the person you are talking about and we have given him your name and address.

Ogden, UT  
January 14, 1993

Dear Bonnie,  
I have just received my Jan./Feb. *Wrangell St. Elias News* with your thank you note enclosed. I have enjoyed it immensely. I wish to order a subscription for my sister who resides in Littleton, CO.

Kennecott was home to us from shortly after birth, until we left in 1937.

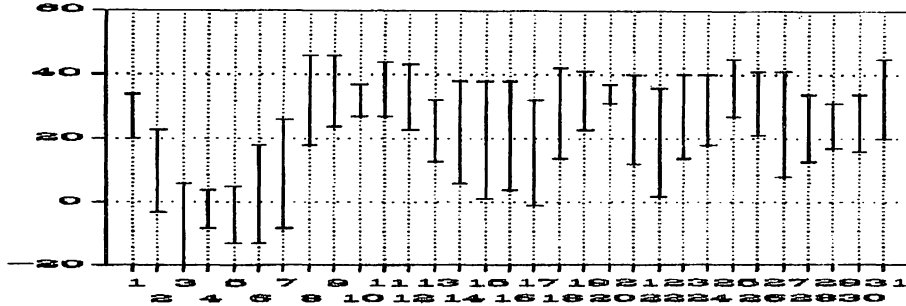
Sincerely,

James R. McGavock

# Weather - What can we expect?

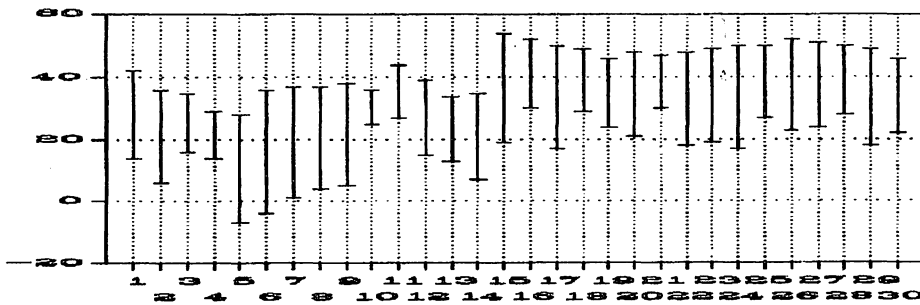
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