

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Fourteen Issue Two

March & April 2005

Two Dollars

Trapline in the Wrangells

BY KEITH & LAURIE ROWLAND

I live in the Wrangell Mountains with my wife, Laurie, and five trappin' pardners, ages 5 - 12. As part of our home schooling efforts this year, I took Kaleb (12) and David (11) to the Alaska Trappers Association (ATA) Trapping School in Fairbanks. The ATA generously allowed the three of us to attend for the price of one. So, in a way, I suppose this story is my way of returning thanks.

What with our mild winter this year, it was mid-December before the rivers froze up enough for travel. The boys and I had spent our fall and early winter months hunting caribou and deer and trapping beaver, and had accumulated a bait stash of gargantuan proportions. So, as soon as the weather began cooperating, we made a couple bait sets for coyote below our cabin on the Nizina River by burying a caribou head and placing a trap over it. For a long time, nothing happened. (continued on page 6)



Photo courtesy Keith Rowland

Kaleb and David Rowland with wolverine.

University Lands bill includes 12,500 acres near McCarthy



Map showing State property that is being considered for transfer to the University of Alaska. The tracts run from Long Lake to the May Creek area.

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

It's beginning to look a lot like spring here in the Wrangells; however, we have been teased a fair amount this season. I am quite certain winter is not over yet. The temperature is in the upper 20's today and the icicles on the south-facing office wall are dripping. This winter we have experienced one extreme to another – stoking up the fire in the wood stove for the long, cold night, then waking up the next morning sweating. The temperature took an upward climb while we slept, and we discovered the thermometer was reading ABOVE zero.

Rick and I are honored to have a variety of our McCarthy area neighbors participating in this issue of *WSEN*. Keith and Laurie Rowland share a family winter event, complete with pictures. Their story begins on the cover. On page 12 Lynn Welty writes about the homeschool program she and a few other local parents use. Lynn's husband, Don, is beginning a column on Page 14 called *The World Around Us*. *WSEN* readers will recognize his name from our November/December 2004 issue (*Local man survives grizzly attack*). Susan Smith who lives with her husband, Jack, at Mile 26 of the McCarthy Road, delves into the native land issues in the area. George Cebula, author of *A Look at the Weather*, page 29, just returned

from a trip outside Alaska. He submitted his article the day after he got home! Now, that's diligence. Peggy Guntis does not live in McCarthy area year round, but we claim her during the summer. She continues to find and share her tried-and-true recipes in *Cooking with Peggy* on page 28. Peggy welcomes your favorite recipes as well so why not send her a few here at *WSEN*, and a short introduction about yourself. I will make sure Peggy receives them.

Julie Cascio, a Home Economist with the University of Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Services, called our office the other day to see if we were interested in an article she had written about storing food outside, and, in the midst of the conversation, we discovered her next door neighbors in Wasilla, are very close friends of ours. Alaska is not that big after all!

Tonia Alexander, who submitted *The Alaskan Sourdough Wife*, has been a friend of mine for many years. She and her family own a cabin in the Long Lake area and visit yearly. They live in Wasilla, but she and I pass Emails regularly. She manages to find many interesting items on the Internet that she passes onto me. This poem was one of those.

I have a question for you, our readers. Do you have any subject you would like us to write about?

Perhaps *WSEN* has covered an item in the past and you want an update. Or maybe it is an issue that you care a lot about and it affects the McCarthy/Kennicott area. If so, please let us know and we will do our best to carry out your request.

WSEN welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Thor Brandt-Erichsen, AK; Joel Groves, AK; Bill Sutton, AK; Larry Michaud, AK; Bob Leisy, AK.

Arts Valdez Council Program for March/April 2005

March 4th, 8:00 p.m.—Terrance Simien. Zydeco music from Louisiana.

April 2nd, 8:00 p.m.—Army Arctic Warrior Band. The sound of a big brass band from the Wainright-stationed Army band. This is a free event.

April 9th, 8:00 p.m.—Ken Waldman. Fiddle player, poem writer.

April 16th, 8:00 p.m.—The play, "Libby." A one-person play about a young girl in the Pribilof Islands during the fur seal harvest.

April 23rd, 8:00 p.m.—Anchorage Choir. The Anchorage adult and children's choir. This is a free event.

April 29th, 8:00 p.m.—Jürgen Oğrodnik. Classical guitarist from McCarthy.

Wrangell St. Elias News (USPS 011301) VOL. Fourteen, Issue Two, March & April 2005.

Published every two months at McCarthy, Alaska. McCarthy, PO Box MXY, Glennallen, AK 99588-8998. Phone (907) 554-4454. FAX (907) 554-4494 **E-mail: WSEN@wsen.net** "Copyright © 2005 by Wrangell St. Elias News. No part of this publication may be reproduced by any means without the express permission of the publishers."

Contributors to this issue: Peggy Guntis, George Cebula, Lynn Welty, Don Welty, Susan Smith, Keith & Laurie Rowland, Julie Cascio, Birdie Parry and Ned Rozell.

Subscription price is \$11 for one year in the USA. Canada \$12.50. Other countries \$20. Advertising rates upon request. Deadline for publication in next issue is April 15.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT GLENNALLEN, AK. 99588.

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

Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Ralph, Linda, Lynette, Tyee, Teal and Trae Lohse: When I phoned the Lohse household a couple of minutes ago, Teal was on the other end of the line. I don't know who was more surprised to hear the other. Teal said the phone didn't ring but that he was plugging in a new phone. When he picked it up, I was just "there." Interesting!

I asked Teal who I should talk to for items of interest from the Lohse family and he said his mom, Linda, was just the one with the information. Linda and daughter Lynette returned to their Long Lake home the night before from a trip to Valdez. There was a Valentine's Day basketball tournament both ladies wanted to attend as well as a job interview for Lynette.

The Lohse home is full of creativity – especially these days. Linda told me Lynette has started up her own business and it is going very well. This was new news to me so I asked her to fill me in. Have you ever seen the "Alaskan grown" sweatshirts? People who were born in our state qualify to wear them. But, what about the person who calls our illustrious state home but didn't have the privilege to be born here. Lynette came up with a great idea for her own design for just those people— "Alaska - I wasn't born here but I got here as fast as I could." Her first printing was so successful that she has put an order in for another batch of Lynette's own "Lakina Logos." If you are interested in purchasing a sweatshirt from Lynette, you can call her at 907-399-3025. Congratulations, Lynette!

Ralph is busy creating his wooden spoons that he is well-known for. March 4 and 5, he and

Lynette will travel to Anchorage for "Jump Start Spring," a spring preview of upcoming "markets" to be held on a regular basis. A great place for the Lohses' crafts. If you are in the big city, be sure to stop by the Egen Center and look up Ralph and Lynette.

Jim Kreblin: If I were making cabin calls for items of interest instead of phone calls, I wouldn't have to travel far from the Lohses' place to reach Jim's cabin on Long Lake. The lake is frozen now and accessible by snowmachine.

Speaking of the lake, Jim filled me in on an upcoming Ice Fishing Derby which is scheduled for March 26th. "There are no entry fees for the derby," says Jim. "This is just for fun and a great opportunity for people to get together."

Although it is still in the planning stages, a judge has been chosen. Teal Lohse, 16, is known to be the best fisherman around. It was decided that the wisest move (especially for those of us who want to at least have a chance of winning) is to crown Teal "judge." A fair way to "knock out the competition." Jim hopes there will be some prizes, too, and he encourages anyone with further ideas to be sure to let him know. Everyone is welcome. If you have an ice auger (especially a gas-powered variety), please bring it along.

Jim is excited about the derby in more ways than one. His daughter is due to arrive in time to take part in the festivities. Lindsey, of Greenbay, Wis., graduated from high school early. Jim looks forward to her company until the fall when she leaves Long Lake to attend the University of Alaska Anchorage. She does plan on returning to Wis-

consin to attend her graduation ceremony in June.

This is Jim's first winter at Long Lake and he says he stays plenty busy and is enjoying the quiet of winter. On Friday nights he and neighbor Mark Vail join the Lohses for their weekly Scrabble game. I asked him who usually wins. His answer: Tyee or Ralph. He also travels to Chitina about once a week where he is doing electrical work on Gilpatrick's Chitina Hotel.

Congratulations on a successful first winter, Jim. If Rick and I don't see you before, we'll see you on the lake—complete with our ice-fishing gear!

Mark Vail: The McCarthy area is experiencing another "Chinook" – unseasonably warm winds that can cause a thaw in the middle of winter. Today is February 15 and the present temperature is 35 degrees and it is lightly raining. This is not normal weather for winter in McCarthy. I touched bases with Mark today and I wasn't all that surprised to find him perusing his seed catalogs. He wasn't impressed with the "wacky weather," but it did spur him on to think about seedtime and harvest.

We discussed gardening tips such as drying celeriac leaves instead of celery. Mark says he finds celeriac is more flavorful for items such as homemade soup. This led Mark to fill me in on a couple of important events for the near future. A Spring Seed Swap is being planned for sometime in March and in early May a Seedling Swap or purchase. Both swaps will be held at Tony Zak's and will be advertised with flyers around town and at the mail shack. Thanks for the "heads up," Mark!

Dave Williams and Marie

Thorn: Dave and Marie are back from a two-month visiting spree which, Marie says, was absolutely "awesome!" The "spree" began around Thanksgiving with an Alaskan tour meeting up with family and friends. Next stop was 3 weeks in the state of Washington and 2 weeks in Texas.

If Dave and Marie thought they could escape winter weather, I think they were mistaken. A record snowfall occurred on Christmas Eve while they were in Houston!

Now that they are home in Kennicott, they are experiencing their "real" vacation, says Marie. I asked her just what that meant. She replied: snowboarding, coffee, baking, cooking, eating, logging, shoveling, hauling water and time for friends. Sounds good to me, Marie and Dave. (Well, except for the snowboarding) Welcome home!

Neil Darish and Doug Miller:

Now I know why we haven't heard or seen much of Doug lately. I just got off the McCarthy Venture's new web site. According to Neil, Doug has been working 12 hour days for 3 months designing and tweaking articles and updated information. Just in case you want to check it out, too, please go to www.mccarthy lodge.com. I really enjoyed the historical pictures, and the site provides area guests with information on local businesses and the history of our town.

Neil is more-than-busy with the McCarthy Centennial Project 2006. He is working closely with the Alaska Museum of Transportation and Industry located in Wasilla. Of much interest is a "Speeder" that once was a working part of the McCarthy landscape during its early mining days. This speeder was once owned by Sig Wold's daughter who gave it to the museum where it was restored and put in running condition. Interestingly enough, Neil shared that there are pictures taken by a female "tourist" in 1954 that

places the same speeder in front of the McCarthy Lodge. What a feat it would be to see this artifact return for the celebration of the 100-year history of McCarthy. The loan of the speeder is for the entire 2006 season. What an item of interest that will be for locals and visitors alike!

Kurt, Peggy and Kelsey Smith:

While Kurt was away, the Smith ladies did play! Daughter Kelsey threw a slumber party this last week and the following ladies traveled to the Smith's Nizina homestead for an evening of movies. Tracey Gressel, Rene and Lynn Welty and Kelsey's nearby neighbor, Tessa Bay. (I just recently was told by Tessa that she and Kelsey are both in the 6th grade.) Peggy says she is just now recovering from their late-night fun.

Peggy informed me that she is eagerly working on a project that she hopes will become an annual event for the McCarthy community – A Science Expo. A date is set for Wednesday, April 20, after mail. The place is the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church. According to Peggy, there is a potential of 14 students that could be participating.

"This is not a competition," stressed Peggy, "but an opportunity for local students to present their Science projects to the community. I hope this will be fun for the students as well as reason to bring the neighborhood together. Projects will not be judged but Neighbor Dan will offer scientific commentary on each project."

Peggy says there will be flyers posted locally as a reminder of the community event.

McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church upgrade: I am pleased to report that the kitchen located in the church basement has received quite an upgrade. A men's workday was called just recently. Five men and 3 "young" men showed up for an afternoon of labor -- I call it a labor of love.

One Sunday there was no running water, the bathroom facility was the outhouse "down the hill," and the kitchen cupboards were located at one end of the basement and the kitchen stove was at the other end. The ladies of the church were thrilled with the results this last Sunday: running hot/cold water, flush toilet and the kitchen rearranged in the same work area. We were surely counting our blessings that day.

Much thanks goes out to John Adams, Don Welty, Rick Kenyon, Mike Monroe, Carl Gressel, Keith, David and Kaleb Rowland for a job well done.

George Cebula: Today is February 18 and George returned to his McCarthy home two days ago. His annual road trip to the lower 48 went well. Traveling companion, dog Sophie, came home sporting a new hairdo.

One of the highlights of he and Sophie's many visits to family and friends was a stopover at the home of the Wunschels in Kennewick, WA. Sharon, her husband David, son Jacob and new-on-the-scene daughter "Maya," were glad to have an extra helping hand in "Great Uncle" George. Even Sophie gets in on the act. She loves young Jacob and newborn Maya who arrived December 26. It seems George was certain the baby would be a girl and if there had been a bet going, he would have won. Congratulations to George who comes home richer than when he left.

If you are trying to call George and it takes awhile for him to answer, just let it ring a bit longer than usual. He says the cabin is in disarray from unpacking and it may take him awhile to find the phone!! Welcome home, George and Sophie!

Don, Lynn and Rene Welty: Don is holding down the homestead these days – just he and the chickens. Lynn is presently visiting her folks John and Nancy Burtch in Xe-

nia, Ohio. Daughter Rene is in Anchorage attending a school program entitled Voyage to Excellence. While the ladies are gone, Don doesn't "seem" to be playing. He says he is working hard on his newly-built workshop, burning trash and keeping the chickens fed. No time for boredom in our neck of the woods – even in winter!

Announcement from Stephen and Kelly Syren:

The Syren family is pleased to announce the renaming of their business at the end of the McCarthy Road. This summer Stephen and Kelly's parking lot/campground venture will be sporting fresh new banners that read: Base Camp Root Glacier— Parking and Camping

Thanks, Kelly and Stephen, for letting us in on the new look so we can be assured we are where we think we are!

Local musician gives winter concert:

McCarthy: – February 4th arrived with more than a touch of winter in the air. The official minimum temperature at the Kenyon's weather station revealed a chilly -36 F. Local artist, Jürgen Oğrodnik, agreed to perform in spite of the conditions.

Twenty-five hardy souls arrived at the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church at 6:15 p.m. to enjoy a night filled with classical guitar music by one of its very own. They came by truck, snowmachines, skis and by foot.

Jürgen's musical program included memorized pieces from composers of the 1500's up to the 1900's. The main selections were: Variations on a Folk Song by Narvaez, Air - Galliard by Dowland, Galliard by Cuhing F., 8 pieces from the 5 Cello Suites by J. S. Bach,



Jürgen plays classical guitar.

Variations on a Theme by Handel and 4 Preludes by H. Villa Lobos.

The enthusiastic responses from the audience were apparent. Jürgen was met with rounds of applause at the completion of each performance.

Refreshments were served after the concert with thanks going to Miss Hannah Rowland for her delicious brownies and to Rene Welty for her homemade sweet bread. Thanks to Don and Lynn Welty for organizing the concert. Of course, a heartfelt "thanks" to Jürgen for his untiring dedication to bring the sound of music to our corner of the world – even in the midst of winter!

If you were unable to attend Jürgen's McCarthy concert, and have not yet purchased his latest CD, you can contact Jürgen at Box MXY #2, McCarthy, Glennallen, AK. 99588. The CD contains 15 classical compositions recorded and

produced in Germany in April 2002. The CD is \$15, or \$20 to cover shipping costs.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KELLERS: A very important item of interest for this issue is concerning the Keller "family." While at mail the other day, my neighbor Natalie Bay passed on the good news that Jeremy and Allie were now parents of a baby boy. Before I could make contact with the Kellers for the particulars, I was pleased to find an email complete with pictures. Here are the very important "items of great interests" direct from the Kellers:

Greetings from Homer, AK. Jeremy and Alison Keller are now the proud parents of one very special little boy, Bjorn Keller. Bjorn entered the world at the Homer Hospital on February 3rd at 8:18 pm. He weighed in at 8 lbs 1oz.

It sounds like the proud parents and Bjorn had their challenges but all is well now. The Keller family is eager to return to their home on the Nizina (Allie may wish she could bring the running hot water with her!) Everyone is eager to get a personal introduction to baby Bjorn.



Bjorn Keller — 8lbs, 1 oz.

Trapline in the Wrangells

(continued from the Cover)

One day, a couple weeks before Christmas, we were surprised to discover the tracks of about four wolves on the river bottom. We cautiously approached one of our coyote sets. Our eagerness mounted as we saw that the area around our trap was covered with tracks. Then we saw it—tell-tale drag marks leading away from the set site. “Yippee!” the boys hooted with glee. “We got one!” I crowed.

Like bloodhounds on a scent trail, we followed those drag marks, but our excitement soon turned to bitter disappointment. Fifty feet from the set, we found our 4 inch by 12 ft drift log drag. Warned by their keen sense of smell and sharp eyes, those wily wolves had used their sharp teeth and powerful jaws to drag the heavy log away from the bait. With such skill and exquisite finesse did they maneuver the cumbersome drag that the #3 coil spring which we had attached to it had remained unsprung, and the thin layer of waxed paper still covering the trap's jaws looked as though it hadn't even been disturbed. With the trap safely out of harm's way, the wolves had returned to the set and enjoyed a gratifying feast of caribou.

Well, I can tell you I wasn't prepared to find wolves in the area, so I threw a beaver carcass in the pit they had dug, figuring to return in a day or two with bigger traps to make a wolf set. I had always wanted to trap wolves—but I had hoped for some dumb ones. So far it wasn't looking too good.

Two days later, we were ready for them. We had some freshly-boiled #4½ Newhouse traps in my sled preset and ready to put out for the wolves. (Uh, by the way, don't mention anything to my wife about her best stock pot we used for boiling the traps. It was the only thing

I could find, and she wasn't looking, so I thought I might just... aw, hang it all, just don't say anything about it, all right?) When we got to the place, about a mile from our cabin, we were surprised to find the beaver carcass missing and more wolf tracks. “The wolves are surely gone now,” I reckoned. “I hope they come back in a few weeks...”

I remade the set with another caribou head, then the traps, then snow cover, and finally a caribou hide covering the whole thing. I left the big drag with the unsprung trap right where it was, hoping I might fool them. They would see that the original trap and drag were where they had left them, I reasoned. Feeling reassured, they would then carefully remove the caribou hide, dive in for another excellent caribou dinner, courtesy of the dumb trapper up on the hill, and ker-snap! Heh, heh, heh... Just for extra good measure, I pulled back about 100 yards, made a pee post set, and put some snares in the willow bushes nearby. All this was done with utmost care and precautions not to leave any of our own smelly signatures in the area—we never stepped off our sled, or handled the traps with bare hands, or touched the ground, or even blew the snot out of our nose! We rigged



Photo courtesy Keith Rowland

Left to right: David Rowland, Kaleb Rowland, Wolf.

our other coyote set the same way, just in case the wolves might take a notion to visit there. Then we went home.

A couple days later, the boys and I were out setting more traps in well-below-zero weather. We weren't intending to check the wolf set and didn't have a gun with us, since we didn't expect the wolves to still be in the area. But, as we neared the pee post, our mouths suddenly dropped open in surprised astonishment, for there in the snow were fresh wolf tracks!

The tracks told all. First, they headed for the free dinner, but, true to form, those cagey wolves figured out our sly deception. With meticu-



Photo courtesy Keith Rowland

The littlest pardner with a coyote

lous care, they had removed the caribou hide and drug it about fifty feet away. In the process, they somehow snapped one of the #4½ Newhouse traps underneath. Now, as the pack was milling around wondering what to do and arguing about how to get at that tempting caribou head under those traps, one of the fellas decided to leave the decision-making to better minds and go find a good place to relieve himself. He wandered down the trail about 100 yards, sniffed around, and caught the scent of something interesting.

dle of the river bed, which was a three-quarter-mile-wide swath of glacial gravel bars utterly devoid of vegetation. What little snow had fallen throughout the winter had been hardened and drifted by recent winds, and, even with the jagged metal drag trailing behind him, the wolf left almost no marks for us to follow. Unerring, he made his way to where the river had frozen into a highway of bare ice. Now he could travel without hanging up on the pesky drag, and with the added benefit of leaving no sign at all for that

He looked furtively around, stiff-legged it up to that enticing smell, hiked up his back leg, and... SNAP! My pardners and I had our first wolf.

Well, not quite. In our attempt to leave no scent, we had not attached the trap to anything, hoping the factory-supplied drag would be sufficient. It wasn't.

Swift as hares before lynx, the boys high-tailed it back to the house for their rifle, returning in record time, all breathless with excitement. Then, the tracking game began. It soon became obvious that this was no dumb wolf. Instead of trying to crawl back in the brush to hide, or wasting effort trying to gnaw the trap off his paw, the bold fellow had headed straight out to the mid-

He cursed trapper up on the hill and his equally cursed offspring to follow.

He just might have gotten away with it, too, if only it hadn't been for that place more than a mile downstream where the river turned hard against a sheer bluff, and open water forced him back onto the bank. It was at this juncture that the trap's drag wedged tightly between the jumbled slabs of river ice.

When we found him there later, a healthy 93-pound black male, he was ominously near the edge of the icy, dark bluish water. The -25° conditions were causing overflow to slowly creep around him. I dispatched him with the boys' .22 and breathed a prayer of thankfulness and relief. There were so many what-ifs which would have lost the wolf to us forever—what if the drag hadn't gotten snagged when it did and he had taken that one last lunge into the swiftly turbulent river? What if we had waited until the next day to check the set? What if it had snowed over what little trail he had left? Even a bare skiff of snow would have completely eradicated any trace of his passing. Truly our efforts were blessed that day!

If time permitted, I'd tell you tales about the other critters we brought home this year. There was a second wolf, who was beautiful but dumb. There were coyotes, wolverines, martens, several beavers and muskrats, and one mink.

But story time will have to wait while the trapline is still calling. And so, the boys and I are off to the river to see what trapping adventures await us there.

"Character is doing what's right when nobody's looking." —J. C. Watts, Jr.

"[I]nstead of moral absolutes, the Left holds legal absolutes. 'Legal' for the Left is what 'moral' is for the Right. The religious have a belief in God-based moral law, and the Left believes in man-made law as the moral law." —Dennis Prager

"The chief cause of problems is solutions." —Eric Sevareid

State lands to UA—UA lands to NPS?

BY RICK KENYON

Senator Lisa Murkowski and her father, Governor Frank Murkowski, have each introduced bills that could have a profound effect on McCarthy area residents.

Gov. Frank Murkowski is asking the Legislature to approve the transfer of 260,000 acres of state land to the University of Alaska, intended to provide the school with a new source of income for the years ahead.

The University Land Grant bill has been introduced in the legislature as House Bill 130 and Senate Bill 96.

Twelve-thousand five hundred acres near McCarthy are included in the proposal. The land borders the Nizina River and forms a corridor that ranges between one and three miles wide, and runs from several miles east of the Nizina Bridge area to Long Lake at Mile 48 of the McCarthy Road.

The state lands have long been used by local residents for resources such as gravel, firewood and house logs. "The DNR (Department of Natural Resources) has been a wonderful neighbor," said Michelle Niland, whose property on the Nizina Road is surrounded by the DNR lands.

If the property is transferred to the University, some of it would presumably end up being subdivided and sold or leased to the public. In the meantime, it could still be used for recreational purposes such as hiking, fishing, berry-picking, and other things that don't affect the utility or value of the land. People could also still get permits for personal or commercial use of timber

and gravel like they do on state land.

"This land transfer ... provides a portfolio of income and educational properties to deliver to the University of Alaska both a steady and strong funding stream and the tools to expand its research capabilities," Murkowski said at a press conference in Fairbanks.

Opponents cite the large tracts of land the University already owns in the area, but remains undeveloped.

The University has subdivided and sold a number of parcels in the McCarthy area in recent years. One subdivision is located just east of McCarthy Creek, another at mile 51 of the McCarthy Road.

There has been considerable opposition to the bills state-wide. Alaska House of Representatives' Resources Committee Co-Chair Jay Ramras (R-Fairbanks) has decided that the University Land Grant and Forest Bill, HB 130, needs some work.

"We have listened to and received verbal and written testimony in regard to the language and the locations of the proposed transfers. From that testimony, I have discussed many of the issues with both the Department of Natural Resources and the University, and we have agreed to go back and take a closer look at the overall plan before reopening public testimony," Representative Ramras said.

He added, "What we want to do now is step back and let those involved work out the particulars for a compromise. Some changes will involve amendments; others can be handled by agreements between the University and the stakeholders. We

will then release those proposed changes so the public will understand what is being considered and can comment on the new plan. What we are interested in is a good piece of legislation that meets the needs of both the University and the public. There was never any intent to rush through a bill that upset more people than it pleased."

The committee has been told that it will take at least a week to ten days to work on the particulars. Based on that, HB 130 is not expected on the House Resources Committee calendar until at least March 2, 2005.

Meanwhile, Sen. Lisa Murkowski has introduced her own legislation in the U.S. Senate, seeking 250,000 acres of federal land to match the governor's proposal. Under the bill, the University would receive the right to select an initial 250,000 acres from the federal government, with this caveat: it would be required to give up its current inholdings in national parks and refuges, including Wrangell-St. Elias.

Initially, there was concern among residents that the two large parcels of state land would end up going to the National Park Service, as well as the land that the University currently owns. UA spokesperson Mari Montgomery assured us that is not the case.

"Senator Murkowski's bill does not include lands proposed to be conveyed to the University under the new state legislation (HB130/SB96)," said Montgomery.

She also said, "The University does not have any specific plans for the parcels located in the McCarthy area included in the state legislation."

"Face your deficiencies and acknowledge them; but do not let them master you. Let them teach you patience, sweetness, insight."—Helen Keller

Alaska National Park Access Guide Available for Review

BY RICK KENYON

Within the boundaries of Alaska's national park units, there are more than 1.6 million acres of land owned by private individuals and corporations, the state of Alaska and local governments. Access to these lands, which the National Park Service (NPS) calls inholdings, is guaranteed by federal law. A draft version of a new handbook has been released by the NPS for public review and comment.

Titled *A User's Guide to Accessing Inholdings in a National Park Service Area in Alaska*, this 22-page draft document is, according to the NPS, an outcome of conversations held last year among U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Gale Norton, Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski, and NPS Alaska Regional Director Marcia Blaszak. The NPS consulted with state officials during preparation of the document.

"This authorization process allows the National Park Service and other agencies which manage public resources — things like salmon streams, wildlife habitat, historical sites — and other public uses, to protect those public assets. At the same time, we are meeting the unique provisions in law to provide access to non-federal lands within parks," said Blaszak.

"Not only will the user's guide help landowners understand what is required of them, it will help park managers provide consistent information to people seeking access," said Sally Gibert, the State of Alaska's ANILCA coordinator. "The state encourages Alaskans to review the guide to insure that it accomplishes the NPS objectives of clarity, accuracy and sound public policy."

While described by the National Park Service as simply a guide to "help landowners and others under-

stand the National Park Service process to authorize access across park areas," some say it actually institutes a permit system for access to inholdings in parks created under ANILCA and sets up a fee schedule for the permits.

"The National Park Service proposes that the fee charged the applicant be based on the fee schedule in the ... current federal regulations of the Bureau of Land Management," says the *Guide*. The form to be used to apply for an access permit is also a BLM form, called SF299, Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands. The estimated "public burden" for completing the form is 25 hours.

According to the *Guide*, inholders will need to obtain a permit for all motorized access that crosses federal lands unless that access is via a state highway or a designated park road. State rights-of-way granted under RS2477 are categorically denied as valid access routes by the NPS, as are section-line easements. So are access routes that predated the park but are not state highways or designated park roads.

The proposed fee structure for obtaining a permit to access inholdings is just that—a structure. There is an Application and Processing Fee which ranges from \$125 to \$925 or more. There is an Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Fee for access to inholdings that would have "potentially significant impacts on the environment." That fee is not stated, but depends upon the size and complexity of the access route. Then there is a Monitoring Fee, which varies from \$50 to \$200. The monitoring fee helps reimburse the NPS for their costs of monitoring the inholder's use of the access route.

Finally there is the proposed Annual Land Rental Fee. Rental fees

would be determined by a U.S. Government appraisal, a National Park Service cost estimate, or by a land rental fee schedule. This would amount to an additional eight percent of the value of the land area used by the road or trail. The NPS proposes to waive the Annual Land Rental Fee on inholdings that are not used for any commercial purpose.

"In particular, the National Park Service is interested in public comments on a proposed cost structure which includes an application fee and the reimbursement of some NPS costs, and a land rental fee for commercial operations," reads the NPS press release.

Public comment will be accepted through May 13, 2005. To download the document for review, go to the following website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/> and select the link "Plans/Documents Open for Comment" located at the lower left corner of the page. From the following "Plan/Document List" select the link "A User's Guide to Accessing Inholdings in a National Park Service Area in Alaska." Copies of the guide may be requested by writing Regional Director, National Park Service, 240 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Public comment will also be accepted at each of four meetings planned in March. The times and locations are as follows:

March 9 Anchorage—Alaska Public Lands Information Center, 605 W. 4th Ave.

March 16 McCarthy — Zak house, after mail

March 18 Slana — Slana School, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

March 30 Fairbanks — Alaska Public Lands Information Center, 250 Cushman St. The Anchorage and Fairbanks meetings will be held from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Native land selections

BY SUSAN SMITH — CHAIRPERSON, RESIDENTS OF THE WRANGELLS

Many Wrangell-St. Elias Park (WRST) residents along the McCarthy Road have been asked to get right-of-way permits and pay access fees to the National Park Service (NPS) to travel across park land to reach their homes. Technically, much of the land is not yet owned by NPS, but is part of an enormous 600,000-acre Ahtna native selection on the western border of the park.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) established thirteen regional native corporations in 1971. In exchange for releasing aboriginal title to their land, Alaska natives received a cash settlement of \$962.5 million and 44 million acres of land across the state.

Ahtna Regional Corporation and its affiliated village corporations own rights to 1,528,000 acres of land. An additional 249,000 acres need to be conveyed to Ahtna to complete the land settlement process mandated by ANCSA. This acreage will be drawn from a pool of approximately 1,500,000 acres already chosen by Ahtna; they have over-selected, and only about one-sixth of that land will actually be conveyed.

According to a land status map and table published in the 1997 McCarthy Road Scenic Corridor Plan, Ahtna currently owns 12% of the land which abuts the McCarthy Road, from the Copper River bridge

to about milepost 8. Their unconveyed selections span east to the Strelna Lake area, west to the Crystalline Hills, north into the Wrangell Mountains, and south across the Chitina River. They include over 32 miles of acreage abutting the McCarthy Road, or 33% of the total acreage adjacent to the road.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980 guaranteed in Section 204 that native claims made within the boundaries of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST) would be “recognized, honored and conveyed” by the Secretary of the Interior.

Many inholders wonder if their access issues will ultimately be resolved by dealing with Ahtna rather than NPS. Any native lands within park boundaries which are not selected will fall back to federal management by NPS. Last fall Ahtna negotiated with NPS to establish conservation easements for some of their WRST inholdings; these easements would give NPS jurisdiction over the lands. In fact, Ahtna's Land Status webpage claims that any lands within the boundaries of WRST, “...while owned or selected by Ahtna, are under the jurisdiction of the NPS.”

Senators Lisa Murkowski and Ted Stevens sponsored passage of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (S1466) in October of 2004 to speed up the conveyance process of the remaining ANCSA

selections. Of the original 44 million acres appropriated to Alaska native corporations, 29 million have yet to be conveyed. A timetable will be established for submission of final conveyance priorities. This bill also authorizes the government to provide an additional 200,000 acres in conveyances to help settle selection problems.

According to Senator Murkowski, the main goal of this Act is to help the federal government streamline and complete the conveyance process in Alaska. Sixty million acres of federal land have yet to be transferred to the state to satisfy its 104-million-acre statehood entitlement. Legislators would like to see that goal accomplished by the 50th anniversary of Alaska statehood in 2009.

Within five years, Ahtna's inholdings within the WRST should be finalized. Many questions remain for inholders along the McCarthy Road. Which areas of WRST will be owned by Ahtna? Exactly how many acres of their huge selection will be conveyed? Will Ahtna negotiate for conservation easements on all of their inholdings, giving NPS jurisdiction over thousands of acres of additional land? Perhaps actual ownership of the land should be established before residents within the selection area are asked to go through the NPS permitting and access fee procedures.

“I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in his holy protection, that he would incline the hearts of the Citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow Citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the Characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation.” —George Washington

Park Service looking for Tourism Czar

Reaching out to tourist industry to reverse five-year visit slump

BY RICK KENYON

Washington, DC — Stuck in a five-year slide in public visits, the National Park Service (NPS) is looking for a tourism industry veteran to develop a “strategic direction” for the agency’s approach to attracting visitors, according to the job description released January 24 by the NPS. Not only does the Park Service want to pick up industry techniques, but it also wants to “promote private sector support of the NPS mission.”

The basic problem, as NPS sees it, is that fewer people are camping and boating in our national parks. The only consistent area of growth for the national park system is increasing commuter traffic—something termed “non-recreational use.”

Predictably, some environmental groups are not happy about promoting visitation to national parks.

“In its quest to ‘Disney-fy’ the park system, the Park Service risks sacrificing the very qualities that make national parks special and worth visiting,” stated Jeff Ruch, who is Executive Director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER).

Ironically, last July, PEER was criticizing NPS for lack of planning. “The Park Service does not have any sort of strategic plan to manage traffic at overcrowded parks or to steer people to visit under-visited parks.”

In an effort to promote tourism to the national parks, NPS entered into a partnership agreement with the Travel Industry Association of America last year. PEER seems unhappy with that effort, also. Speaking of the agreement, Ruch says, “By reaching out indiscriminately for every corporate opportunity, the Park Service may suffer unintended side effects of promiscuous partnering.”

Part of the job description of the new position (officially called Special Assistant to the Associate Director, Tourism) is to “develop strategies to encourage a broad range of people representing various segments of the population to visit parks.” The Special Assistant will also “work within the Service to continuously improve the Bureau’s capacity to create, nurture, and expand tourism programs that promote private sector support of the NPS mission” and to “Provide leadership and direction to the NPS Tourism program and oversees the program’s allocated resources.” The new position is at the upper end of the civil service ladder —GS-15— with a salary of \$103,947 to \$135,136.

Other green groups are jittery also. “It’s pretty clear they want to push that [working with the tourism industry] more and harder than it’s ever been done before,” said Bill Wade, a former superintendent of Shenandoah National Park who now heads the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees.

Wade fears the agency and the industry will attempt to drum up attendance at the parks, despite the service’s budget woes and struggles to maintain its current services. “It’s a bad situation to be, on the one hand, trying to recruit more visitors and then, at the same time, have less of a capability to take care of those people or protect or respond to emergencies,” he said.

The new job position seems to be part of the effort to come up with a plan to manage traffic at overcrowded parks or to steer people toward under-visited parks. In our last issue we reported (*WRST to get boost*, page 10) that Congress recently gave the NPS \$750,000 for promotion of Alaska’s national parks, with an emphasis on “visitation dispersal.” The idea was to divert some of the traffic that causes overcrowding at Denali into other parks such as Wrangell-St. Elias.

Apparently the folks at PEER are not paying attention. “The Park Service does not seem to contemplate the possibility that some of our parks may in fact be over-visited,” said PEER’s Director Ruch on February 1, 2005. Ruch seems to be in a funk. “Writing a strategic plan for the future of the national park system should include far more than tapping into the marketing practices of the travel industry,” concluded Ruch.

“[I]f you serve a child a rotten hamburger in America, federal, state, and local agencies will investigate you, summon you, close you down, whatever. But if you provide a child with a rotten education, nothing happens, except that you’re liable to be given more money to do it with. Well, we’ve discovered that money alone isn’t the answer.”—Ronald Reagan

“I suppose, indeed, that in public life, a man whose political principles have any decided character and who has energy enough to give them effect must always expect to encounter political hostility from those of adverse principles.”— Thomas Jefferson

Chugach School District not left behind

BY LYNN WELTY

The Chugach School District (CSD) covers 22 square miles in the Prince William Sound area. It has 3 site schools located at Chenega Bay, Whittier, and Tatitlik. The extension school program is run from 3 different areas including Valdez, Fairbanks, and Anchorage. There are 5 families in McCarthy under the Valdez Extension School. On February 9 they met to learn more about how the CSD works.

My daughter Rene and I were invited to attend the CSD Quality School Model meeting being held in Girdwood. Administrators, teachers, parents, students, business partners, and other school districts that are changing to this model, all met to share what was working and what wasn't and what could be done to make it better. In 1994, 90% of CSD students could not read at grade level, there had been only 1 college graduate in 20 years, and there was a 50% teacher attrition rate. Something needed to change. After receiving a waiver from the State of Alaska Education Department the District went from letter grades to a standards-based system.

Instead of students attending third grade and learning a set curriculum, they now have levels they have to pass by taking assessment

tests. In each level there are several target areas. Some of the targets are required for passing a level, others the student is allowed to choose. For example, in Social Studies, levels III and IV require a total of 8 targets with at least one target in each of the four strands that includes Civics and Government, Economics, Geography, and History. There are a total of 21 targets so the student has a variety of interests they can choose. The teacher's job is to assist the student and help them find the resources to accomplish their goal. Sometimes classrooms can look chaotic to those looking in but to the teacher and students there is a lot of learning going on. When the student feels they have reached all their targets in a subject area, they take an assessment test. If they get an 80% or better they move on to the next level. In this standards-based system the student is allowed to work at their own pace. There is a minimum level requirement for each of the 10 subject areas in order for the student to graduate. The subject areas include the basic skills plus cultural awareness, career development, technology, personal/social health, and service learning.

Another important goal the CSD has is to help the students make the transition from school to college or work. One way they are

accomplishing this is through their Voyage to Excellence program. There is a 3-phase program that brings the student to Anchorage where they learn, not only how to get around in a city, but also team building, leadership, and help with career development. A maximum of 12 students throughout the District learn how to work together, run a mock corporation, write resumes, learn how to present themselves in a job interview, and do job shadowing. By Phase 3 the students are running the show with only the teachers there to help, if needed. Another program is the outdoor Leadership Program. Here the students go outdoors and work on leadership skills. The students have gone on kayak, backpacking and canoeing trips.

Has this change helped the students? In 1995 Chugach's students were in the 28 percentile for reading according to the California Achievement Test Scores. In 1999 they were in the 78 percentile. From 1994 to 2000 there were 17 total graduates, fourteen of them attended a post-secondary institution. There is now a 12% teacher attrition rate. The students are succeeding, thanks to the help of the school, their communities, and business partners—all stakeholders in the education of children.

High School seniors can now apply for Spenard Builders Supply Scholarship

ANCHORAGE – Applications are now available for high school seniors to apply for the Spenard Builders Supply (SBS) scholarship. A \$2,000 to \$4,000 scholarship will be awarded to assist an Alaska high school senior in pursuing a vocational career for the benefit of Alaska's future. The SBS Scholarship Foundation works with VICA, an organization for students involved in trade, in-

dustrial, technical and health occupations.

High school seniors who are graduating from any Alaska secondary school are eligible to apply for the scholarship. They must have at least a 2.6 (C+) grade-point-average, have completed vocational courses, and have well-defined vocational goals with realistic plans to achieve those goals.

The deadline for applying for the 2005 SBS Scholarship is April 15 and a recipient will be announced by no later than May 15. Applications can be obtained through scholarship advisors at Alaska's high schools, or downloaded from SBS' website, www.sbsalaska.com. For more information, call Pat Anderson at (907) 261-9150.

Alaskan's 586,000 square mile Freezer: Keeping Food Safe Storing Food Outside

BY JULIE CASCIO

Do you have a huge batch of spaghetti sauce that needs to be chilled? Too much moose for the freezer to handle? When the weather turns cold the “great outdoors” seems like a huge extra refrigerator/freezer space. Packaging, temperature, and animals are the main factors to consider when food is stored outside.

Use the same practices for packaging, chilling and storing foods outside as you would if you were putting them in your inside freezer. Put food in small, shallow containers to chill quickly. This lessens the time the food is in the “danger zone” (between 40° and 140°F) in which foodborne illnesses grow. When the food is chilled, package it for freezing. When choosing the container or packaging for freezing food, remember that frozen liquids will expand.

The packaging you use to store food needs to be food grade quality. Plastic freezer food storage bags or containers with tight fitting lids that come in a variety of sizes are good choices for storing food. Proper packaging needs to be durable, leakproof, easy to seal, and moisture—vapor resistant so liquids stay in and odors stay out.

Plastic trash bags, brown paper bags, and garbage cans aren't safe choices for storing food. These products contain toxic glues, plastics or metals that can leach into food. If a product is not sold to hold food, don't use it for storing food.

Temperature is another consideration. For best quality, food needs to be frozen at 0° F or lower, and kept frozen below that temperature. Between 0° and 32°F, foods lose quality much faster. With the fluctuation in outdoor temperatures even in one day, it can adversely affect your food supply. If you use outdoors more as a refrigerator, temperatures need to be below 39°F to keep food safe. Remember that many foods that need refrigeration do not freeze well. It is hard to keep outdoor temperatures constant. In the spring, as temperatures rise, low acid foods like meat and vegetables that get too warm, are at increased risk for foodborne illnesses.

Of course, you have chosen a sheltered, shady spot to store your food. Wind can dry out the food or even blow covers off or dust into tightly covered containers. Sun can raise the temperature of a small area significantly. This brings to mind a friend who had brought frozen salmon to share with another friend. It was a cold day, well below freezing, so she left it in her car while she went into work. Unfortunately, she had forgotten to consider the sun. The sun had heated the interior of the car. By the time she came out, the fish had thawed. She had to throw the fish away and never did get the smell out of that car.

When I checked the average temperatures for McCarthy/Chitina, I found that from the beginning of November through mid March, highs and lows are below freezing

(32°F). But there are record highs on all of those days that are above freezing. So on any given day, your outside “freezer” can “quit working.” It is a good idea, for safety's sake, to have a thermometer in the area where you store food outside. Get in the habit of checking it regularly and especially on the days when you feel it is warmer than usual. Your spot in Alaska can have a different temperature even than your neighbor's. Another factor to remember is the container your food is stored in can attract the sun's rays and overheat quickly, causing the food inside to be warmer than 40°F—the danger zone for foodborne illness.

Storing food outside brings the hazard of prowling animals, either pets or wild animals, which can get into the food. Traditional small wood storage caches on high poles illustrate the practical need to store food out of reach of any critters. Storing food outside is probably not a good idea if your area has an active bear population.

If you have any questions on freezing foods for best quality and for safety, call the Cooperative Extension Service, 745-3360.

Author Julie Cascio is a Home Economist with the UAF Cooperative Extension Service. She teaches classes and answers questions on food safety, food preservation, nutrition, stain removal, budgeting, family and child development, and other areas that relate to the home and family.

“So what's the difference between republican and democratic forms of government? John Adams captured the essence of the difference when he said, 'You have rights antecedent to all earthly governments; rights that cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws; rights derived from the Great Legislator of the Universe.' Nothing in our Constitution suggests that government is a grantor of rights. Instead, government is a protector of rights.” —Walter Williams

The World Around Us

BY DON WELTY

Living here in the Wrangell's—with its awe inspiring beauty—one cannot help but ponder over what, when, and how all of it came about. Did the mountains, forest, rivers and “all creatures great and small” somehow spring into existence, or was there an intelligent designer at work?

Although science is responsible for many great advances in technology and medicine, it is of little help here. Since all these events occurred in the unobservable past we must go beyond repeatable, observable science, and venture into the realm of theory and faith.

Fortunately for us, the Creator makes a bold proclamation about the creation and what our response to it should be. “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise they became fools.” (Romans 1:20-23)

If this is indeed true, then God has provided enough evidence in the world around us to know both who he is, and what he is like. I hope you will join me in this and future issues as we explore this subject, and look at some of that evidence that points unequivocally to the creator.

When Darwin came out with his theory of evolution people thought that life—especially single cell bacterium—were much less complex than we now know them to be. This led to the idea that life could spontaneously arise in the right en-

vironment, at the right time and place, given enough time.

Also, since we can observe and verify natural selection, the idea was extrapolated to macroevolution, leading to the theory we have all been exposed to, much of the time represented as fact. However, as scientists explore chemical and molecular biology, they are gaining new insight into the complexity of life.

Now science has learned much more about what is happening in the DNA sequence as natural selection occurs. Instead of *increasing information and complexity* we find that natural selection and mutations only *lose information*. Instead of becoming more complex, as would be necessary for a reptile to become a bird, for example, they become less complex.

In this first article we will look at a description of one of these “early simple life forms” as Darwin believed, the cell. The following is from molecular biologist Michael Denton’s excellent book, *Evolution: Theory in Crisis*. In future articles I hope to look at more complex structures.

“To grasp the reality of life as it has been revealed by molecular biology, we must magnify the cell a thousand million times. What we would see then would be an object of unparalleled complexity and adaptive design. On the surface of the cell we would see millions of openings, like the portholes of a vast space ship, opening and closing to allow a continual stream of materials to flow in and out. If we were to enter one of these openings we would find ourselves in a world of supreme technology and bewildering complexity. We would see endless highly organized corridors and conduits branching in every direction away from the perimeter of the cell, some leading to the central

memory bank in the nucleus and others to assembly plants and processing units. The nucleus itself would be a vast spherical chamber inside of which we would see, all neatly stacked together in ordered arrays, the miles of coiled DNA molecules. A huge array of products and raw materials would shuttle along all the manifold conduits in a highly ordered fashion to and from all the various assembly plants in the outer region of the cell.

“We would notice that the simplest of the functional components of the cell, the protein molecules, were astonishingly, complex pieces of molecular machinery, each one consisting of about three thousand atoms arranged in highly organized 3-D special conformation. We would wonder even more as we watched the strangely purposeful activities of these weird molecular machines, particularly when we realized that, despite all our accumulated knowledge of physics and chemistry, the task of designing one such molecular machine—that is one single functional protein molecule—would be completely beyond our capacity at present. Yet the life of the cell depends on the integrated activity of thousands, certainly tens, and probably hundreds of thousands of different protein molecules.

What we would be witnessing would be an object resembling an automated factory, carrying out almost as many unique functions as all the manufacturing activities of man on earth. However, it would be a factory which would have one capacity not equaled in any of our own most advanced machines, for it would be capable of replicating its entire structure within a matter of a few hours.” 1

How can a sensible person look at this staggering complexity and consider any other origin than intel-

ligent design? No such person would look at even something as simple as a mousetrap and not be sure that someone made it. How much more the amazing complexity of living things. I hope you will contemplate

such things the next time you get out enjoying the great outdoors.

A wealth of additional information is available on the web by various experts at both answersingenesis.org and ICR.org. Excellent books by non-Christian

scientists are *Evolution: Theory in Crisis* by Michael Denton and *Darwin's Black Box* by Michael Behe.

1 Dr. Michael Denton "Evolution: Theory in Crisis" (Adler & Adler, 1985) p. 328—329.

The Alaskan Sourdough Wife

BY BIRDIE PARRY

A wife of sourdough character, who can find?
 She is worth far more than panned gold.
 Her husband has full confidence in her,
 That she can gut a red salmon.
 She brings in firewood and provides warmth
 All the days of her life.
 She selects wool and Sorrels
 And shovels snow with eager hands.
 She is like the merchant ships,
 Bringing her food far from the wilderness.
 She gets up while it is still dark,
 Even though it's 11:30 a.m.
 She provides whole wheat bread for her family
 And portions the leftovers for the mushing dogs.
 She considers a fish and catches it.
 Our of her catch she cans and smokes a winter's supply.

 She sets about cutting up moose vigorously
 Her arms are strong for her tasks.
 She sees that her berry picking is profitable,
 And her lamp does not go out at night,
 Or during the day.
 In her hands she holds the dip net
 And grasps the net with her fingers.
 She opens her house to tourists
 And extends her fishing rod to be borrowed.

When it snows, she has no fear for her household,
 For all of them are clothed in red flannels.
 She makes quilts for her bed.
 She is clothed in longjohns and down feathers.
 Her husband is respected at the moose lodge,
 Where he takes his place among the stuffed animal heads.
 She makes hunting garments and sells them.
 She supplies the church potlucks with bear roasts.

 She is armed with strength and a 30-06.
 She can laugh at the bear that got away.
 She speaks with family in America and
 Her phone bills are awesome sights.
 She watches the Northern Lights
 And does not ever miss the sun rising.
 Her children arise and bring mud
 In on their boots, and her husband also.
 And he praises her for shoveling the driveway.
 Many women do crazy things, but you surpass them all.

 Charm is a fur hat and beauty is mukluks.
 But a woman who fears and respects the Last Frontier,
 Enjoys the reward she has earned.
 Let her always hold Alaska in her heart!

Submitted by subscriber Tonia Alexander of Wasilla, Alaska.

"The First Amendment...does not say that in every respect there shall be a separation of Church and State. ... Otherwise the state and religion would be aliens to each other — hostile, suspicious, and even unfriendly. ... The state may not establish a 'religion of secularism' in the sense of affirmatively opposing or showing hostility to religion, thus preferring those who believe in no religion over those who do believe." —Justice William Douglas

THE CHITINA LEADER

March 1913 April

RAILROAD IN GOOD SHAPE

Cordova, March 6

At seven o'clock this morning, preceded by a rotary and two engines, a train of nine cars started for Chitina over the Copper River & Northwestern Railway. A number of passengers for the mining country and for Fairbanks took passage. Great quantities of freight went out, including merchandise for Chitina and the interior, iron and timbers for the Gulkana Bridge, pipe and supplies for the Dan Creek Mining Company, and timbers for the new loading station at the Bonanza Mine.

The rotary that went out early Monday morning was held up last night at Mile 88 but got started again this morning and had reached Tielkel shortly after three o'clock this afternoon. It pushed ahead and will clear the snow from the track between there and Chitina, so as not to delay the passenger and freight train from getting through in good time. The latter passed through Abercrombie shortly after one o'clock this afternoon and expects to reach Tielkel before eight o'clock tonight, and to pull into Chitina tomorrow morning before noon.

Cordova, March 7

It was rather a significant fact that the blowing of whistles at Chitina and Cordova, at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon, recorded the arrival of trains, one from the

north and the other from Cordova. And it further indicates that railroad traffic has been permanently resumed. The train that left here yesterday morning went as far as Tielkel. There the passenger coaches and freight trains were taken by the freight train that left here early Monday morning. Preceded by a rotary and engines the train of twenty-three coaches reached Chitina early this afternoon and reported that the tracks were in good condition. From Tielkel a train returned to Cordova and will go out again Saturday morning at six o'clock, carrying passengers and freight. A train for Cordova will leave Chitina tomorrow.

Cordova, March 8

The train went out this morning and had no difficulty whatever in getting through, arriving at Chitina shortly after four o'clock this afternoon. About fifty passengers were aboard, many of them going into Fairbanks. As the stages were at Valdez, expecting to make a start from there today on the arrival of the steamer, they will not be able to get to Chitina until Monday evening and to start from there Tuesday morning. The stage company was notified yesterday of the change back to the railroad for the transportation of the mail. Twenty cars of freight were also sent to Chitina this morning. The next train will go out Monday morning at six o'clock. A train from Chitina is due to

arrive here tomorrow afternoon.

Cordova, March 8

This morning Postmaster Steel received instructions from the superintendent of the railway mail service to resume the dispatch of the interior Alaska mails via Cordova and the railroad to Chitina. The cable further stated that the postal clerk on the steamer Northwestern had been instructed by wireless to discharge at Cordova the interior mail now aboard that steamer, on the current voyage, so that it may be sent in over the railroad. Several weeks ago after the tie-up on the railroad, and at the request of local officials the mail was taken to Valdez and from there sent in over the trail to Willow Creek, where it connected with the regular stage lines to Fairbanks. As trains are again running regularly on the Copper River & Northwestern Railway, and are likely to so continue throughout the winter, much time can be saved in the transportation of the mails via Cordova. The steamer Northwestern will arrive this evening with a large number of passengers and mail for the interior. Both will go out on a train to leave in the morning, which will reach Chitina tomorrow night.

Cordova, March 10

Much anxiety was recently felt for the safety of a party of four men who were prospecting in the Bremner

country. They are Harry Happel, Lewy Dahl, John Van Idestine and Frank Gobel. It was feared that they were without supplies and possibly that they had perished during the winter storms. A purse had been raised in Cordova to send a couple of men into the Bremner country to look for the prospectors but the tie-up on the railroad prevented them from getting started. However, it turns out that the fears were unfounded, for on the train yesterday Harry Happel returned to town. He says the party are all safe and in good health. They have found some good placer ground and some splendid gold quartz indications. Happel is here to get supplies, which he will take in the fore part of the week. He leaves the train at Mile 78 and then mushes for about twenty miles. He has great hopes that with more prospecting the Bremner country will develop into a profitable mining section. He is grateful for the interest that the people of Cordova have taken in the welfare of himself and companions.

HAPPENINGS IN NEIGHBORHOOD

Cordova, March 6

After pleasantly spending a few months in California and a few weeks in Cordova, J. V. Dwyer took the train this morning for Strelna, where he has many interests.

Chas. Range left on the morning train for Dan Creek to get things in readiness to sled 225 tons of pipe and general supplies from Blackburn over to the Birch placer camp.

"Dutch" Blanchford, with his horses and eighty cases of eggs, is joyfully on his way to Chitina, from which point he will team to Fairbanks.

Fred Barrett, of Katalla, son of the late F. M. Barrett, died recently at Spokane of tuberculosis.

John Palmer, who recently returned after spending the winter in Seattle and California, has taken over the Log Cabin Hotel and Bar at Chitina. He owns the property but it has been under lease to Dee Davis. Mr. Palmer was formerly one of the proprietors of the Hotel Chitina.

March 11

ACTIVITY IN COPPER MINING

The Kennecott Mines Company is now busily engaged in erecting the building at the mouth of the mine, that was burned a couple of months ago, also in repairing the tramway. It is expected that by summer they will be working from six to eight hundred men and will ship ore in much greater quantities than ever before.

Arrangements are now being made to ship ore next winter from the property of the Mother Lode Mines Company. It is located a half mile or more northeast of the Bonanza Mine and across the ridge separating Bonanza Creek from one of the small tributaries of McCarthy Creek.

The Company has arranged certain litigation

that has held up improvements during the past year and work will now be pushed to erect a tramway and several necessary buildings. This it is reported will be done under the direction of George E. Baldwin.

On the last steamer machinery arrived at Cordova and on the freighter Cordova that sailed from Seattle last Saturday. The Arctic Lumber Company shipped 65,000 feet of heavy timber, which will be used in putting up loading bin at the upper terminal and receiving bin at the discharge terminal.

The ore will be delivered by gravity to the ore bins, ready for railroad transportation when the branch line is built. In the meantime a wagon road has been built about ten miles, to connect with the railroad at Mile 191, and ore will be taken out that way for the present. The tram to be built will be of the most modern, including an automatic loader. The towers are now here, although the buckets and wire will be shipped later, as they will not be needed for some time.

It is reported that the Mother Lode has a large quantity of high copper ore. The property was examined by Herman Kellar and it is said that the improvements now under way are being made at his suggestion.

BLACKBURN, March 8 -

At the present there is lots of building activity in the new town of Blackburn, formerly McCarthy.

Al Jackson is busy putting up a neat log structure. Just along side this there has been completed, all save the roof, a log building for A. V. Doze the recently appointed U. S. Commissioner.

Next to that is the office of the deputy U. S. Marshal, with the jail in the rear.

"Ciek" Nelson has placed the foundation for a neat log building.

Bob Isaacson is building an addition to his place.

Gus Carlson is building next to Nelson

R. Paluson will build on the next lot.

Mr. Henry has almost finished a neat, two-story log building for his restaurant.

Theodore Wolfe, the watchmaker is having built a 30x40 two-story log building. It will cost at least \$2,500 and be a credit to the place.

Peter Johnson is building another large addition to his saloon.

Several other smaller buildings are in course of construction. Building logs are scattered all above the townsite and it has a busy appearance.

Harry Fagerberg is planning a large storage warehouse for the use of Breedman and Church, and other buildings are talked of.

Tom McKinney will soon occupy the building which he had erected a short time ago for a restaurant and bakery.

March 18

The *Fairbanks Times* says that the fastest time ever made over the winter trail between Chitina and Fairbanks was accomplished by the stage that reached Fairbanks on the evening of March 28. Records of previous runs were broken, and the new one, 2 days, 23 hours, was hung up. The last stretch of 128 miles from Rapids was made without a stop, changes of horses be-

ing made at each station. The distance between Fairbanks and Chitina is 311 miles, so the average distance covered each day was 78 miles.

April 22

Blackburn, April 23 -

The trails are fast breaking up in this part of the country, and it is a race between some of the operators and the tail end of their freight and the sun.

However the greater bulk of the freight landed at McCarthy Station this season for the Nizina, Dan and McCarthy Creek operators, has been hauled to its destination. George Max Esterly, with his usual luck has all his freight safely across the Nizina River, although he was one of the last to arrive. He plays the time limit on the season each spring, but always manages to get his freight in, although most of the weather prophets shake their heads and call it luck.

Building continues in the embryo town of Blackburn. Gus Carlson is putting up a large log building, and it is claimed Harry Thisted of Cordova will soon occupy it with a store and pool and reading room. Tim Cronin has rented the Funk building and is applying for a liquor license.

Business is somewhat quiet in Blackburn just now as most of the operators have their freight moved and a number of people from here are attending court in Cordova.

April 29

Sumatra earthquake shakes up Alaska volcano

Energy from the giant Sumatra earthquake traveled 7,000 miles to shake up an Alaska volcano.

Mount Wrangell experienced “a small flurry of events” about one hour after the magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck off the coast of Sumatra on Dec. 26, 2004, according to John Sanchez of the Alaska Volcano Observatory. Sanchez checked out a number of Alaska volcanoes for increased activity following the giant earthquake and he found that Mt. Wrangell, a 14,163-foot volcano about 50 miles east of Copper Center, shook with at least 12 tiny earthquakes as the energy waves from across the globe passed through the mountain during a 10 minute-period.

“It’s very unlikely that this group of events, spaced regularly in time, happened just by chance,” Sanchez said. “We think the earthquake gave the volcano a little nudge that allowed these events to happen.”

Large earthquakes often trigger volcanic activity—the 7.9 Denali Fault earthquake in 2002 triggered similar unrest in volcanic features at Yellowstone and northern Mexico—but the Sumatra-Mt. Wrangell connection covers more than one quarter of the globe.

“If in fact seismicity at Wrangell was triggered by the Sumatra quake, this would be the long-distance record at about 11,000 kilometers (about 7,000 miles),” Sanchez said.

Wrangell has a quirky history of earthquakes stirring it up or shutting it down. Geophysical Institute professor emeritus Carl Benson noted how Wrangell’s north crater heated up after the 1964 Alaska earthquake, and Sanchez and his colleagues, including Steve McNutt of the Alaska Volcano Observatory, noticed that the number of Wrangell’s internal earthquakes decreased for five months after the Denali Fault earthquake. Wrangell’s apparent sensitivity to earthquakes could be due to weak points within the mountain or fluid-filled cavities that react to shaking in different ways, the researchers said.

Scientists at the volcano observatory checked seismicity at other Alaska volcanoes, including those that make up the Aleutian Islands and those at Katmai National Park, but found Wrangell was the only Alaska volcano that seemed to react to the Sumatra earthquake—the world’s largest since Alaska’s Good Friday Earthquake in 1964, which had a magnitude of 9.2.

The energy that triggered the activity at Wrangell traveled from Sumatra as “surface waves,” Sanchez said. All 12 earthquakes occurred in sync with the waves from Sumatra, which were about 30 seconds apart. When the immense India plate slipped beneath the Burma plate, waves of energy traveled from Sumatra to Alaska mostly through the Earth’s crust. The surface waves traveled along the ground through China, Russia, and across the Bering Strait to Alaska, reaching Mount Wrangell about one hour after the

earthquake struck off the coast of Sumatra. Though the Earth rang like a bell for days after the giant earthquake, only people closer to the epicenter felt the surface waves, Sanchez said. Glennallen and other areas around Mount Wrangell rose about two centimeters (almost an inch) when the earthquake’s surface waves passed.

Four seismometers cemented into Mount Wrangell’s summit recorded the arrival of the surface waves and the small internal earthquakes that followed. Through radio and satellite hookups the information instantly arrived at Sanchez’s workplace, the Alaska Volcano Observatory at the Geophysical Institute in Fairbanks. The AVO office in Anchorage also received the same information. McNutt, on Christmas break in the Lower 48, called Sanchez and told him to check on Wrangell’s possible response to the earthquake. Sanchez has included details of how the Sumatra earthquake affected Mount Wrangell in an appendix to his recently finished Ph.D. thesis, and his colleagues Mike West and McNutt plan to share the latest of Mount Wrangell’s reactions to large earthquakes at an April meeting of other professional volcano watchers.

This column is provided as a public service by the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, in cooperation with the UAF research community. Ned Rozell is a science writer at the institute. He can be reached by e-mail at nrozell@gi.alaska.edu

“Society in every state is a blessing, but government even in its best state is but a necessary evil; in its worst state an intolerable one; for when we suffer, or are exposed to the same miseries by a government, which we might expect in a country without government, our calamities is heightened by reflecting that we furnish the means by which we suffer.” —Thomas Paine in *Common Sense*

EcoLodge near McCarthy seeks funding

BY RICK KENYON

The McCarthy area may soon have another tourist facility. Called the Wrangell-St. Elias Park EcoLodge, or Boreal Wilderness Lodge, the facility is billed as a new "adventure tourism development."

"Their goals include informing and educating guests about the benefits of energy efficiency and conservation, alternative energy, straw-bale construction and recycled materials," according to Arkin-Tilt Architects. Arkin-Tilt is a Berkeley, California ecological planning and design outfit, ("With an electric car and 100% solar electricity, waste reduction begins in our own office,") who displays the EcoLodge on the web as one of their design accomplishments.

A letter seeking foreign venture capital dubs the project as a "20 guest facility on a series of bluffs overlooking the wild Nizina River (8.5 mile/13.6 km) southeast of McCarthy." The individual guest units are not yet installed. "Both geodesic tent structures on elevated platforms or A-frame structures could be constructed at a reasonable cost to best fit the strategic plan," reads the letter, signed by L. Frederick Dure, CTC, "Developer and River Guide."

WSEN readers may remember Dure from several years ago when the National Park Service confiscated his bicycles, which they said had been illegally cached in the park. More recently, Dure has been involved in the access controversy at McCarthy Creek. He and Bob Cook

were the principles who lobbied Senator Ted Stevens for a \$250,000 grant to replace the vehicle bridge, which washed out a number of years ago, with a cable tram. His fund-raising letter touts a "unique restricted road access," and a view lot in McCarthy which "greatly aids logistics while changing transportation modes." Local residents are trying to get the bridge replaced.

"Countless adventures beckon," says Dure. "Multi-sport activities such as hiking, rafting, mountain biking, fishing and kayaking abound."

Dure was scheduled to be in Europe in February to meet with potential partners. WSEN extends our wishes for a successful enterprise.

National Park Service Honors Local Employees and Partners

NPS PRESS RELEASE

Several individuals from the Copper Basin were recently honored by the Alaska Region of the National Park Service. Park Superintendents from throughout Alaska, as well as other employees and invited guests, participated in the Excellence Awards Luncheon on February 3 in Anchorage. The purpose of the Excellence Awards is to recognize the people and programs that best exemplify the traits of leadership, stewardship, and innovation in the fields of natural and cultural resources, conservation, and education. National Park Service partners, employees, and combinations of the two were considered for these prestigious awards, which Regional Director Marcia Blaszk personally presented.

The Conservation Leadership Excellence Award was presented to Wilson Justin for his contributions to the Federal Subsistence Program and his leadership through the Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium in supporting and facilitating the government-to-government relationship between Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and the Cheesh'na Tribal Council.

Glenn Hart, Outreach Education Specialist for Wrangell-St. Elias, received a Summit Award for personal commitment and professional leadership in the areas of community outreach and education as well as for his state-wide support for the National Park Service Volunteers-in-the-Parks program. The dedication Glenn brings to these programs and his "never say no"

attitude have been an asset to the Alaska Region on several fronts.

Wrangell-St. Elias Assistant Superintendent and Chief Ranger, Hunter Sharp, received an award for his excellent work as Acting Superintendent during the six months between the departure of the previous Superintendent, Gary Candelaria, and the arrival of the new Superintendent, Jed Davis. Hunter provided strong leadership throughout a challenging field season.

Each of these individuals continues their excellent work, contributing to the growing statewide acknowledgement that the Copper Basin is home to many capable people who are facilitating a greater appreciation of our high values and caring lifestyle.

"The high-minded man must care more for the truth than for what people think."—Aristotle

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.



<http://www.ellisair.com>

Gulkana/McCarthy	\$90
McCarthy/Gulkana	\$90
Gulkana/May Creek	\$95
May Creek/Gulkana	\$95
Anchorage/Gulkana	\$175
Gulkana/Anchorage	\$175

Space available only
Baggage allowance 40 lbs.
(charge for excess baggage)
tax included

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEPARTURES, ARRIVALS, CONNECTIONS.

Ellis Air will not be responsible for damages resulting from the failure of flights to depart or arrive at times stated in this timetable, nor for errors herein, nor for failure to make connections to other airlines or of this company. Schedules are subject to change without notice. Schedules shown are based on expected flying times. Because weather and other factors may affect operating conditions, departures and arrivals cannot be guaranteed.

Ellis Air Taxi, Inc.

Phone 822-3368

800-478-3368

Gulkana Airfield Box 106, Glennallen, AK 99588

Copper River Cash Store

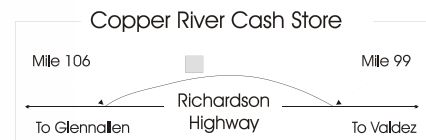
We handle BUSH ORDE
With SPECIAL CARE!
PO Box E
Copper Center, AK 995

We take VISA
Master Charge
Quest Card
FAX 822-3443



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

Stop by and Check
For the Weekly
IN-STORE SPECIALS



Downtown Copper Center 822-3266
Store Hours 10 am to 6 pm, Monday - Saturday



Valdez Realty

"The Dirt Merchant"

WALTER M. WOOD
BROKER
(907)835-2408
Fax (907)835-5462

Cor. EGAN & HAZLET
P.O. BOX 868
VALDEZ, AK 99686
vldzrlty@alaska.net

Recreational lots at Chokosna River Tracts—approx.
Mi. 27 McCarthy Hwy. 1 ¼ acre and up—some / hwy
frontage, some / Chokosna River frontage.

www.PropertyRightsResearch.org

Julie Smithson, Researcher
213 Thorn Locust Lane
London, Ohio 43140-8844
propertyrights@earthlink.net
749-857-1239 (voice/no fax)



*Spoil Yourself
or Someone
You Love!*

NATURAL SOY CANDLES

• BUG POTION #9®

HANDMADE SOAPS

SUGAR & SALT SCRUBZ® DREAM WHIPZ®

• MOOSE LIPS® Lip Balms •

• NATURAL HEALING & PAIN RELIEF •

...AND MUCH MORE

SELECT ITEMS AT MA JOHNSON'S HOTEL

COMPLETE ONLINE STORE AT
[WWW.AKNATURALS.COM](http://www.aknaturals.com)



PO Box 670889 Chugiak, AK 99567
907-688-0240 fax 907-688-0241
RETAIL / WHOLESALE / CUSTOM ORDERS



HOMESTEAD SUPPLY

*Lumber, building materials and hardware delivered
to the McCarthy area at Anchorage prices!*

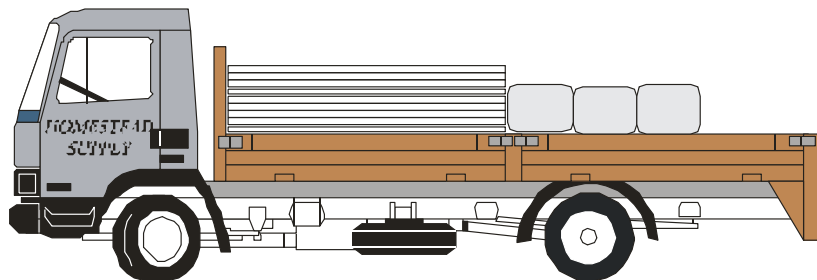
Give us a call or come in and browse our new ACE
Hardware store.

NEW! Greenhouse and potting supplies!

1-800-478-3987

or

FAX 822-5209



Mile 115.5 Richardson Highway (Box 49) Glennallen

shop MARY KAY[®]
Online

Need a new lipstick? Want quick gift ideas?

You'll find it all at my Web site. It's fast. Easy.

And you can shop online any time that's convenient for you. 24 hours a day. 7 days a week.

Tammy Rowland
Independent Beauty Consultant
www.marykay.com/trowland1
(907)581-5881

**Wrangell B
St. Elias &
News B**

◆ **Now taking reservations for 2005.**

Phone **(907)554-4454** or Email **WSEN@starband.net**

See us on the WEB at
Wsen.net/WSENBB.htm

Your hosts, long-time residents Rick & Bonnie Kenyon.

♥ *McCarthy* ♥
Bed & Breakfast

Cozy, quiet cabins, all with private bathrooms & showers. Pull into our conveniently located homestead on the McCarthy Road, 1/2 mile from the Kennicott River footbridge.

- Continental breakfast & fresh coffee
- Private baths
- Gazebo kitchen
- Picnic area
- Tire repair

Jwadam@mycidco.com
PO Box MXY Glennallen, AK 99588-8998
(907) 554-4433

**McCarthy
Building
Services**

Owners *John & Carmen*

907-554-4433

Local bonded and insured business specializing in frame cabin building.

Contact us for your building needs.

McCarthy Kennicott Community Church

An inter-denominational church
All faiths welcome

"The church on the island"

Sunday morning service
11 a.m.

Jesus is Lord!

Sportsmen's Paradise Lodge

Mile 28.5 Nabesna Rd. HC 63, Box 1320,
Slana, AK 99586 Phone 907-822-7313
E-mail: dfrederick@starband.net

**Comfortable Cabins and boats
for rent at lodge and
at Copper Lake.**

"Great Alaskan Hospitality"

Hosts: Doug & Judy Frederick

Wells
by

Sourdough **Drilling**

Contact Kirk Shively at:
Phone 373-5917 Cell 354-6917
6771 W. Sourdough Dr.
Wasilla, AK 99654



*We at Copper
Valley Wireless
welcome visitors to
this great area!*

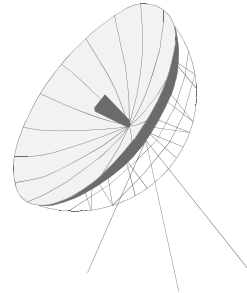
Call us at 1-800-235-5414 for
more information on how
affordable the convenience and
security of cellular phone service
can be.

The New **Caribou Hotel**

Getting tired?

Stop at the Caribou Hotel!

The coffee pot's always on!



**Warm atmosphere — Hot Tubs — Satellite TV
Full Menu Restaurant**

Mile 187 Glenn Hwy. 822-3302 Glennallen, AK



Service Oil & Gas

RESIDENTIAL ● COMMERCIAL

- Heating oil
- Gasoline and Diesel Fuel
- AvGas and Jet Fuel
- Chevron Lube Oils and Greases
- Fuel Tanks and Accessories

Service sometimes means going more than the extra mile.
"We appreciate all our BUSH CUSTOMERS"

**For the First Name In Service, Call
SERVICE OIL & GAS**



Chevron

PHONE: 822-3375
Mile 188.5 Glenn Highway
Box 276
Glennallen, AK 99588

Notice of Availability

The Environmental Assessment for the Twin Lakes Campground Improvements project at mile 27.8 on Nabesna Road in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is available for public review. This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared according to requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and agency procedures. The public review period is February 21, 2005 through March 22, 2005.

The NPS preferred alternative would restore several existing campsites to accommodate tent camping and small recreational vehicles.

Each campsite would include a tent pad, fire grate, signage, and parking. The campground road would be realigned. Facility development would include an additional vault toilet, water well, bear-resistant food storage, open-air pavilion, canoe launch, viewing deck, boardwalk, and day-use area with parking. When complete, there would be 12 to 14 improved campsites available for public use.

If you would like to comment on the EA, the document may be obtained by contacting the Park at (907) 822-5234, Post Office Box 439, Copper Center, Alaska 99573.

Copies will also be available at the Slana Ranger Station, beginning February 22. Comments on the EA may be sent by mail to the Park at the above address during the public comment period.

You may also review and comment on the EA using the internet. Go to the website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> to retrieve the EA and provide your comments online.

Contact Steve Hunt, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 907-822-7242 with questions.

CLASSIFIED

WANTED: Five to sixty acres in McCarthy area. \$10,000 to \$50,000 range. Contact Ron at (303)940-6539

Copper Center Lodge

Family owned and operated



Open 7 days/wk Year Round

822-3245

Winter Hours

7:00 AM — 8:30 PM

On the "Loop Road"

In Copper Center

Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

www.coppercenterlodge.com

"A man should never be ashamed to own that he has been in the wrong, which is but saying... that he is wiser today than he was yesterday."—Alexander Pope

ROWCON SERVICES

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
McCarthy, Alaska 554-4498

Keith Rowland, Owner
Lifetime Alaskan

Excavation & Gravel Products
DEC-approved septic

♪ Over the river and
through the woods, ♪
a-freighting we will go.

Lowboy & Heavy Freight Service



Your gateway to adventure...

McCarthy Lodge • Ma Johnson's Hotel

Explore the possibilities at www.mccarthylodge.com

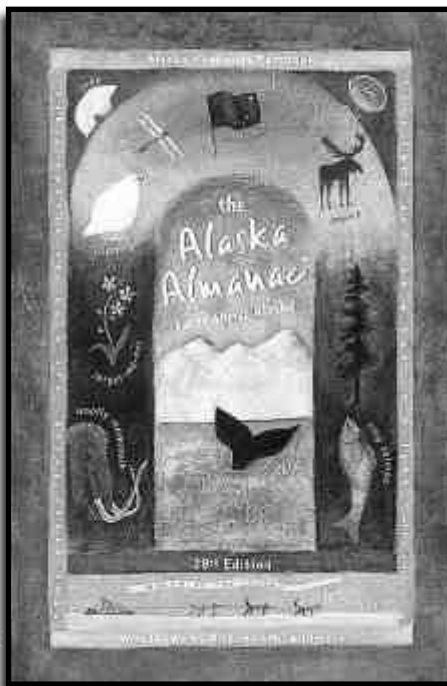
1-907-554-4402

Book review – The Alaska Almanac

BY BONNIE KENYON

Alaska Northwest Books, an imprint of Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company, announces their annual updated version of Alaska's favorite factbook, *the Alaska Almanac*. This affordable, best-selling guide is filled with the most accurate, timely facts on geography, history, economy, employment, recreation, climate and peoples of this expansive state.

This year's almanac is the 28th edition, contains 240 pages, 50 B&W photos and 12 maps all meant to satisfy the most burning questions and curiosities of Alaska. Mr. Whitekeys, described as Alaska's funniest man, continues to amuse and delight readers with his witty and wacky humor as he informs on the lighter side of living in



the north. For instance, he writes, did you know that Wasilla, Alaska,

was declared "The Duct Tape Capital" of the U.S.A.? Their Wal-Mart sold more Duct Tape than any other Wal-Mart in the world! The store sold over 314 feet of Duct Tape for each resident of Wasilla.

Whether you are looking for a guide to solve those hotly debated disputes, or you need a reference for journalism and writing, or directing visitors to annual events, *the Alaska Almanac*, is designed to come to your aid. Even the most "know-it-all" Alaskan readers can find facts about the Great Land they call home.

By the way, according to the Almanac's figures, McCarthy's population has swelled to a whopping 53!

The Alaska Almanac comes in softcover and sells for \$12.95.

A Visitor's Guide to Kennicott & McCarthy 2005

**AFFORDABLE ADVERTISING IN THE AREA'S
PREMIER VISITOR GUIDE.
COVERS THE ENTIRE COPPER RIVER VALLEY.**

**Contact Kenyon Services
(907)554-4454 wsen@wsen.net**

Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Hi everyone! You are reading this in the bloom of spring, but I'm writing it in the "bloom" of winter. It's after all the holidays, well before we leave for McCarthy and deep into the time of year when Jim still wants to eat! I'm a little tired of cooking or, at the very least, can't think of a single thing to cook. It's times like these when I reach out to family and friends for recipes. For the next couple of issues, I'd like to share some of those with you.

A special part of my life was spent in Virginia where four of my dearest friends still live. Each time I visit, I gather a few more recipes to try during the "blah" times. Let me share a few with you.

A Crustless Ham Quiche from Becky Morris

- ½ lb. fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup small curd cottage cheese
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 6 to 8 drops of hot sauce
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- ½ cup chopped, cooked ham

Saute mushroom in butter in a medium skillet until lightly browned; drain well, and set aside.

Combine next 7 ingredients in container of electric blender; process until well blended.

Combine egg mixture, mushrooms, cheese, and ham. Pour into a greased 10-inch quiche dish. Bake 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until set. Quiche should be puffed and golden brown. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Ham and Asparagus Casserole from Joan Ruck

- 10 oz. fresh asparagus - partly cooked
- 2 cups diced ham
- ¼ cup shredded cheddar
- 2 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
- 2 tablespoons green pepper
- 2 tablespoons onion
- 1 tablespoon minced parsley
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 sliced hard-cooked eggs
- ½ cup milk
- 1 can mushroom soup
- 2 tablespoons melted butter and ½ cup dried bread crumbs

Layer - asparagus on bottom, next the ham through lemon juice, next the eggs, sauce (milk and soup) and next the buttered crumbs.

Bake at 375 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes. Works well in a 1 ½ qt. casserole.

Chicken Casserole from Trish Modisett

- 6 double boneless chicken breasts
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- ½ cup white wine

- 2 cloves garlic
- 4 tablespoons minced parsley
- 4 tablespoons slivered almonds
- 8 oz. of sour cream or yogurt mushrooms

Put half of the chicken breasts in the bottom of a lightly buttered casserole. For the sauce, mix together the mushroom soup, the cream of chicken soup, wine, garlic and sour cream (or yogurt.)

Cover the breasts with half of the sauce, half of whatever amount of mushrooms you want to use and half of the parsley and almonds.

Repeat the layers ending with the parsley and almonds and bake (I cover it) for 1 hour to 1½ hours at 350 degrees or until the chicken is done.

Apple Pie Cake from Pat Buenneymeyer

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 ½ sticks of margarine
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 4 cups chopped raw apples

Beat sugar, margarine and eggs until creamy. Then add dry ingredients. Mix well. Add nuts and apples and mix. Bake in sheet cake pan for 40-45 minutes in 350 degree oven.

Try these and enjoy. I've cooked very little beef over the last 5 or so years and Jim is desperately lacking. Any recipes to share? Just send them to Bonnie at WSEN and she will see that I get them. Happy eating!

"Ronald Reagan will go down in history as one of the greatest Presidents that America has ever had. Historians will undoubtedly focus on his enormous political impact, both domestically and internationally. But his emphasis on moral and spiritual values was one of his greatest contributions. Mr. Reagan made Americans feel good about themselves, no matter what the problems were. More than that, he pointed them to the moral and spiritual foundations which have made this nation great — foundations derived from the Biblical Judeo-Christian heritage."

—Rev. Billy Graham

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

December 2004 had about average temperatures and above average precipitation.

The average December temperature was 7.4 (-6.5 in Dec. '03 and -2.8 in Dec. '02). The high was 41 on December 23 (35 on Dec. 22, '03 and 32 on Dec. 23, '02) and the low was -31 on December 30 (-37 on Dec. 28, '03 and -22 on Dec 21, '02). Fifteen days had low temperatures of zero or above and five days saw the low temperature dip below a minus twenty. Eight days had high temperatures of thirty or above and six days zero or below. *Silver Lake had an average temperature of 6.7 (-1.4 in Dec. '03 and 5.6 in Dec. '02). The high temperature was 41 on December 2 (34 on Dec. 29, '03 and 42 on Dec. 1, '02) and the low was -28 on December 31 (-38 on Dec. 27, '03 and -21 on Dec. 20, '02). Silver Lake had seven days with a high of thirty or above and nine days with a low of minus twenty or colder.*

December precipitation was 2.23 inches of liquid precipitation

(2.32 in Dec. '03 and 0.48 in Dec. '02). Total snow fall was 21.4 inches (27.5 in Dec. '03 and 7.6 in Dec. '02). The snow depth was 10 inches at the beginning of the month, increasing to 20 inches on December 27, and ended the month at 19 inches. *By comparison Silver Lake had 2.09 inches of liquid precipitation (1.70 in Dec. '03 and 1.17 in Dec. '02). Total snowfall was 16.7 inches (18.0 in Dec. '03 and 19.0 in Dec. '02). The snow depth was 0 at the beginning of the month, increasing to 8 inches at the end of the month.*

The average January temperature at McCarthy was -1.2 (-15.6 in Jan. '04 and 3.7 in Jan. '03). The high was 44 on January 4 (23 on Jan. 23, '04 and 32 on Jan. 6, '03) and the low temperature was -42 on January 13 (-48 on Jan. 29, '04 and -28 on Jan. 23, '03). Three days had high temperatures of thirty or above and five days saw the low temperature reach minus thirty or lower. *Silver Lake had an average temperature of -1.9 (-18.8 in Jan. '04 and 0.3 in Jan. '03). The high was 42 on*

January 4 (24 on Jan. 23, '04 and 30 on Jan. 5, '03) and the low was -39 on January 13 (-48 on Jan. 27, '04 and -27 on Jan. 27, '03). Silver Lake had two days with a high of thirty or above and six days with a low of minus thirty or lower.

January precipitation was about average with nine days of measurable amounts. The total liquid precipitation was 1.03 inches (1.05 in Jan. '04 and 1.67 inches in Jan. '03). Snowfall was 12.1 inches (15.5 in Jan. '04 and 12.4 in Jan. '03). Snow cover was 19 inches on January 1, and increased to 23 inches on January 31. *Silver Lake had 0.75 inches of liquid (0.45 in Jan. '04 and 1.64 in Jan. '03) and 8.0 inches of snow (5.0 in Jan. '04 and 19.0 in Jan. '03). Silver Lake started 2004 with 8 inches of snow on the ground and ended the month with 8 inches.*

After eleven weeks on the road including two Alaska Ferry trips, Sophie (my dear dog) and I are back in McCarthy.

A Visitor's Guide

to

Kennicott & McCarthy

2005

AFFORDABLE ADVERTISING IN THE AREA'S PREMIER VISITOR GUIDE.

COVERS THE ENTIRE COPPER RIVER VALLEY.

Contact Kenyon Services

(907)554-4454 wsen@wsen.net

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

“The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) enshrines Alaska’s preservation of the cultural elements of remote living. The Park Service did not welcome private property in parks when Wrangell-St. Elias was formed. Congress created ANILCA to protect against the old Park Service management objective of eliminating all private land. Alaska, with its huge distances and lack of paved roads, has a flourishing remote culture, dependent on motorized vehicle trails like any other community on Earth. Locals aren’t asking for new land or roads, just continued use of private land, roads and trails pre-dating the park, thus safeguarding a uniquely Alaska lifestyle. For 100 years residents have “broken trail,” and “subsistence” has required driving funky vehicles somewhere unpopulated. Today these same trails and access seem lined with unbreakable red-tape.”

That OpEd, published May 8, 2004, in the *Anchorage Daily News* and written by Neil Darish was entitled, *Let Park Residents Thrive*. It closed with this remark: What is needed is a clear statement from our Park Service Alaska regional director that her philosophy allows the residents in this park to thrive.

The recently released draft version of the *Alaska National Park Access Guide* would have been a good vehicle by which the good Director could have made that statement. Instead, the *Guide* only adds several more layers of red tape to the inholder access system.

According to the National Park Service (NPS) press release, the draft guide “describes how landowners and valid occupants can obtain access rights under... ANILCA.” That may sound like good news until you realize that landowners and valid occupants thought they already had access rights under ANILCA.

“Nothing in this title shall be construed to adversely affect any valid existing right of access,” reads ANILCA. If you *have* rights, and have not somehow *lost* them, why do you have to *obtain* them?

Residents had been optimistic that the new *Access Guide* would reduce red tape rather than increase it. Regional Director Blaszak had made several trips to the park to meet with residents, and both

she and Assistant Director Vic Knox said they had some ideas to make life easier for inholders with access issues.

Unfortunately the new procedures will do a number of things, but making life easier for inholders is not one of them. Under the new proposal, inholders will be required to start a protracted bureaucratic process to obtain rights that they had been promised were already secure. These are the same methods that the NPS honed and perfected while ridding the parks of the small mining families.

ANILCA also says that the access will be what is “adequate and feasible.” Under the new proposal, the determination of what is adequate and feasible will be made by the park service, not the landowner.

“For example,” says the Guide, “if an inholding is on the shore of a large lake, and access is available by float or ski-equipped plane, then even though the request is for construction of a new road, it could be determined that air access is adequate and feasible, and road access is not needed.” Determined by the park service, not the landowner!

What about those valid existing rights of access that ANILCA promises? The General Management Plan for Wrangell-St. Elias (WRST) says this: “The park/preserve was established subject to valid existing rights, including rights-of-way established under RS 2477. The validity

of these rights-of-way will be determined on a case-by-case basis.”

That was 1986 and this is 2005. To date, not one single route established under RS2477 has been “validated” by the NPS.

Instead, after mentioning that over 100 rights-of-way have been declared by the State of Alaska as meeting all of the criteria necessary under federal statutes, the *Guide* contemptuously snorts, “Most of these routes have little if any contemporary use.” While landowners and residents may think that going home after work or grocery shopping is a “contemporary use,” apparently the park service does not.

“Until such time as a potential RS 2477 may be administratively recognized as valid by the Secretary, or is affirmed by a federal court decision, the NPS will manage the subject lands as unencumbered federal parklands,” says the Guide. In other words, we don’t like these rights-of-way in our parks, so we choose not to recognize them as being valid. If you don’t like it, “sue us.” One has to wonder how a federal agency gets away with deciding what federal and state laws it will recognize. They do because there is little oversight by Congress.

Some inholders use rights-of-way that were granted along section lines. These are also dismissed as being state rights-of-way that the NPS has chosen to not recognize as valid.

If the new procedures are followed, inholders will be forced to apply for permits which may well restrict the number of trips that can be made, the number and types of vehicles that can be used, what time of day or night the trips may be made, whether and under what restrictions may friends visit you and may even require you to be escorted by a park ranger. For this "right," the inholder will be charged an application fee and a monitoring fee as the minimum. Other fees are optional. Oh, and if your route crosses any "wetlands," you will be required to forfeit an equal amount of your property to the park.

What do Alaskans think of the draft handbook?

"This is clearly not what Congress intended," says Susan Smith, Chairperson of Residents of the Wrangells. "What right does NPS have to limit the number of trips I can make in and out of my home? A permit can be revoked if one makes too many trips, a visitor does something wrong, or maintenance is

done in a way that NPS finds distasteful. And we pay them to "monitor" us after the permits are awarded? This is again outrageous."

"This is an absolutely dastardly and outrageous document," said Ray Kreig, Vice Chairman of the Alaska Land Rights Coalition. "It fits right in with everything the NPS has done in the past to substitute its craving for *extreme* and *fanatical* regulation over what the statute says it should be: 'reasonable'"

Kreig goes on to quote Father J. Michael Hornick, J.C.L. who wrote, "Unfortunately, the experience of ANILCA has demonstrated that 'reasonable regulation' often means bureaucratic hoops which never end. It's how to say 'yes' when you really mean 'no.' ANILCA promised to preserve access rights for inholders. While Federal agencies sanctimoniously acknowledge individual and State's rights of access in their management plans, in reality they obstruct any practical use of such access rights."

Landowners living in this area before it became a park feared the NPS would do what managers in Outside parks did – make life untenable through extreme regulations. They were comforted by language in ANILCA that seemed to protect them. Habit is hard to break, and Park Managers have been gradually eroding the protections of ANILCA. What is needed is not a change in regulations, but rather a change of heart.

Frederick Douglas, the nation's leading 19th century African American spokesman who, ironically, merited a National Historic Site in his name run by the Park Service, once wrote: "Find out just what people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue until they are resisted with either words or blows, or both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress."

BUSINESS NEEDED A BOOST?

WE CAN HELP!

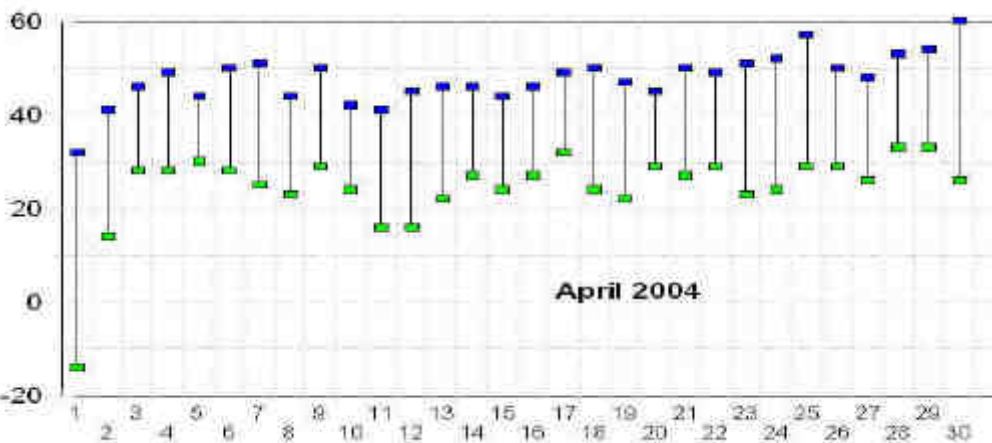
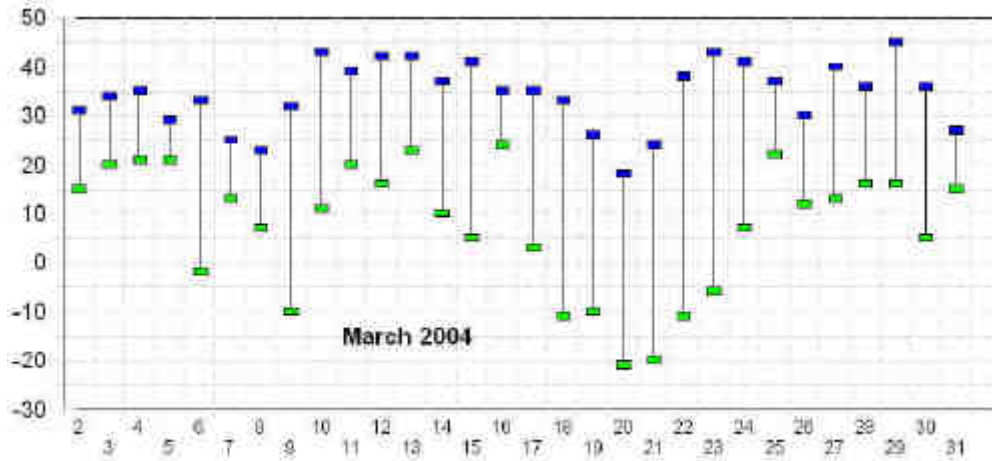
Would you like 150 people each day to hear about your business? People who have an interest in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park area? That's how many people log onto wsen.net each day.

We can link these people to your website for a surprisingly modest cost.

If you don't have a website, we can design and host one for you at prices starting at just \$10 per month.

Contact us at wsen@wsen.net for details. (Or phone us at (907)554-4454.)

Wrangell St. Elias News
McCarthy #42
PO Box MXX
Glennallen, AK 99588



Wrangell B St. Elias & News B



Your hosts, long-time residents Rick & Bonnie Kenyon.

- ◆ **Private** cabins for 2 to 4.
- ◆ **Convenient** access by automobile.
- ◆ **Historic** homestead setting. Enjoy Alaskan bush living.
- ◆ **Quiet** location away from the crowds!

Phone (907)554-4454 or Email WSEN@starband.net

See us on the WEB at <http://mccarthy-kennicott.com/WSENBB.htm>