

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Nineteen Issue Two

March & April 2010

\$2.50

A winter "Mail Day"—McCarthy style

BY BONNIE KENYON

Mail days in McCarthy look much different than mail day delivery in the "big city."

First, it is not 5 or 6 days a week but twice a week; that is, unless the weather keeps our mail pilot on the ground in Glennallen, about 125 miles west of our community.

our mail pilot tries again the next day.

Copper Valley Air Service has a variety of airplanes and pilots. Dave Parmenter, owner, is often our "mail pilot." Dave is pictured here as he prepares to unload his Cessna 185 with all our mail day goodies. Wheel skies are still a "must" dur-



WSEN staff photo

Dave—our mail pilot.

ing the latter part of February.

Winter mail days are usually sparsely attended by local residents. The McCarthy/Kennecott area population is only about 50-60 year round folks and work is seasonal—mostly in the

or just seek out those warmer climes.

Transportation to mail is usually by snowmachine with sleds to haul incoming boxes.

(continued on page 11)



WSEN staff photo

Bonnie Kenyon, Howard Haley, Jim Edwards and Mike Monroe.

Wednesdays and Fridays are the scheduled days for both incoming and outgoing mail. For the most part, if one of those days is missed due to adverse weather conditions,

months. In recent years, the majority of us take advantage of the slower-paced winter months to travel and visit family and friends



WSEN staff photo

Park Ranger Stephens Harper meets incoming passenger, Erica Edmonds who is the new Kennecott Interpretive Ranger.

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

It's February 23rd and the McCarthy area is still in hibernation mode. Rick and I "reentered" that quiet, slower-paced season about 2 weeks ago when we returned from our trip to the lower 48. There were only 13 inches of snow on the ground December 10 as we left McCarthy, but 6 weeks later a whopping 28 inches greeted us. Our neighbor, Audrey Edwards, says that number was "after" the snow had settled. As we drove up to our driveway on the 8th, Audrey's husband, Jim, was busy snowblowing our driveway! What a great "welcome home." Thanks so much, Jim.

It was 3 pm when we made our way up to the cabin. The outside temperature was approximately 18 degrees and 26 degrees inside. By 8 pm the thermometer in the living room read 70 degrees. Of course, that was with the woodstove, oilstove and a propane heater (in the back bedroom) all working together for the same purpose—heating our log cabin.

Our minimum thermometer read -42 degrees which verified neighborly reports that McCarthy did have quite a cold snap end of December and into the first week of January. Mike Monroe lives in Kennicott year round and does a good job of taking notes of weather conditions. I touched bases with him to see the difference in low temperatures and snow depth between our home in the valley and his on the side of the mountain. Usually Mike is much warmer than we are "down" here. He said Kennicott experienced -23 on the 1st and 2nd of January

with an approximate snow depth of 31 inches on January 11th.

Rick and I left just in time to beat the increased snowfall which started Dec. 14. Mike recorded almost 19 inches of snow over a 4-day



Photo courtesy Suzy Malcolm

Publishers feeding fish?

period. At the present, Mike's snow depth reading is in full agreement with ours—both recording 23 inches on the ground. Thanks, Mike, for keeping tabs on the weather!

As you can see, Rick and I paid a visit to a marine life center in Stu-

art, Florida. To be honest, I wasn't too keen on putting my hand under-water and actually "encouraging" Sting Rays to come and partake of the tiny shrimp between my fingers. Their mouths were so soft and gentle that there wasn't any need to hold back on feeding these interesting creatures. I guess you call it getting out of my comfort zone! Please be sure to find Rick's story on page 6.

While we were in Florida and close to our departure date, we discovered Walmart's garden section was freshly stocked with seeds. Rick and I brought varieties of vegetable seeds home and are now determining dates for starting our garden transplants. Winter may still be hanging on in the McCarthy area, but residents are beginning to foresee springtime.

Wrangell-St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Thomas Turner, AK; Barry Sullivan, HI.

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| Table of Contents | |
| A winter "Mail Day"—McCarthy style..... | 1 |
| A note from the publisher..... | 2 |
| Items of Interest..... | 3 |
| Feeding the rays!..... | 6 |
| Personnel changes at WRST..... | 7 |
| McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum newsletter..... | 8 |
| Friends of Kennicott newsletter..... | 10 |
| A winter "Mail Day"—McCarthy style..... | 11 |
| Nabesna Mine Site community fact sheet..... | 12 |
| Be snow smart..... | 12 |
| Good News from the Wrangells..... | 13 |
| THE McCARTHY WEEKLY NEWS..... | 14 |
| Bitter weather may have wiped out reindeer..... | 16 |
| Book review—Little People Little Patriots..... | 17 |
| Cooking with Peggy..... | 25 |
| FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION..... | 26 |
| LETTERS TO THE EDITOR..... | 27 |

Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Dave Hollis: Dave is about as far away from the “ice” as you can get this winter. He’s presently in Hawaii, basking in the sun and doing whatever McCarthyites do when they visit these warmer climes. It seems to be a popular gathering spot for local folks. Here is Dave’s “item” in his own words:

“Aloha from the big Island! I’ve been having a great time in Volcanoes National Park — playing with the Hawaiian goddess of Fire Pele, she’s hot! I’ve explored the isle with McCarthy friends, including Terry Blosser, Diane Malik, Spuddy, and JT. Terry and I had an amazing experience helping dig up a very rare Hawksbill Turtle nest, then releasing the just-hatched baby turtles to the Pacific Ocean.”

Thanks for the beautifully-illustrated poster and map of the area, Dave! We’ll expect to see you back in the neighborhood come springtime.

John Denver Tribute III: Writing about “Hollis” reminded me to remind you about the John Denver Tribute III which is scheduled for June 18, 2010, at 6 p.m., in Kennecott, Alaska. On the agenda is a potluck dinner and social, movie clips from “Alaska—

America’s Child” and a live concert featuring John’s music. For further information you may email: info@wrangells.org or phone 907-554-4464.

Mark Wacht: Mark is back in the neighborhood after spending a couple months “outside” visiting family and friends. He celebrated Thanksgiving in Texas with his mom and other family members, then climbed Texas’ highest mountain in Guadalupe National Park— to the tune of 8,749 ft— with a friend, Alysson Jones.

Before heading home, he made a trip to the northern part of Mexico, visiting other family members.

Since returning to his cabin south of McCarthy, across McCarthy Creek, he’s been putting miles on his new SKIDOO “Backcountry” snowmachine. When he’s not out and about playing in the snow, his winter projects include installing new tile in his kitchen which should pretty well complete the downstairs, he says. Another home project is the building of a woodshed/shop combination.

Springtime, which is just around the corner, is designated time for “cutting firewood.” Mark is one of those who plans ahead and likes to get his winter fire-

wood supply in before summer begins. His summers are busy working for the National Park Service. He figures this is his 10th season to work in Kennicott.

In the meantime, Mark is making the most of the remaining winter months and thoroughly enjoying the warmth of impending spring!

Wedding blessings: We extend our blessings and best wishes to Tracey (Gressel) and Aaron Gerrard who married on November 28, 2009, in Valdez where they are presently living. Many of our local folks know Tracey, her brother Carl, and their mother Michelle Casey, who owns property and a cabin on the west side of the Kennicott River. Congratulations, Tracey and Aaron!

Ladies’ Cookie Exchange—2009: McCarthy area ladies gathered for the 14th annual cookie exchange at the home of Audrey (and Jim) Edwards on Saturday, December 19th.

Nestled in the spruce trees near Swift Creek, the Edwards’ home has served the local ladies as a cozy and comfortable place to bring cookies and candy to share with one another. Instead of a family, or individual, having to eat just one kind of Christmas “sweet,” they can take home a

Wrangell St. Elias News (USPS 011301) VOL. Nineteen, Issue Two, March & April 2010.

Published every two months at McCarthy, Alaska. McCarthy, PO Box MXY, Glennallen, AK 99588-8998. Phone (907) 554-4454. FAX 1-866-487-7657. **E-mail: WSEN@wsen.net** “Copyright © 2010 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, Ned Rozell and Dorothy Adler. Subscription price is \$14 for one year in the USA. Canada \$16. Other countries \$23. Advertising rates upon request. Deadline for publication in next issue is 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.

variety of homemade goodies, just in time for the holiday season.

Audrey has served as “hostess” for the major portion of these annual festivities. Carly Kritchen, who pioneered the occasion, is now living in Bakers City, Oregon, with her husband, Ken. Every cookie exchange carries with it warm and heartfelt thoughts for Carly and her desire to see the ladies of our community gather around good food and conversation.

This year the McCarthy area female population was sparse, but all but one lady showed up to help keep the annual celebration alive. Those in attendance were: Jeannie Miller, Dee Frady, Laurie and Hannah Rowland, Chris Haley, Carmen Russo and, of course, Audrey.

Hot tea and a lovely lunch awaited the ladies. After lunch and the “exchange,” cookie plates were prepared for all the single men in town. Audrey says their number exceeded the ladies in attendance this year.

Thank you, Audrey, for opening your home to the ladies and hosting such a grand event!

Jim Kreblin: While talking to Jim about the fishing derby, he informed me he was replacing his boat dock with an updated 20' dock at his Long Lake cabin. It is expected to be in place and ready for use this spring when the ice goes out. Neighbor Cal Ward brought the lumber in for him on one of Cal's return trips from Fairbanks. Sounds like another great addition to your living quarters, Jim!!

Mark Vail: From Jim's place, across the Long Lake ice and down the road towards McCarthy, is Mark's home—off the beaten track. After being gone for 4 months, Mark is “home” and settling back in to his winter routine.

Right now, he's busy putting in ski trails to the water hole and his wood lot, and then there was a snowshoe trail to and from his parked truck to rescue his fresh produce he brought in from the big city.

This trip was the longest time he has spent away from home since he moved to the area in 1987. “It was a nice break,” said Mark. His travels took him to Pennsylvania where he stayed 3 weeks with his 88 year old aunt and painted her house and did her yard work. Then off to a nephew's wedding in upstate New York. One of the highlights of his trip back east was a reunion with his little sister after a very long 25 years. After a month visiting with family and friends, it was time to return to Alaska, and to his winter job and a Thanksgiving celebration with friends in Anchorage. Thankfully, he says, he survived the icy roads and sidewalks while commuting to work on his bicycle. Somehow the sidewalks looked much safer (and proved to be) than dodging the many vehicles on the slick roads in his truck.

Once the end of February arrives, so will his yearly gardening project which includes not only his own garden but starts for community members. Mark is looking forward to another warm summer season without the smoke from last year's forest fire. I couldn't agree more, Mark!

I expected him to tell me he was now in for the long haul, but he informed me another nephew is expecting Uncle Mark to attend *his* wedding in June. I couldn't help but ask him how many nephews he has. Only two, he said, with some relief in his voice.

Welcome home, Mark!

Neil Darish and McCarthy Ventures: Another local resident and neighbor, Neil, is a long ways from

home for the winter this year. Union Square in Manhattan, New York, is a far cry from McCarthy, Alaska, but that is where Neil is working—making good use of his cooking skills at The Whole Foods Market. He is having a great time, he says. Actually, I expected to hear a bit of homesickness in his voice when he called this morning, but I think he was too excited and eager to share his good news. Before I pass on his announcement, I must backtrack to earlier this year.

While Rick and I were out-of-state, we received word from McCarthy Mercantile owner, Peggy Smith, that she and her family would not be opening their downtown store anymore. The Smith family has done an outstanding job in pioneering a business that town folks, and visitors to our area, really needed but just didn't have the vision for—that is until Peggy and Kurt picked up the ball and ran with it several years ago. So... we had a small-town grocery and hardware store that was a grand place to shop, visit and hang out at. Kurt and Peggy with daughter Kelsey proved it was a viable business for our town and did more than dream it into existence. They built something that would last—as long as someone would take the baton from them and continue their dream. And, now, that leads me up to Neil's phone call and his grand announcement: McCarthy Ventures (which also includes the McCarthy Lodge and the Ma Johnson Hotel) is ready to add another “venture” to their conglomerate—a grocery/hardware store. However, it will be under a new name, McCarthy Center, but in the same building. Neil plans to continue where Peggy and Kurt left off. “Peggy and Kurt created a very successful business. They proved it could be done. It was something McCarthy really needed and I'm proud to take over in their footsteps!” says Neil.

I'm not sure Neil can scoop up an ice-cream cone like Peggy or Kelsey, but I have a feeling he is go-

ing to give it a good try! Thank you, Neil, for stepping up to the plate and thank you, Kurt, Peggy and Kelsey for believing enough in “our town” to take the risks you did—just because you love us and care about those who travel so far to visit our neck-of-the-woods. You are loved and greatly appreciated more than you know!

Jim and Jeannie Miller: Kennicott is extremely low in population this winter (Jim, Jeannie and Mike Monroe, to be exact), but the Millers don’t seem to mind. In fact, they are enjoying the peace and quiet that the winter season offers.

Christmas brought a special surprise for Jeannie, she said. Jim and daughter Stacy presented her with a present—a little one, that is—furry, short-legged and definitely feisty. Lexi is a female Corgi and Border Collie mix (Jeannie thinks!). Whatever the “mix”, Jeannie is so pleased to have Lexi, now 4 months old, as a new member of the Miller household.

Lexi loves routes already and is always eager for her twice-a-day walks with Jeannie. Interestingly enough, Lexi prefers her walks to entail Kennicott instead of down the hill toward McCarthy. At night, Lexi has her own sleeping quarters—inside her kennel in the house. I asked Jeannie “why” the kennel and she informed me, “So Jim and I can sleep at night.” Jeannie’s cats just might get it in their heads to “play” with Lexi while their owners sleep and, in Jeannie’s words, “That would be pure chaos!” I see her point.

When I called the Millers yesterday (Feb. 22), we had blue skies and an abundance of sunshine. She estimated their temperatures to be somewhere in the upper 40’s while our temperature down in the valley was reading 38. She couldn’t help but turn her thoughts to gardening and those seed catalogs that were waiting her attention. The first

item she starts, she says, is hot peppers. She and Jim like making their own salsa in the fall so it’s about time to begin that process.

Cutting firewood is a chore they both take part in during this time of the year and catching up on their reading material. As quiet as the winter months are for the Millers in Kennicott, summer is on the way and with it comes much activity for both Jim and Jeannie. For Jeannie it is cooking for Kennicott Glacier Lodge. For Jim, it is construction work for the park service in Kennicott. However, in the meantime, relax in what is left of the slower-paced lifestyle of winter, Jim and Jeannie, and thanks for sharing your world with us!

Jim and Audrey Edwards: Jim says things are “normal and usual” down at their home on Swift Creek. Building useful items is interesting to Jim. His latest project is tying up the loose ends (literally) for the new wall in their bedroom. The loose ends are related to the battery bank he and Audrey rely on for their power source along with a diesel generator. Moving the heavy batteries and enclosing them in their own designated “alcove” off the bedroom has been his priority this winter. It’s been a slow, tedious project but the end of this chore is now in sight.

In-between “building” he finds winter a terrific season for catching up on his reading. Nigeria and Angola are the subject matters at the moment, he says. Reading about the many challenges and hardships for the people of these countries causes Jim to express his thankfulness for the privilege of living in McCarthy.

Audrey is also counting her blessings these days. She is a Great Grandma, again! Her grandson Jason Balentine and wife, Tiffany, became parents a second time. Alyssa Jean was born on December 6th and

weighed in at 4 lb. 8 oz. Although she was pretty small, Audrey reports that baby Alyssa was ready to



Ella May and Alyssa Jean.

“go home at once and create havoc for everyone!”

Ella May, 3, Alyssa’s big sister, is really pleased to have another playmate and Audrey is thankful for another great granddaughter.

Congratulations, Audrey, and, Jim, keep up the good work!

Betty Adams: Last, but certainly not least, is the desire to share our love and prayers for Betty, her son Kaylin and Lane Moffitt, during these challenging days. Shortly before Rick and I returned to Alaska in early February, we received news that Betty was diagnosed with breast cancer. She is undergoing chemo treatment and is on a journey to recovery. If you, our readers, want to stay updated on Betty’s situation, you may go to the following blog that she and her sister, Mary, have created for Betty’s many friends and family members. It is: <http://bettyrememberwhen.blogspot.com>

We travel with you, Betty, in our prayers and with words of encouragement. You are special to us and greatly loved!

Feeding the rays!

BY RICK KENYON

One of the highlights of Bonnie and my trip to visit family in Florida this year was a weekend trip to Stuart, Florida, with our friends Mark and Suzy Malcolm. Mark pastors the Port Orange Baptist Church where my dad and Bonnie's mother attend. Mark and Suzy spent several weeks with us at McCarthy in 2007, and we enjoy getting together with them whenever we are in Florida.

Stuart surprised us all by being quite a modern, bustling city. We had envisioned something a bit more laid back, a lit-

rates it from what is known in St Lucie County as North Hutchinson Island, or sometimes "North Beach."

Mark and I are avid fishermen so we couldn't resist throwing a line at North Beach. Locals there were catching blue fish and an occasional mackerel, but we found we hadn't brought the



Photo courtesy Suzy Malcolm

The ray takes a shrimp from my hand.

Indian River Lagoon Scenic Highway runs along the western shore of the Island. We saw wildlife refuges, seashores, historic districts, local parks and sanctuaries. The Lagoon is said to be home to more than 4,000 species of plants and animals.

One thing that early explorers would not have seen are the multi-million dollar homes that dot the waterfront. And, one of the larger structures on the island is the St. Lucie Nuclear



Photo courtesy Suzy Malcolm

Gamefish caught by movie star Frances Langford.

tle more akin to Everglades City where we traveled last year with John and Barbara Rice.

However, we were pleasantly surprised to discover Hutchinson Island. Hutchinson Island, just to the east of Stuart, is accessed by taking a bridge across what is called the Indian River Lagoon.

Hutchinson Island is called a barrier island. It is bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, on the south by the St. Lucie Inlet, on the west by the Indian River, and on the north by the Fort Pierce Inlet, which sepa-

right tackle for the job. Next time.

"Much of Hutchinson Island is unspoiled and looks much as it did when pioneers first discovered it in the 1800's," according to the advertising we found on the Internet. The



Photo courtesy Suzy Malcolm

A sea horse, up close and personal!

Power Plant. The plant contains two nuclear reactors in separate containment buildings. However, the plant does not have the classic hyperboloid cooling towers found at many inland reactor sites; instead, it uses nearby ocean water for coolant of the secondary system.

Not far away is the Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center. We had heard about the 750,000 gallon game fish lagoon where they feed the resident snook, tarpon and redfish every day from Mark's son-in-law, who is a registered fishing guide in the Daytona Beach area. The Center also features a twice-daily program talking about sting rays and then letting visitors actually feed them by hand. We enjoyed

the lecture and it was a kick to hold a shrimp between your fingers and let the rays come take it from you! (They told us to use the "sting-ray shuffle" when wading in shallow waters to avoid painful injuries from the ray's tail.) Our minds were eased some when they told us the rays we would be feeding had been "dehorned," and could not sting us.

Numerous tanks in the main building hold a variety of sea creatures such as hermit crabs and sea horses. One whole wall is covered with mounted sport fish that had been caught by WWII era singing star Frances Langford. Langford had once been married to Ralph Evinrude, pres-

ident of Outboard Marine Corporation.

Unfortunately our visit was during what Floridians say is the longest cold spell in recent history. Center guides told us that, unlike the rays, game fish just stop feeding when the temperature falls, sometimes for weeks at a time. So, while we would have liked to have seen the action, Mark and I catalogued the information in our "why-we-didn't-bring-the-big-one-home-excuse" mental fishing files.

As I write this we are back in McCarthy with two feet of snow on the ground, looking forward to the Long Lake ice fishing derby next month. Florida's cold spell doesn't seem nearly as cold as it did when we were there!

Personnel changes at WRST

BY BONNIE KENYON

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve (WRST) has seen several changes in personnel within the last year. Last August park rangers Rich and Meghan Richotte left WRST and moved to Lake Clark National Park where Rich is now employed. According to Superintendent Meg Jensen, Meghan, who was an interpretive ranger while at WRST, is now enjoying her new role as stay-at-home mom. The Richottes are expecting their second child. Rich had been with WRST for approximately 13 years, says local resident and Park Ranger Stephens Harper. Rich's position has not yet been filled but Meghan's replacement is Erica Edmonds who has just recently come on board as the Kennecott District Interpretive Ranger.

Erica started her career as a seasonal at Lowell National Historical Park in Massachusetts after graduating from the University of Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Arts in Earth and Geographic Sciences. She also worked in Skagway at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. Before coming to WRST, she worked in Makawao, Hawaii, as a Supervisory Park Ranger in Interpretation at Haleakala National Park.

In 2007 Erica graduated from the Stephen F. Austin State University with a Masters of Science in Resource Interpretation. Her studies and work has caused her to see great potential for substantial growth of curriculum-based educational programs in parks.

Erica made her first trip to Kennecott and the McCarthy

area February 17th, flying in with Copper Valley Air Service, on one of their weekly mail day flights. She spent a couple days visiting her new district with the assistance of Stephens Harper.

Erica will spend 6 months in Kennecott and the other part of the year working out of the Copper Center Visitor Center. Welcome, Erica!

Another long-time ranger, Tom Betts, who was with WRST for 11 years, left in May of 2009 for a job at Bandelier National Monument in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Replacing Tom is Peter Christian who now serves as the Chitina District Ranger/Pilot. He came to Alaska in 1992 from the Washington D.C. area. He's worked as a park ranger at Denali National Park then at the Gates of the Arctic National Park

(continued on next page)

before coming to WRST in August of 2009. Earlier in February of this year, Peter accompanied Stephens to our local area. Both men first met while training together years ago.

In an essay Peter wrote some time ago, he stated:..."I apprenticed myself to a career and a life that I wanted more badly than I can possibly describe in so short an essay." And, so, Peter's jour-

ney has brought him to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Welcome, Peter!

Former Program Manager for Kennecott, Ken Hutchinson, is now working as Facility Manager at Glacier Bay National Park. He was accompanied by Michelle Jespersion who served WSRT as an archeologist.

WRST has also hired Carol Hadley to serve as an Exhibit Specialist for further development of exhibits for the General Store in Kennecott. This position is temporary and expected to last 13 months.

Stephens Harper is presently taking job applications for an area ranger to assist him. This will be a permanent 6-month position.

McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum newsletter

NOVEMBER 2009

Dear Members, Neighbors, and Friends:

It has been some time since you heard from the Museum in McCarthy; be reassured that we are alive and well! As an all-volunteer organization, we do get behind sometimes.

The best news of this past season has been Patt Garrett. In her seven weeks as our Museum Volunteer, Patt not only cleaned and dusted but also made a host of improvements to our displays; she reframed the Kate Kennedy papers and refurbished a dilapidated display case, turning it into a new women's display in the McCarthy Room. Patt made a good start at updating the McCarthy Walking Tour, chatted with every old-timer in town and an untold number of visitors. Fortunately, Patt plans to return to McCarthy for another summer to be our Docent, which is indeed cause for celebration.

Patt writes, "Thank you to the entire community of McCarthy for all the support this summer. I enjoyed being the 'volunteer' and plan to return. I am hoping to continue the new display on women of McCarthy in

the 20s and 30s, which includes a knife found on Mt. Blackburn from Dora Keen's expedition. Look forward to a new McCarthy walking tour, with a draft ready for your review Memorial Day 2010 when open for the summer. I am also hoping for volunteers to help with a 2011 celebration honoring the centennial of the CR&NW RR arrival to McCarthy. If you want to be involved in the walking tour or the anniversary celebration, please email me at pmgarrett@hotmail.com"

At this year's Annual Meeting we welcomed new Board members John Rice and Colin Warren. John and his wife Barbara, who winter in St. Louis, have a cottage on the west side of the Kennicott River, lovingly built in the style of the Kennecott buildings. Colin is spending more and more time in McCarthy and seems to be settling in; his computer skills will be most helpful to us—look for a website soon! At the subsequent Board meeting we elected a new President: Sunny Cook is a regular summer resident with a wealth of experience in non-profit organizations. She and husband Bob have a summer cabin on the south side

of McCarthy Creek. Other Board members are Neil Darish, Meg Hunt, Janet Hegland Weaver, and Dick Anderson.

Many thanks for everything to Dianne Milliard, outgoing Board member and past volunteer extraordinaire; she has left us some interesting research on Dora Keen, the woman who made the first ascent of Mt. Blackburn, which sits at the head of our valley. Here is what Dianne wrote:

It's no secret that our valley is rich in history. For most people, that history means Kennecott – a story of powerful men, big corporations and fabulous riches. But there's a lot more to our history than just the story of rich and powerful men and the places they made famous. There are also the stories of lesser known men and women with extraordinary spirit, a spirit that lives on with us here today.

One of the best-loved and most prominent landmarks in the valley is 16,390 ft. Mt. Blackburn. This mountain was climbed for the first time in 1912. The expedition that climbed it came from our valley, traveling up the Kennicott Gla-

cier. No one has successfully climbed it from this side since. Even more extraordinary, the leader of this expedition was a middle aged woman who had never even been camping a year before the trip! This extraordinary woman was Dora Keen.

Dora was a society girl from Philadelphia, graduating from Bryn Mawr College in 1896. She became a world traveler and magazine correspondent, who enjoyed climbing mountains as a hobby. She climbed mountains on 3 continents, including 15,781 ft. Mt. Blanc in Europe and 20,561 ft. Mt. Chimborazo in Ecuador. While on a brown bear hunting expedition in the Kenai, she read about the soon-to-be-finished Copper River & Northwestern Railway and the massive Wrangell Mountains, and began to dream of the possibility of an expedition to climb there once the railway was finished.

In August of 1911, Dora made her first attempt to climb Mt. Blackburn. She came to McCarthy and hired a number of local men for her climbing party, including John Barrett, the founder of McCarthy, and R.J. McClellan, leader of the party of prospectors that originally discovered the Kennecott claims. Although they made a valiant attempt, avalanches and lack of supplies prevented them from making much progress up the mountain and they turned back in defeat.

Over the winter, Dora could not forget the mountain or the majestic country she had traveled. She contacted Barrett, who

offered to try again with her. Dora said "I was going again because I had need of courage and inspiration and because on the high mountains I find them as no where else." She started back to McCarthy in April of 1912. On her way, she recruited a German climber named George Handy in Cordova, since the McCarthy men had no alpine climbing experience.

Spring came early that year, making conditions for travel quite difficult. They traveled up the glacier by dogsled, carrying a ton of supplies and outfit. The sloppy snow conditions made night travel a necessity, starting each day at 3:30 AM when the snow had a good crust. Major storms and avalanches caused them to turn back on their first attempt, although they tried to wait out the weather for 3 days in a tiny snow cave halfway up the mountain. They returned to wet tents and sleeping bags due to the carelessness of the man left in charge of base camp. As the snowstorms continued, most of the local men deserted the expedition.

Eventually, the only climbers left were Dora, George Handy and a miner named Bill Lang. They waited out the series of storms, spending another 10 days in a snow cave due to severe avalanches. When the weather finally cleared, it was a different world, with 20 feet of new snow. This time progress was swift, as they traveled very light, only taking one sleeping bag between them the final 2 days, depending on snow caves. Bill Lang turned back just 500 feet from the top

due to illness, but George and Dora made it to the south summit on May 19, 1912. They spent 33 days on the mountain altogether, with 22 nights spent in snow caves.

Dora's expeditions established a lot of firsts in Alaskan climbing, ways of overcoming obstacles that became standards for Alaskan climbers. She was the first to use sled dogs to make the approach to a remote mountain, the first to travel at night to take advantage of a better surface, and the first to use snow caves. Although she attempted to return to her "normal" life after her climb, she and George had fallen in love with both the country and each other. Dora returned to marry George Handy and live in McCarthy in 1916.

We hope you will renew your membership in the Museum or join us if you haven't already. We rely on the generosity of our friends, people from all over who feel a connection to this place and its history. Please see the form in this newsletter.

Our best wishes to all!

Meg Hunt, outgoing President

To renew your membership or become a member of the Museum, please choose the following options:

Student, (non-voting) \$10; Individual, \$15 annually; Family, \$20 annually; Supporting, \$100 annually; Sustaining, \$200 annually; Life, \$500.

Please mail to: McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum, PO Box MXY, Glennallen, AK. 99588.

"I would like to take you seriously, but to do so would affront your intelligence." —William F. Buckley Jr.

Friends of Kennicott newsletter

Dear Friend of Kennicott:

After a several year period of relative quiet, while we focused mostly on the Recreation Hall, Friends of Kennicott is springing back to life with a renewed purpose and energy. We are now broadening our horizons to better serve our original **Mission Statement:**

Friends of Kennicott is a locally-based organization established to assist the National Park Service's efforts in preserving and managing the historic resources of the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark in a way that maintains the character of Kennicott and McCarthy for the visiting public and residents alike.

Friends of Kennicott is revisiting its core purposes, including 1) enhancing connections between the McCarthy/Kennicott community and the National Landmark, 2) helping maintain Kennicott's ghost town character in the context of a thriving bush community, and 3) facilitating other non-profit partnership opportunities with the National Park Service.

This reawakening is timely: The NPS recently put the finishing touches on several restored structures, including the General Manager's Office and the National Creek Trestle; the Recreation Hall is in need of more active management to respond to increasing demand; and other non-profits have expressed an interest in partnering with the NPS on other projects at Kennicott.

As a first step, Friends of Kennicott is transferring non-NPS Recreation Hall management to the Wrangell Mountains Center (WMC). With year-around staffing, the WMC can work more actively with the community and the NPS on day-to-day Recreation Hall operations, including marketing and facilitating increased community use. With this transition, Friends of Kennicott will devote more energy to tracking overall stabilization efforts and working with the NPS, local community, and state-wide and national organizations interested in mining history to implement the light touch/partnership vision that provided the consensus foundation for NPS acquisition.

Getting Involved

The Friends of Kennicott Board of Directors is composed of a combination of old and new members, including: Kelly Bay, Neil Darish, Sally Gibert, Mary Grisco, Ben Shaine, Jessica Speed, and Doreen Sullivan. We are seeking to further expand the Board. If you wish to join this effort, please contact any existing board member or send an email to sgibert@aol.com.

With this letter we are also updating our membership base and mailing list. If you want to know what Friends is doing and/or have the opportunity to participate in future discussions, please return the reply stub with your membership donation and contact information. [Editor's note: See information at the end of this article.]

Thank you from the Friends of Kennicott Board of Directors

Highlights of Friends of Kennicott history, activities and accomplishments:

Before 1988: McCarthy land-owners and businesses, miners, historical preservation advocates, and conservationists brainstorm how to protect Kennicott's deteriorating buildings.

1988-1989: Friends of Kennicott, *Historic Preservation Fund*, formed to support emergency stabilization of historic buildings in the Kennicott Mill site and eventual NPS acquisition. Alaska Legislature passes resolution in favor of NPS acquisition of the Kennicott Mill site.

1990: Friends of Kennicott officially chartered with the following Mission: "*to preserve, restore and render available to the public the historic mine building located at Kennecott.*" Kennicott named to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "*List of America's Most 11 Endangered Historic Places.*" Joseph Sax report: *Keeping Special Places Special: McCarthy, Kennicott and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park – A Great Challenge, A Unique Opportunity.*

1992: Both Congress and the Alaska Legislature appropriate funding for emergency stabilization. NPS and Friends of Kennicott agree on pre-acquisition construction priorities under a Friends contractor. NPS begins asbestos clean-up with funding from Kennecott Copper Corporation.

1993: Friends of Kennicott receives two national awards: "Take Pride in America," and a Department of the Interior "Volunteer Service Award."

1994: Prepared "A Proposal for Ownership & Management of the Kennicott Property: Protecting the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Alaska's Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park."

1995-1997: Acquisition discussions ramp up with additional assistance from The Conservation Fund. Friends of Kennicott receives a national Partnership Leadership Award.

1998: NPS acquires Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark with dedicated appropriation.

1999-2000: Reports and Plans: *Partnership Management Strategy prepared for Friends, NPS and State Office of History & Archeology, June 1999*. NPS Interim Management Plan (2000), and Vision 2000 (Mike Loso). Friends adopts new Mission Statement.

2002 to present: Recreation Hall completed with matching funds from Rasmuson Foundation and others. Launch co-man-

agement of Recreation Hall in partnership with NPS.

If you want to be a Friend of Kennicott, please choose the Contribution/Membership Levels and make your checks payable to Friends of Kennicott and send to: Friends, PO Box 241362, Anchorage, AK. 99524. Friends of Kennicott, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

Silk Stocking Row, \$50; Bonanza Mine, \$250; McCarthy/Kennicott residents and landowners, \$15; Mill Building, \$100; Jumbo Mine, \$500.

A winter "Mail Day"—McCarthy style

(continued from the cover)

Others prefer skis while a few prefer a nice, warm truck.

Summer population swells and instead of half a dozen people (or sometimes less) attending a winter mail day, a summer mail day may see 20-30 folks turn out.

Extremely cold temperatures in the morning at the time of the mail plane's arrival (11:00 a.m.) can discourage otherwise interested mail day participants in traveling to the "mail shack," as it is called.

Our small one-room building which houses our nearly 90 small or large wooden boxes, affixed on two walls, can easily fill up with incoming boxes of mail order items, groceries from Glennallen, and the 3 or 4 mail sorters who are usually bundled up in their bulky winter garb. A sorting bench lines one of the longer walls. A 20 lb. propane tank topped with a Mr.

Heater gives a slight source of heat for those cold fingers that need a warm-up after handling letters, magazines and catalogs. Larger incoming boxes are stacked underneath the sorting table and the smaller ones on top. Most of the parcels are gone by the next mail day with respective owners picking them up during the warmer part of the day.

The present mail shack was built after high winds leveled our former building. Winds estimated near 100 miles an hour on Dec. 22, 1996, left mail scattered for some distance and the need for a new building. The Department of Transportation was kind enough to supply enough building materials for a new mail shack. About the only thing reusable from the original building was the floor. All four walls and the roof were extensively damaged. Local volunteers were rounded up

and by mail day, Feb. 26, those of us who showed up for mail discovered a fully-constructed building ready for its first bag of U. S. mail!

The mail plane often brings us passengers. On Feb. 17th of this year, Erica Edmonds, a new park ranger for the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park arrived to take a winter look at Kennecott. This was her first trip to our town and she came with plenty of warm gear, including a pair of skis. She was met by local resident and, park ranger, Stephens Harper. Arriving on a Wednesday enabled her to spend a couple days in the area and then return on the Friday mail plane back to Glennallen.

I hope you enjoyed taking a peek into a special part of McCarthy's routine—our winter mail days. If you are privileged to get mail delivered to your doorstep, you may want to stop and count your blessings.

Nabesna Mine Site community fact sheet

NPS COPPER CENTER—

In August 2009, the National Park Service (NPS) undertook environmental sampling of the Nabesna Mine Site (Site), located at the end of the Nabesna Road in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST). This Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) was conducted to address data gaps and update existing Site information for characterization of the Site, to facilitate the evaluation of human and ecological risks at the Site, and to support the development and evaluation of Site cleanup alternatives.

The following activities were conducted as components of the 2009 SSI. Additional groundwater data were acquired to fully assess

environmental contamination and transport mechanisms. These data were collected through the installation and sampling of eight monitoring wells. In the process of drilling the monitoring wells, soil borings were taken. These boreholes provided information regarding the relationship between subsurface geology and permafrost on groundwater and surface water. The SSI included sampling of surface water and sediment at 23 locations. The Site is located in an area with naturally occurring metal-rich soils. Hence it required a thorough examination of the background characteristics of soil, sediment, and surface water in order to establish Site-specific background concentrations for consideration in the selection of Site cleanup goals. A delineation of the

tailings was completed through visual observations and field screening of metals in surface soils at approximately 230 locations.

This information will be used in the assessment of site conditions, risk to human health and ecological receptors, regulatory compliance, and cleanup alternatives. The results will be incorporated into an EE/CA Report that will be made available to the public upon completion (anticipated to be fall 2010 or later).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning the field work or any aspect of the Nabesna Mine Site EE/CA, please contact Greg Nottingham at (303) 415-1483 or Danny Rosenkrans at Park Headquarters in Copper Center (907) 822-7240.

Be snow smart

BY DOROTHY ADLER

The North America Outdoor Institute (NAOI) is a non-profit outdoor educational organization located in Wasilla, Alaska. Founded in 2004 by concerned outdoor recreationists, NAOI provides outdoor safety courses to the general public in an effort to decrease the number of backcountry accidents and deaths in the state of Alaska. NAOI's primary foundation are avalanche courses ranging from 90 minute school-based programs through multi-day avalanche certification. Our goal is to provide skiers, snowboarders, snowmachiners, and outdoor lovers with the tools and knowledge to travel safely and wisely in the backcountry; in an effort to prevent deaths from avalanches and other backcountry fatalities. Programs like this in

other states have drastically reduced (by 50%) the number of deaths from avalanches per year. NAOI also believes firmly that by bringing these courses to school age youth, we will mold a safer, more educated generation of outdoor enthusiasts. NAOI also presents a Be Summer Smart series focused on decreasing the number of accidents and injuries related around outdoor activities like backpacking, climbing, and water sports.

For the past several years, NAOI has brought their courses on the road, providing educational opportunities all over the state. Experiential based classes include hands-on scenarios, practice with avalanche safety gear, wilderness medical courses, and basic backcountry travel awareness clinics. Locally, NAOI broadcasts a weekly

snow, trail, and activity report through the Valley's KBYR (99.7) radio station. This report includes winter trail conditions and avalanche activity from Eureka to Denali State Park. You can tune into this report every Wednesday through Friday for updated trail information.

To learn more about NAOI, visit their website at besnowsmart.com

Dorothy, a McCarthy resident, will be teaching a 9-day Wilderness First Responder Course in mid-May and offering a WFR recertification at the end of May. This is the second year in a row Dorothy has made these courses available in McCarthy. If you are interested in either course, you may contact her at:

lifeinthewrangells@yahoo.com

Good News from the Wrangells

BY RICK KENYON

Each January since 2008 Bonnie and I have traveled to the Ft. Worth, Texas area to attend the annual Pastors Conference at Eagle Mountain, ministry headquarters for Kenneth Copeland Ministries. This year we were joined by Steve and Tonia Alexander, who have a cabin on the Laki-na River near Long Lake and who pastor Word of Faith Assembly in Wasilla, as well as Keith and Nola Kurber, who pastor Abundant Life Church, also in Wasilla. We all stayed at a B&B in a rural area not far from Eagle Mountain, and had a wonderful time together.

One of the things Bonnie and I have wanted to do but have been unable in prior years is to visit the Creation Evidence Museum, which is only a few hour trip by automobile from Ft. Worth. This year we were able to make the trip to Glen Rose, Texas, located in what is called "dinosaur valley," home of the Museum.

The rural road winding its way to the museum, past yard signs reading "fossils for sale" was the first hint that this may not be one of those multi-million dollar chrome-and-glass affairs we had heard about. When we arrived, we learned the museum is indeed funded solely by donations and a modest \$2 per person entry fee. The building is actually quite large and a second story balcony appears to be ready for future expansion.

The museum's Founder and Director, Dr. Carl Baugh, originally came to Glen Rose, Texas, to critically examine claims of human and dinosaur co-habitation. He conducted extensive excavations along the Paluxy River. These original excavations yielded human footprints among dinosaur footprints. He then realized that a museum needed to be established in order to appropri-

ately display this evidence, along with sustained excavations and other areas of scientific research for creation.

One of the featured exhibits is known as the Alvis Delk Cretaceous Footprint. This fossil of dense Glen Rose limestone consists of a Dinosaur footprint (*Acrocanthosaurus*) and an eleven-inch human footprint intruded by the dinosaur print.

In early July, 2000, Alvis Delk, assisted by James Bishop (both of Stephenville, Texas), was working in the Cretaceous limestone on the McFall property at the Paluxy River near Glen Rose, Texas, and discovered a pristine human footprint intruded by a dinosaur footprint. The eleven-inch human footprint matches seven other such footprints of the same dimensions in the "Sir George Series," named in honor of His Excellency Governor General Ratu Sir George Cacobau of Fiji.

The fossil was transported to a professional laboratory where 800 X-rays were performed in a CT Scan procedure. Laboratory technicians verified compression and distribution features clearly seen in both prints, human and dinosaur. This removes any possibility that the prints were carved or altered.

Although Bonnie and I saw this and other exhibits, it wasn't until we returned home that we appreciated the importance of what we had seen.

Talking with a good friend who is a geologist, he told me that proof of dinosaurs and humans existing at the same time throws a huge obstacle in the path of the Darwinian theory of evolution.

I suppose every school kid knows this now, but apparently evolution teaches that dinosaurs were long gone millions of years before men "evolved."

The museum is also the only site on earth where all Old Testament books in scroll form are at one location. These scrolls, of course, are not the originals as written by the prophets. However, the Jewish scribes consider each hand-written scroll to be an "original" correct copy of the Scriptures. Some of the scrolls on display are over 700 years old. Seeing an actual scroll of the book of Isaiah helped me to better visualize the passage found in the Bible in Luke chapter 4:

He came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written, God's Spirit is on me; he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, "This is God's year to act!" He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, "You've just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place." (Luke 4:16-21 Message)

The riverbed where many of the displays at the museum originated is now home to the Dinosaur Valley State Park, a scenic park set astride the Paluxy River and located just northwest of Glen Rose. Dinosaur Valley State Park is said to contain some of the best preserved dinosaur tracks in the world. There are two fiberglass models; a 70-foot *Apatosaurus* and a 45-foot *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. They were built, under commission of the Sinclair Oil Company, New York World's Fair Dinosaur Exhibit of 1964-1965.

THE McCARTHY WEEKLY NEWS

1919 March & April editions

RED CROSS

The Washington Birthday Dinner given by the Entertainment Committee for the Red Cross was even a greater success than had been hoped for. Large numbers of people attended and an enjoyable time was had by all.

After dinner, excellently cooked and served by the many aides, the company adjourned to the large pool hall of the hotel and speeches by J.H. Murray, recitations by W.F. McKay and songs by Mrs. O'Neill, were enjoyed. Dancing was indulged in till a late hour with J.W. Nickell as floor manager, Frank Iverson being on the sick list. Music was supplied by Mesdames O'Neill and Cole.

Among the Kennecott visitors were: Mr. and Mrs. Connor, Hersinger, Huntington, Gruber, Walker, Messrs Prout, Erickson, Ben Jackson, Carl Stattel, Dennis Brothers, Elkins, Fred Erickson, Fagerberg, Rudelbach, Iverson. From Dan Creek, Max Klopfer, Cayouette.

In addition to the previous list of helpers, Mesdames Pete Johnson and Roberts, C. Kello and Sport McAllister assisted. We understand that the profits will be over \$350.

Quite a fire scare on Wednesday morning when the house over the well at Millsaps caught fire.

Immediate action with the chemical engines soon overcame the flames and all the house will need is a new lining.

March 1

LATE NEWS

The latest reports from the Hospital state that Mrs. Ketterer is in a very critical condition. The injuries she received were terrible.

Johnny Nickell fell from the roof of one of the burning buildings yesterday and is pretty much on the sick list.

In the Commissioner's Court this week Otto Gustafson was fined \$25 and costs and Sport McAllister was sentenced to 30 days imprisonment for violation of the bone dry law, upon complaint of the Deputy U.S. Marshall.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lubbe has been appointed executrix in the Estate of Otto Lubbe, deceased, the transfer and lumber business will be conducted as usual with Charles in charge.

SHUSHANNA NEWS

N.P. Nelson arrived from Shushanna with his dog team making the trip in three days. He returns tomorrow with his outfit.

The McCarthy Mercantile Co. has been working overtime the past two weeks putting up outfits for Shushanna. Seven tons this week and 8 tons last.

Zeke Mullet is in with a fine lot of furs.

March 8

LATE NEWS OF FIRE SUFFERERS

(Fire on Front St. March 7, 1919)

The Alaskan Billiard Hall proprietors sustained quite a loss during the fire. In removing the handsome marble soda fountain to a place of safety, it was cracked in half, a damage of \$400.

It is Mr. Chong's intention to rebuild immediately, and plans are being drawn for a restaurant 24 by 30 a single story building for the present. He has sent outside for restaurant equipment and expects the building to be ready for its arrival.

Charley is one of our oldest residents and has done so many good turns for so many of the boys that they would like him to have a building bee when his building could be erected in record time. They are all anxious to taste Charley's cooking again.

W.M. Goodwin who has been staying with the O'Neills since the fire, has now rented the cabin recently occupied by the Norman Ericksons and will try his hand at batching for awhile.

Laurie Bros. store is closed for business until such time as the Insurance adjuster arrives. Their stock is in a distressing condition and will take some time to put in order. It is Sam Laurie's intention to take a trip East as soon as he can arrange his affairs, and purchase an entire new high class stock and up to date fixtures.

With all these new improvements demonstrating the fact that although our neighbours have suffered misfortune, they still feel justified in re-establishing themselves in McCarthy. It is up to the rest of us who have been so fortunate as to be unharmed to rally together and boost.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Anna Katherina Ketterer nee Gunther was born March 28, 1863 at Lehrbach, K. Alsfeld. Germany, came via Panama with her mother to California at the age of 13 years, was married in Oakland California Nov. 13, 1879.

Was business partner at Hansi House, Oakland Point Grocery 28 and Linden, Oakland and 16 years at North Beach Hotel. She came to Nome 1900 till 1913 & to McCarthy April 1914 where she lived till her death.

She was blessed with 5 children of whom 2 died as infants and 3 sons survive, Herman Ketterer, Kennecott, Andrew Ketterer Jr., Mendocino, Calif. and A. J. Ketterer, Los Angeles. Two brothers and a sister reside in California, Jno Gunther, San Francisco. Harry Wolf, Ukiah, Co. and Widow Helena Kerchner, Alameda.

She was a good mother and a faithful wife whose only wish was to see her boys grown to manhood. She did her duty faithfully and all her reward was

hard work from childhood until her terrible end.

March 15

JACK LAURIE RETURNS

We are indeed glad to welcome back our townsman Jack E. Laurie, who arrived from Fort Liscum yesterday in full uniform with badge of honorable discharge.

Since his departure last October 1st, he has had much experience of army life, but is glad to be back. His family has had a run of bad luck all winter with sickness and fire. but now everything will surely take a turn for the better. Meanwhile there is great rejoicing in the house of Laurie, in which all their friends join.

John E. Barrett left this week on a business trip to Seattle and their cities on the Pacific coast. He will be absent about two months, purchasing supplies and machinery for his mining property.

Frank Barrett is down from the Green Group and will spend a vacation in town.

On account of delays in settlement of loss, Charley Chong will not rebuild at present, but will lease the Golden Cafe for a year.

TRAIL NEWS

C.A. Simons, the Shushanna merchant arrived in town yesterday with Murie. He had a perilous journey over Russell Glacier, his face and hands were frostbitten in a storm.

The Mother Lode Mine has been shut down during the past week on account of lack of oil. The boys took a trip to town on the strength of it and had an enjoyable vacation. They returned to the hill this morning making the trip with Charley Lubbe driving tours on the big bob sleigh. Bill Godfrey on the box seat accompanied by their new mascot "Mike" an Airedale just purchased from the Hubrick kennels to replace "Rawhide" who has taken a trip to Shushanna. About twenty of the boys were passengers for the drive in the sunshine.

Jimmy Dennis tram expert, from Kennecott, adjusted the Mother Lode tram this week.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Yesterday's mail brought announcements of the marriage of Ralph P Rothe to Miss Lillian B. Brandt at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Brandt, 4727, 40th Ave. S. W. Seattle on March 1st, 1919.

This intrepid young bride-groom whose last voyage from the interior was made by boat from Long Lake to Cordova has made many hazardous journeys over these mountains, and now he has embarked upon the matrimonial sea. We send along our heartiest congratulations and good wishes to the happy pair.

March 22

RELIEF CABINS APPRECIATED

C.A. Simons, who has been in the mercantile business in Chisana for four years without a vacation is spending a week or so in our city. This is the first time he has seen the railroad for four years and made it his business to meet the train and renew his acquaintance with it this week. He has enjoyed his first movie show for ten years, and has already become an enthusiastic movie fan. His trip out from the diggings was an interesting one. In company with Jim Dolan who was driving dogs, Simons set out with his sled and pony, Blue, March 8th. A good trail to the White River made easy going but from there to the Russell Glacier was all rocks. A storm overtook them on the Russell and had it not been for the relief cabins erected this fall, he might have suffered considerable, as it was the horse could not make it and had to be killed and Mr Simons suffered frostbite on his hands. Resuming their journey in a few days when clear weather came, they met Murie at the foot of the Nizina Glacier and come into town with him.

McCarthy looks like a real live town to the Chisana mercantile and he says he is sure enjoying his visit. He looks forward to a successful season in the diggings this year as there has already been a great deal of travel and there will be much more when spring comes.

March 29

McCarthy

The Buckle of the Copper Belt, one of the coming cities of Alaska, situated on the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad, 191 miles inland from Cordova, between Kennecott and McCarthy Creeks. The junction of Chisana, Nizina, Dan, Chititu and Young Creeks, Head of Chitina and Chittistone. Original townsite located by John E. Barrett, whose homestead adjoins.

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

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

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

There is plenty of room for hundreds of new residents for whom there are many business chances & openings. There is a grand opportunity for a first class dentist. Buy a ticket for McCarthy and give it the "once over".

April 12

Bitter weather may have wiped out reindeer

BY NED ROZELL

Six thousand reindeer once lived on a remote island in the Bering Sea that was briefly their paradise. In what has become a classic story of wildlife boom and bust, no reindeer live on St. Matthew Island now. Three scientists just looked back at the St. Matthew's reindeer herd and found that an extreme winter probably pushed the stressed animals to their deaths.

The story began in August 1944, when the U.S. Coast Guard corralled 29 Nunivak Island reindeer on a barge and floated the animals north to St. Matthew Island, more than 200 miles away and one of the most remote places in Alaska. Coast Guard officials had earlier in the year placed a radio navigational system on the island, along with 19 men. The reindeer were intended as a roaming food source should the men be cut off from supply shipments.

The men never shot a single reindeer; the Allies were winning the war, and the Coast Guard pulled its men from the island. They left the reindeer.

This was a fine situation for the animals at first—their only predators had disappeared, leaving them on a 32-mile long, four-mile wide island rich with their favorite food, lichen.

Biologist Dave Klein first stepped on the island in 1957, 13 years after the Coast Guard had abandoned it. Klein, 82, now a professor emeritus for the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Institute of Arctic Biology, hiked the length of the island with field

assistant Jim Whisenant in 1957. They noted that the herd of 29 reindeer had increased to more than 1,300 animals.

Klein returned to the hard-to-reach island six years later. He could hardly believe how many reindeer were there.

"We counted 6,000 of them," Klein said in a 2003 interview. "They were really hammering the lichens."

The scene, with its 47 reindeer per square mile, foreshadowed a crash ahead. That's what Klein found on a return to the island in the summer of 1966. In the three years since his last visit, the herd of 6,000 had shrunk to 42, a number that included only one male that had abnormal antlers and probably was unable to reproduce. Reindeer skeletons littered the tundra.

The herd had busted. During the next decade or so, all the reindeer of St. Matthew Island died off; the largest mammal there now is the arctic fox.

Klein found the story so intriguing that he mentioned it often over the years in conversations about the Bering Sea. Recently, he shared his thoughts with two climatologists; he suspected that an extreme winter might have forced the stressed population of reindeer to the brink. Soon, Martha Shulski and John Walsh were helping Klein reconstruct the events of the extraordinarily harsh winter of 1963 to 1964.

Shulski, a former Alaska climatologist who is now director of the High Plains Regional Climate Center at the University of

Nebraska, and Walsh, chief scientist at UAF's International Arctic Research Center, dug up weather records from the nearest official weather station to St. Matthew. That station is located 200 miles south on St. Paul Island. The scientists pored over a reanalysis of area weather variables provided by the National Centers for Environmental Prediction.

They found—and described in an article in the November/December 2009 issue of the magazine *Weatherwise*—that the winter of 1963-1964 was one of the most extreme on record in the northern Bering Sea.

During February and March 1964, the reindeer experienced almost constant windstorms, the nastiest of which featured an atmospheric pressure typical of a Category 3 hurricane. Blasting northerly winds combined with below-zero air temperatures to create wind chills below minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit for a week straight in early February, and a low wind chill reading of minus 71.5 degrees Fahrenheit on March 13, 1964, when the air temperature was minus 34 degrees and the wind blew 30 mph.

Perhaps even more damaging to the reindeer were record amounts of snow. St. Paul, Alaska received 140 inches of snow during the 1963-1964 season.

"The higher snow depths and hard crusts on the snowpack . . . meant the reindeer were virtually prevented from obtaining any of their already depleted food resources," the scientists wrote in *Weatherwise*. They concluded that only 42 reindeer survived

the storm. When Klein examined the skeletal remains during his 1966 visit, he saw that the bones of fetal reindeer nestled within the bones of their mothers revealed that “most of the pregnant females had died about the time of the storms or shortly thereafter.”

The reconstruction of extreme weather events has given

Klein some closure on a mystery he had pondered since he visited the island in the late 1960s, and all three scientists now appreciate the vulnerability of some groups of animals.

“In isolated or fractured environments, wildlife populations can be extinguished by severe weather events,” John Walsh said in a presentation about the

St. Matthew reindeer he gave at the 2009 Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco.

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.

Book review—Little People Little Patriots

Saving America One Child at a Time

BY RICK KENYON

Little People Little Patriots—*Saving America One Child at a Time* by Steve Brezenski is a book based on a principle that has become foreign to many Americans; the idea that a child’s future is the responsibility of the parents rather than the state.

“...we as parents are our children’s first and most effective teachers,” writes Brezenski. “What better place for a child to learn to love her country than on her daddy’s knee?”

The book has 52 chapters—each a discussion concerning the founding principles and philosophies of our nation. Much of the material is quoted from those who founded our nation.

In chapter one, called *We hold these truths to be self evident*, I found this encouraging quote of John Adams. “If men through fear, fraud or mistake, should in terms renounce and give up any essential natural right, the eternal law of reason

and the great end of society, would absolutely vacate such renunciation; the right to freedom being the gift of God Almighty, it is not in the power of Man to alienate this gift, and voluntarily become a slave.”

Chapter two, called *Government gets its power from the people* opens with this statement from the Declaration of Independence, “That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving the just power from the consent of the governed.”

Much of the tone of the book can be understood from the title of Brezenski’s sixth chapter, *Our founders believed their work was inspired of God*.

While the book is not difficult reading, it is laid out in a fashion that makes it particularly useful for browsing.

Want to know more about early thinking on the subject of firearms? Turn to chapter 39 where you find such gems as this one by George Washington, “A

free people ought... to be armed...”

Interested in what our founders thought about the size of government? Chapter 44 is called *Small Government*. “I am for a government rigorously frugal and simple.”—Thomas Jefferson.

Chapter titles are quite descriptive. Chapter 10, for instance, is called, “*American citizens must mingle and discuss these issues.*”

I enjoyed the chapters that talk about the history of patriotic songs. *America the Beautiful* is included as well as the *National Anthem*.

The book is available online from Authorhouse® at <http://www.authorhouse.com/BookStore/ItemDetail.aspx?bookid=65518>.

You can choose from an electronic book (PDF format, \$3.95), Paperback (\$9.95) or Dust Jacket Hardcover (\$15.99). I also found the book at www.amazon.com for \$12.99 and eligible for free shipping.

“I have no ambition to govern men. It is a painful and thankless office.” —Thomas Jefferson

**The
McCarthy Mercantile**

will no longer be open for business
effective immediately.

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their support over the last 4 years.

Kurt, Peggy and Kelsey Smith

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to
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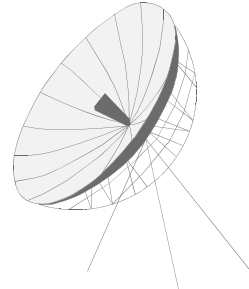
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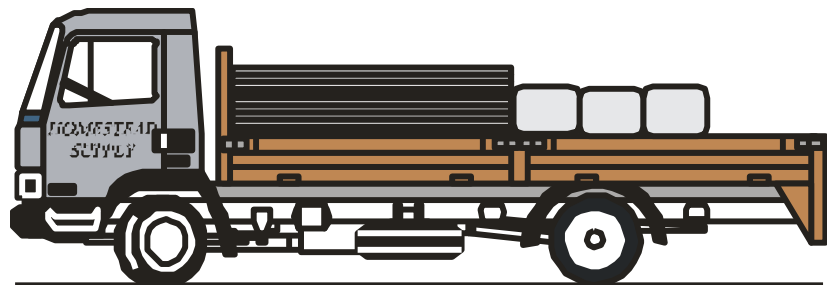
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CALLING ALL FISHERFOLK! The 7th annual Long Lake Ice-Fishing Derby is once again in the plotting and planning stages, says Grand Marshall Jim Kreblin who pioneered this fine sporting event. Jim says it's time to locate our special ice-fishing rods after a year of inactivity, sharpen our hooks and make certain our reels are properly oiled, and, then, of course, find the ice augers—all by Saturday, March 20th.

This year's derby begins at 9 a.m. and runs to 3 p.m. According to Jim, there will be two parts to the derby — “winter” and “spring” portions. As you probably know (I had to be reminded), March 20th is the first day of spring, which officially begins 9:32 a.m. So, Jim says that the first 32 minutes of the derby are designated winter's time slot. Beginning at 9:32 a.m., we fisherfolk will find ourselves fishing the “spring” portion of the derby. Prizes will be given in each portion.

Mark Vail's delicious homemade chili and roasted hot dogs over a bon fire will, once again, be served on the ice. Homemade cookies are also a welcome addition to lunch, Jim says. (I take that to be a hint, ladies!)

Even if you aren't an avid fisherman, you are welcome to try your hand at “drilling in the nation's largest national park” —drilling holes in the ice for those of us who are, that is, and there will be ice bowling.

Make sure you include lures or bait that will attract the Dolly Varden, Rainbow Trout or, just maybe, those illusive Lake Trout.

Please direct all questions concerning the upcoming derby and ice conditions to Jim at 554-4434.

See ya on the ice!

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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Happy New Year everyone! And because I'm writing this before the Super Bowl I can wish you all luck with the team you want to win. Since the holidays are just over you've probably had all the food you can eat and don't even want to think about it but....I want to bring a few recipes to your attention that you might want to put on your "to do" list.

First I want to tell you about a company that I just found out about recently. Christy from TRIBAL MOOSE contacted me to let me know about their company and their products. She was nice enough to send me a bottle of their Cranberry Barbeque sauce so I could try it. I used their recipe for chicken wings and put it out for one of the family gatherings at Christmas time. I had many requests for "that wonderful sauce on the chicken." The company was originally started in Seward, Alaska, and is now currently located in Stayton, Oregon. The products are carried in at least 30 Safeways all over Alaska and in various markets in Oregon. Their products include several variations of their original cranberry-based sauce, including a spicy barbecue sauce, a cranberry steak sauce, and even a cranberry ketchup, of which 100 percent of the proceeds go to the Salvation Army. The company is built around a philanthropic backbone: "committed to changing the world one bottle of sauce at a time." I'm introducing you to TRIBAL MOOSE so you can visit them online at <http://www.tribalmoose.net/> and read about the company yourself, see the products they offer, look

at their wonderful recipes, and perhaps taste their products for yourself. I'm the lucky one in that I can pick up what I need in both Valdez and Homer when I'm in Alaska as well as in Corvallis, Oregon, when I go to visit my nephew. Here in Tucson, I just go online and order.

Since this page is supposed to be filled with recipes let me be presumptuous and include one of theirs so you can see how good it looks:

Darcey's Cheesy TRIBAL MOOSE Meat Loaf
 3 lbs. hamburger
 1 tablespoon salt
 ¼ cup soy sauce
 ½ cup TRIBAL MOOSE all natural cranberry steak sauce
 ½ cup chopped onions
 3 eggs
 3 slices of bread broken into small pieces
 4 slices of bacon chopped into small pieces
 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

In a large mixing bowl mix hamburger and all ingredients except bacon and cheddar cheese.

Divide hamburger mixture into two equal rolls and flatten so that they are about 1 inch thick.

Sprinkle cheese and bacon chunks onto the surface of each portion. Roll and shape each portion and place them into two bread pans.

Cover the tops of each meat loaf roll with a thin layer of TRIBAL MOOSE all natural cranberry steak sauce.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Let stand for 20 minutes before serving.

Now, readers, if you'll remember, I introduced you to Kyan Kirby a couple of issues ago with her recipe for Banana Pudding. She's a retired teacher from Texas and was visiting friends in McCarthy this summer. She emailed me a month or so ago with her recipe for SUMMER SAUSAGE. Bonnie and Rick have tried it already using moose meat and plan to make it again when they get home from Florida. Here it is for all you sausage eaters:

KYAN'S SUMMER SAUSAGE
 2 lbs. lean ground beef, venison or whatever
 2 tablespoons Morton's Tender Quick (see Note below)
 ¼ teaspoon granulated or powdered garlic (Kyan uses granulated and a little more)
 ½ teaspoon coarse black pepper
 1 tablespoon liquid smoke
 1 tablespoon mustard seed
 ¾ cup water

Mix all well. Kyan uses her hands and kneads the mixture. Shape into rolls; roll in coarse black pepper, wrap in foil or plastic. Refrigerate 24 hours. Remove wrapper, place on wire rack or broiler pan in 300 degree oven for 1 hour and 15 min. Cool, rewrap, refrigerate or freeze. Kyan has used venison, turkey and beef.

NOTE: Morton's Tender Quick is a fast cure product that has been developed as a cure for meat, poultry, game, salmon, shad, and sablefish. It is NOT a meat tenderizer.

Kyan also uses the sausage as a gift. She wraps it in plastic wrap and then in foil and freezes. She usually does them in 6" logs about the diameter of a Ritz cracker so that when sliced, it fits just a tiny

bit smaller. It does shrink a little bit when cooked. When she needs something special, she takes it out, puts a curly ribbon on it and gives it away.

Now, another recipe that I tried and served over the holidays. They were DEVoured! The recipe was sent to Bonnie by Julie Smithson who has a lands-right website, <http://www.propertyrightsresearch.org>. Bonnie forwarded the recipe just in time for me to use it for Christmas. Try it and enjoy.

ORANGE PECAN COOKIES

Take the Tollhouse cookie recipe on the chocolate chip pkg., use all light brown sugar and substitute orange juice & orange extract (& orange peel for the moisture & flavoring), then add chopped pecans. I (Julie) cut back a little on the amount of chocolate chips. Bake cookies on parchment paper; you'll have 'em drooling for your cookies. Use real butter though the cookies will be a little flatter.

I'm so glad I had them for the holidays because everyone loved them.

Now how about just one more this time but a real winner. Jim and I were invited to dinner the other evening and of course, I am always rude enough to run in and ask if they would make me a copy of the recipe! This was the first time we had ever eaten in their home and indeed the first time we had met my friend's husband. It was a joy to find that he does all the cooking. She tells him what meal to have and he does the cooking AND the cleaning up! This was so...good.

SHRIMP & CRABMEAT HOT OR COLD MAIN DISH, APPETIZER OR DIP

- 1 - 10 1/2 oz. Campbell's Cream of Shrimp Soup
- 8 oz. of artificial crabmeat
- 1/2 pound precooked shrimp
- 2/3 cup mayonnaise
- 2/3 cup chopped celery
- 2 tablespoons pimento
- 2 tablespoons thinly sliced green onion

- 1/2 cup light cream
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- Patty shells, crepes, thin tortillas.

Serves 4

If you serve it hot, heat the soup, mayonnaise and half the lemon juice in a saucepan. Put the other ingredients in the patty shells or whatever and heat in a 375 degree oven for around 10 minutes and then add the sauce. Mitch has served it cold in patty shells or taco shells and has used it as a dip. If he is using it as a dip, he adds about 1/2 can of Half & Half to each can of soup to thin it down.

He served it to us hot in Pepperidge Farm patty shells which he baked and then added the shrimp etc., baked, then put them on our plates, added the sauce and served. They were served with fresh asparagus. It was the kind of meal when I wanted to lick the plate but didn't of course since they really don't know me that well! Mitch's last comment on the recipe was, "Don't be afraid to experiment!"

Until next time, have fun and eat well.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Guns in the parks

Monday, February 22, the nation celebrated George Washington's birthday. Much of the nation also celebrated, though a few lamented, the end of the 94-year-old ban on carrying loaded firearms in national parks and wildlife refuges. We think that Washington, the man who led an army of citizen soldiers in the fight for our independence, would approve.

The new law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, state and local laws to possess those firearms in National Park units in Alaska.

"We have consulted with the State of Alaska and federal officials

to ensure that we clearly understand the provisions of the laws that will now apply to visitors when they are in national parks in Alaska," said NPS Alaska Regional Director Sue Masica. "We encourage every visitor who may wish to bring firearms to the parks to do their research ahead of time and ensure that they are aware of and abide by the laws that apply. Our goal is to provide safe, enjoyable park visits for everyone, and to preserve these special places for people today and future generations."

In Alaska, the effects of the law will be seen primarily at Denali, Katmai, and Glacier Bay National Parks and in Klondike Gold Rush and Sit-

ka National Historical Parks. The possession of firearms had been illegal in some or all areas of those parks.

The new federal law has no effect on existing laws and regulations regarding the use of firearms in national parks. Sport and subsistence hunting provisions remain unchanged in national park units in Alaska.

Federal law also continues to prohibit firearms in certain facilities, such as park visitor centers; these facilities will be posted with appropriate notices at public entrances.

National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis said, "We will administer this law as we do all others — fairly. For nearly 100 years, the mission of the National Park Service has been to protect and preserve the parks and to help all visitors enjoy them. The parks belong to all Americans, and our commitment to the American people is to ensure the safety of our visitors and the special places that have been entrusted to our care."

Predictably, major media such as the Washington Post lead off their stories on the subject with dire warnings that the new rules could ruin the parks.

"The move concerns current and former employees of the National Park Service who are convinced that the move will damage the spirit of the nation's park system," said Post staff writer Ed O'Keefe in his lead paragraph.

Bill Wade, president of the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees, is not happy with the new law.

"Visitors are going to go to national parks with an increased amount of suspicions and weariness and concern," Wade said. Worse, he said, the new law will erase the park system's reputation as a place of solitude and safety.

"People go to national parks to get away from things that they face in their everyday living, where they live and work. Now I think that social dynamic is really going to change," Wade said.

Interestingly, just a few years ago Wade and his friends didn't think the park's reputation as a place of solitude and safety was doing so well. *The Christian Science Monitor* ran a story in 2005 titled *Crime rates tick up across national parks*.

"National parks are meant to be laid-back places where the stress and strain of work and home are left behind for a more mellow experience," said the article.

"But increasingly, those rangers in their Smokey Bear hats who give talks on nature and lead campfire singalongs—especially the ones

trained in law enforcement—are facing crime and violence."

The article went on to quote the group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility who claimed that "National Park Service officers are 12 times more likely to be killed or injured as a result of an assault than FBI agents."

According to statistics, violent crime is down across the system's parks, as it is in much of the nation. National parks hosted about 275 million visitors in 2008. There were 3,760 reported major crimes, including five homicides and 37 rapes.

Not much will change here in Wrangell-St. Elias, as the park was created under ANILCA and was exempt from the gun ban of other parks.

"It isn't a big deal for us, since we have allowed guns to be transported in the park from day one," said Superintendent Meg Jenson. "The only change the public will see is that we will be posting our visitor center in Kennecott and other buildings which have staff working or living in them."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Rick & Bonnie,

As subscribers to the hard copy can we access the full on-line version as well?

Hope you both are well and surviving the winter cold. The weather here in Mokelumne Hill has been mild for the last few days—up to 60 degrees in the middle of the day.

Paula and I took a trip to Germany and Switzerland this past fall. It was a once-in-a-lifetime trip for Paula to visit the towns of her ancestors. She was able to do some genealogical research at archives while we were there. We aren't getting any younger and so many things can happen that prevent you from traveling long distances as you age.

Enjoyed the reprint of the Aero Service Corporation's article in the last issue. It has been a long time since 1950; hard to believe that I was that adventurous right out of college. The memories are still fresh and my photos always bring back old memories of Chitina and the Copper River as well as of McCarthy and Kennecott. O.A. used to write little notes on the envelopes of my letters to and from my then girlfriend in San Diego. How many postmasters write comments on envelopes?

I happened to have 4 tokens from the Golden Hotel that I sent on to Howard and Chris for the museum. I figured the folks visiting McCarthy would enjoy seeing them.

They are probably in the Museum by now.

I didn't intend for this to be a letter; I just wanted to access the on-line version of WSEN.

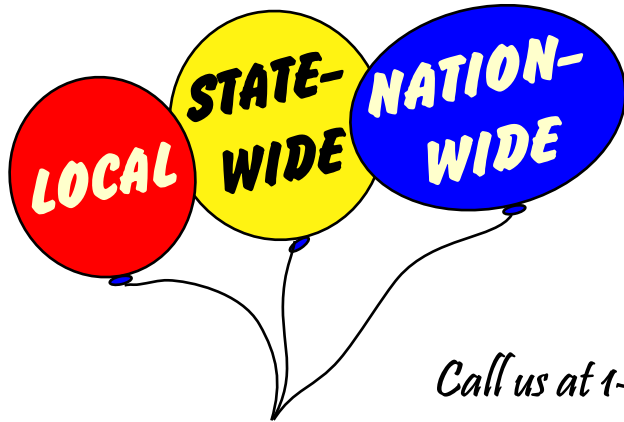
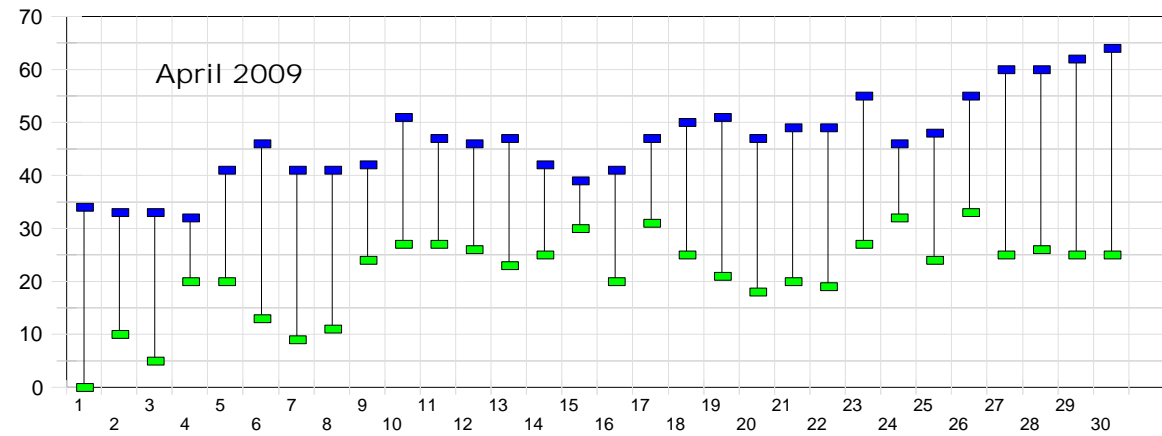
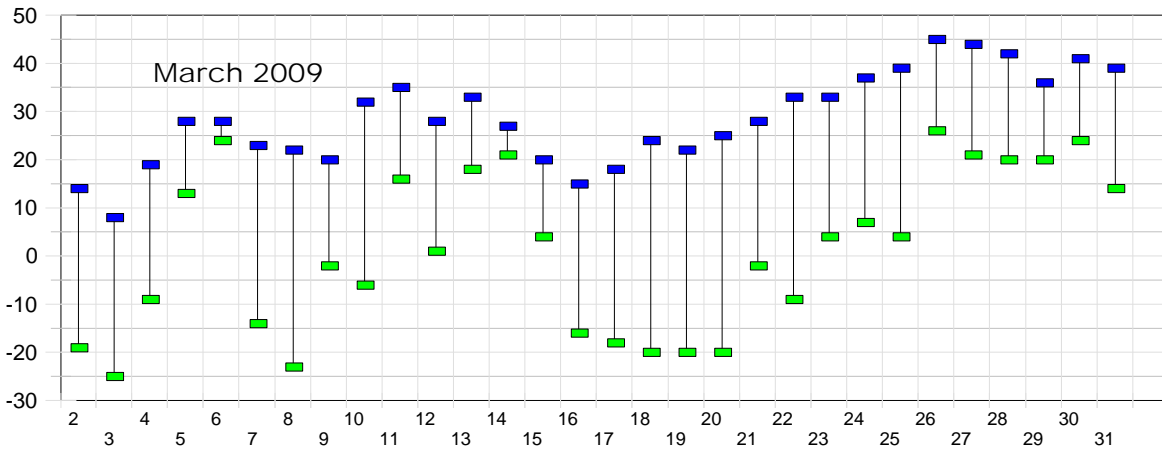
Charles R. "Bob" Leitzell, P.E.
Mokelumne Hill, CA

Dear Rick & Bonnie,

Enclosed find my check for 2 more years of your terrific newsletter/newspaper/magazine.

I was glad to see George [our weather columnist] and Sophie when he came down to visit [brother] Ted in December. I'll keep tabs on McCarthy through him,

Love and best regards,
Bob & Doris Habermehl



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