

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

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Outrage building against DOI 'wild lands' order

BY RICK KENYON

Alaskans are responding to what some are calling "the biggest land grab since ANILCA."

On December 22, 2010, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar published Order Number 3310, Protecting Wilderness Characteristics on Lands Managed by the Bureau of Land Management. This order creates an entirely new type of wilderness designation known as "wild lands." The order directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to reanalyze millions of acres of public lands to determine if they contain Wilderness characteristics. Upon determination, Order No. 3310 would require such lands to be classified as "Wild Lands" which would cause BLM to manage these areas as de facto wilderness.

We were alerted to the existence of this document by Susan Smith, Chairperson of Residents of the Wrangells (ROW). Susan also serves on the Citizen's Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA).

Alaska's Rep. Don Young says he is disappointed with the administration's Wild Lands policy.

The House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing March 1st on Secretarial Order No. 3310. The hearing was held to specifically examine "The Impact of the Administration's Wild Lands Order on Jobs and Economic Growth."

"First and foremost, Secretarial Order No. 3310 is illegal. Secretary Salazar's order not only circumvents Congress' authority in designating Wilderness areas, but it disregards the healthy balance between resource development and Wilderness characteristics outlined in the Alaska National Interest Lands Claim Act (ANILCA)." —AK Rep. Don Young

"Once again, the Obama Administration is putting the interests of environmentalists above all others," said Rep. Young. "First and foremost, Secretarial Order No. 3310 is illegal. Secretary Salazar's order not only circumvents Congress' authority in designating Wilderness areas, but it disregards the healthy balance between resource development and Wilderness characteristics outlined in the

Alaska National Interest Lands Claim Act (ANILCA).

"At a time when our country is recovering from a recession and facing extraordinary turmoil in the Mideast, we should be creating jobs and working to develop our own resources, rather than placing land off-limits, which is precisely what Secretary Salazar's Order aims to do. In the long run, all this order will do is

make us more beholden to countries throughout the world who are developing their resources!"

Under the Wilderness Act of 1964, only Congress has the authority to designate lands as Wilderness areas.

"This is a prime example of why Congress must exercise vigorous oversight of the Obama Administration," said Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings. "The Wild Lands

(Continued on page 13)

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

What a beautiful day in the Wrangells! It's February 28th and definitely still winter in McCarthy. We woke to a chilly -21 degrees F. and, as I look out the office window, the meadow our cabin sits in is piled high with 28 inches of snow. Thankfully, I remember what it looks like in summer—green! Winter is a special season of the year, in my opinion, but I appreciate spring when it arrives.

Our gardening calendar is completed now and states that tomorrow Rick and I need to plant tomatoes for the greenhouse. Needless to say, they require extra attention until it is warm enough to place them permanently in their summer quarters. Last year we started up the greenhouse on April 19th, lit the propane heater and moved the plants out of the cabin's south window to much brighter quarters. The tomatoes and other transplants for the garden seem to perk up immediately in their new surroundings. I think I better change the subject before I get distracted from "a note" to digging out a trail to the greenhouse!

This issue of *WSEN* is a special one to me personally. Our son, Rick Jr., is weighing in with his memories growing up in Alaska. He is beginning his series (Page 10) with our move and the onset of our long drive north. Thanks, Rick, (or Ricky as some folks still call him!) for taking the time to pull up those long-ago memories and putting them



WSEN staff photo

This scanned-in Polaroid picture is somewhat damaged, but it shows Rick, Jr., 9 years old, busy helping his dad give the Suburban a much-needed bath. The date is June 7, 1976. We are pulled over at a camping spot at Mile 295 of the Alcan Highway. Six days prior to this we were snowed in at Charley Lake, Alberta. Mud, snow, more mud...We thought June was supposed to be summer!

on paper for our *WSEN* readers.

Someone who does remember Rick Jr. as Ricky is Dee Frady and her husband, Terry. They moved to the McCarthy area while Rick was still living at home. Our many thanks, once again, to Dee for giving us permission to reprint her series of articles titled, "*the Languid Lady*." You will find Part 1 featuring "Conifers" on page 6.

Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Edward and Janice Todd, AK; Jessica Speed, AK; Bill Ramsey, NC; Eric and Patty Yould, AK.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Jim and Jeannie Miller: The Millers have called McCarthy and, then eventually, Kennicott home for approximately 30 years. I'm sure they could give quite a discourse on how our community has grown over time; however, when it comes to winter population, the numbers seem to be down. More folks are traveling outside for work or play.

Jeannie said she and Jim are "hunkering in and enjoying the quiet." Kennicott's population is presently four people. They don't mind the slower pace that comes with winter. Jeannie is catching up on her sewing projects which includes quilting and cross-stitch blankets and pillow covers for family and friends. Hauling firewood is Jim's priority which Jeannie gives him a hand at. Our biweekly mail days bring Jim down the hill 2 ½ - 3 miles to collect their incoming mail and deposit their outgoing. It's also time to catch up on the neighborhood news.

When I called the Miller's house yesterday, we compared notes on the total snowfall for the day. Jeannie estimated well over a foot of fresh snow while we had 6 inches in the valley below. Wood detail was on hold until Jim could redo their snowmachine trails to the wood lot. Neither one minds the down time. Their summers are more than full with Jim working for the park ser-

vice and Jeannie donning her chef's outfit and carrying out her assignment to provide visitors and locals plenty of good food at Kennicott Glacier Lodge.

Even though Jeannie is surrounded by a blanket of snow, she is perusing her seed catalogs and planning their summer garden. I commented that Rick and I were doing the same thing. Our favorite catalogs are arriving in the mail now and creating a warm feeling. As I place one in a neighbor's mailbox (or my own), I can almost see the green grass in our meadow and the warm dirt in the garden, just waiting for attention!

Trig Trigiano and Mr. Kitty: As I was typing the Millers' *Item*, the phone rang and it was Trig. We compared weather-related notes: temperature, fresh snow fall, barometer and the future forecast. Another round of -40F. degree temperatures are said to be on the way to the McCarthy area. Here we go again! At the time of his call (Feb. 12th), Trig was at 12 degrees and I showed 10. He is at a higher elevation than us and has been running 8-10 degrees warmer. Today we are evening things out!

Due to all the fresh snow the last couple of days, Trig is staying busy with his shovel. His handy-dandy axe stays active, too, splitting firewood for the hungry wood stove. He isn't complaining, however, but

actually enjoying the outdoor activities.

Once darkness takes over in the late afternoon hours, he pulls out his favorite reading material or pops in an old classic movie. He continues to upgrade his house for winter comfort. Recently he installed a few corner fans in his doorways to better distribute the heat throughout the house.

Of course, mail days are a highlight of his week and he helps unload the mail plane as well as picks up incoming mail for several neighbors.

Trig's first official winter residency is going very well. "Mr. Kitty" has his moments, however, but Trig has found a way to keep him occupied when boredom sets in. Feeding a long-standing gray jay family gives Mr. Kitty hours of enjoyment. He has a front row seat in the window and finds great pleasure in spite of the fact he cannot make contact with his playmates.

LONG LAKE FISHING DERBY: The annual Long Lake Fishing Derby is scheduled for **March 12th**. Jim Kreblin, host of this early-spring activity, says the starting time is 10 a.m. Make sure your hooks are sharp!

Jim Kreblin: Speaking of Jim...all is well at his place on the lake. When I called, he was getting ready to embark on his wood detail.

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Although he had already made a good snowmachine trail down the lake to his wood lot, a recent wind/snowstorm had blown in his trail. Time to start all over again, he said. With at least 3 feet of snow on the ground, making a trail to an eligible tree has its own sort of challenges. Sounds like a lot of exercise before Jim even gets to where he is going!

Jim says he is catching up on his winter reading and has one more book in his collection for this year's must-read. He also reminded me that since February 15th, we are gaining 6 minutes of extra light per day. That is always good news!

Thanks, Jim, for keeping us updated on any McCarthy Road activity you see from your cabin at Long Lake. Seeing or hearing DOT's progress on keeping the road open is always a welcome bit of news!

See you on the 12th of March, Jim! I'm eager to try out my new ice-fishing rod.

Dan Elofsen: Rick and I just got off the phone with our not-so-nearby neighbor, Dan. Now he is *really* over the river and through the woods. Most of the folks on the south side of McCarthy Creek are out and about somewhere, so things are really quiet in his neighborhood. I asked him what he was up to these days: "No one is here to pick on so I'm picking on my banjo!"

My next question was how his wood pile was holding up. He was quick to inform me he had a 3 year supply on hand. It sounds like Dan has plenty of time to keep his banjo busy making music. As Dan said before we said our goodbyes, "Life is good!" And, I agree.

Jeremy, Alison, Bjorn and Liam Keller: Further down the Nizina Road from Dan, the Keller family is also enjoying the quiet and peacefulness of winter. They, like Dan, don't mind it, either.

When Alison returned my phone call, she informed me they received another 13 inches of snow in the

most recent snow storm. A full day of wind kicked up the snow in areas leaving Bjorn three-foot snowdrifts to play in. Baby Liam, 5 months, is too young to enjoy most of Bjorn's outdoor activities. One of Bjorn's present chores is bottle feeding "Edmund," the Kellers' 2-week old billy goat which he and his dad brought in from town on their last trip for supplies.

The Keller "farm" is growing and keeps the family busy year round. Alison said Jeremy's project for the day was harvesting a hog for their freezer. It's a several day job but well worth the work involved and makes for plenty of good eating in the days ahead. Their geese are due to begin laying eggs in late February. Ducks, goats, pigs and 8 sled dogs add to the ever-increasing farm action and entertainment.

The completion of their cabin building project is still in process this winter, so, in the meantime, they are making good use of the guest cabin and staying plenty warm during the cold snaps. Firewood gathering and keeping machinery running fills in the gaps leaving no room for boredom for the Kellers!

They are expecting family visits this upcoming summer and fall. Jeremy's parents, Jack and Jan Keller of Pullman, Wa., make regular visits to the area and are due in the fall. A cousin and a nephew may come for an extended stay, too.

It sounds like a lot of action takes place at the Kellers' home even during the quiet winter months!

Mark Wacht: Mark is back from a three-month vacation and says he is glad to be home. The bulk of his travels were spent in Mexico where he was pleased to get some much-needed dental work completed. Once back in the states he visited family and friends.

He's been home for about 3 weeks, finished up his tax return and is now planning a quick trip to Anchorage to purchase supplies for

doing a few upgrade projects on his house. Putting tile down on his kitchen floor is high on the to-do list, he says, and he's glad to report that Jim Miller is going to give him a hand.

He expects to purchase corrugated greenhouse plastic and enclose his second floor porch. Wanting to cut down on his generator use, he plans on installing low wattage lights, as well.

Sounds like a lot of upgrades, Mark, but winter is a great time to catch up. Summer is not that far away and your job will take up your excess time for such things.

Welcome home!

Neil Darish: Neil is pleased to have a walking companion on his daily winter treks around McCarthy. Dynamite, known as the "happy sled dog in happy retirement," has left the Keller farm and moved in with Neil. Dynamite is a "she," and even though she is most likely unaware of her popularity these days, folks can see her in an 11 second film on Neil's Facebook page. Neil introduces the video with: "My new-old-dog wants to take you for a walk in the snow. Dynamite is from the Keller compound; she's 11 years old. Snow is a sled dog's fountain-of-youth." Clicking on Dynamite's picture enables you to pretend to go on a walk with her in downtown McCarthy. Thanks, Neil, for sharing your new-found friend.

It is certainly quiet in downtown McCarthy these days. Neil agrees; however, I have news that he is up to something good. I came across McCarthy Lodge's new Facebook page "in the making." If you are a Facebook user and you like the McCarthy Lodge ventures, why not check it out and click on Like.

Another item I discovered is their new web site which has an entirely fresh look. You will want to see it. If you only have time to make a reservation, that should be short and sweet. However, if you have awhile to "travel" in the Galleries

section, you will find great photos of the area, present day and back in time to the early days of McCarthy's history. There is a lot of information about the McCarthy area, too.

When Neil called yesterday, I admitted I had been snooping into his business. He didn't mind, he said, and glad I had a good time.

Jim and Audrey Edwards: As I begin typing this item, I see a flurry of blowing snow out my office window. No, it's not a snowstorm, but Rick using our snowblower to make a trail to one of our guest cabins. That brings me to mention that Jim has been up to the same sort of activity at Swift Creek. It's not Plan A to have all your snowblowers inoperative, but Jim found that to be true earlier in the season. Thankfully, he is up and "blowing" again with his repaired snowblower. Reopening his trails and driveway after a foot of new snow were priorities. He is finding time to feed the flock of hungry chickadees that keep an eye out for him to surface near their feeder. The gray jays and grosbeaks fight for attention, too, but Jim seems to have a soft spot in his heart for the chickadees.

Audrey says she ordered her garden seeds and is planning some changes for her garden plot this season. It's challenging to think of what to plant and where when we have 29 inches of snow on the ground! Obviously, Audrey is looking forward to spring and gardening.

The Edwards' had a visitor recently—a red fox. Audrey and I suspect it's the same visitor Rick and I had the other day. The red fur stands out in the white landscape and even though they don't hang around long, you are able to quickly identify the critter.

Audrey, who made a recent trip to Anchorage and back, said how grateful she was to have the road reports from Carole Morrison. I also add my "thanks" to Carole and Daniel for keeping us informed on the

ever-changing road glaciers and road conditions from their perspective. We appreciate you, Carole and Daniel!

Chris Chester: Chris and his dog, Cinda, are sticking close to home this winter. Although it is a cold winter in McCarthy, Chris says he is staying busy collecting windfall wood to help fill the new woodshed he built and warm his 12'x12' cabin.

Cinda is enjoying the company of Kyle Myers' two dogs, Avery and Rosco. Chris related a heartwarming story about Rosco. Dog Rosco has a few health problems which causes occasional seizures, leaving him disoriented. Recently, during a cold spell of -30 degrees, Rosco disappeared for a week. On top of the extreme cold temperatures, our area received about a foot of fresh snow. Although Rosco is well-known for being a survivor, hunting on his own and able to take care of himself, Chris was very concerned for him this time around. Could Rosco survive another seizure, disorientation, prolonged cold temperatures and deep snow—all added on top of each other?

Chris searched the neighborhood, but to no avail. While visiting his neighbor, Larry, the phone rang and it was Laurie Rowland calling to see if Larry might know if the dog that had showed up on her doorstep was Rosco, Kyle's dog. Chris was ecstatic! Rosco had survived "another" harrowing experience. After being fed well at the Rowlands' house, Rosco was back on his feet. Chris retrieved his boarder and the three dogs were, once again, reunited. "A team effort," says Chris, who was thankful to the Rowlands for taking in Rosco. "Rosco is an amazingly talented dog who wants to live"—in spite of the unfavorable elements arrayed against him. Rosco, you are truly a survivor!

Howard and Chris Haley: Chris is still in Valdez working, but since our last issue, she traveled to Fairbanks, successfully passed a 2-week

class and upgraded her Commercial Drivers' License. Congratulations, Chris! I'm enjoying our new Facebook "friendship" so thanks for keeping me informed.

Howard is keeping their house warm, refilling the wood shed, and running the trap line. He's catching up on winter projects and preparing to return to Glennallen mid-March to continue his job with the park service.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT: Paul Hanis and Jenny Rosenbaum made public the following announcement on Facebook and I thought I would share it here with their permission. Although I had printed the information last issue, I made a couple of typing errors. Therefore, this is a correction as well as another reminder to the many friends of Paul and Jenny who desire to celebrate with them on this wonderful occasion! Please stay tuned for any further updates.

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

Condolences: Our thoughts and prayers are with our summer McCarthy neighbors and subscribers, Jim and Peggy Guntis, Sally and Scott Wallin and John and Barbara Rice over the loss of Sally and Scott's son, Joey, (Jim and Peggy's grandson) of Tucson, AZ. and John's brother David, of Florida.

the Languid Lady

Trees and Shurbs of the Wrangells—Part 1: " Conifers"

BY DEE FRADY

Winter has now made the turn and already the lengthening daylight is obvious and welcome. Cold weather, however, has had the whole state in a relentless grip. Even so, it is a beautiful time and it won't be long before spring will arrive. Indeed it is even time to start thinking about planting those early seeds such as celery. Anyway, to my way of thinking, spring in Alaska is a season with plenty of snow left on the ground providing easy access to the woods. It means bright and sunny longer daylight hours with deep blue skies and mild temperatures in the 20 or 30 degree range. That is a far cry from daffodils and crocus but could be most Alaskans' mentality.

Continuing with the subject of conifers, I'll continue the evergreen shrubs and trees that grow here and on our coastal areas.

COMMON JUNIPER

(*Juniperus communis*) Cypress Family

A shrub frequently seen in our area is the common or mountain juniper, a low, prostrate, spreading evergreen. The juniper grows to 2 feet high forming 10 foot sprawling mats. The shrub produces whorled awl-shaped needle-like leaves in groups of three that are



Common Juniper (Spreading with needle-like leaves)

extremely sharp. The bark is a dark reddish brown to gray, rough and scaly. The small cones, at first glance resembling blueberries, "juniper berries", are round and dark blue. These hard, mealy, berry-like cones mature in 2 or 3 years. The seed containing cones are green the first year ripening to black in the 2nd or 3rd year. The juniper favors dry places such as sunny slopes with stony mountain soil in subalpine locations. This species is the most widely distributed conifer in the world and the most widespread tree species in the north temperate zone.

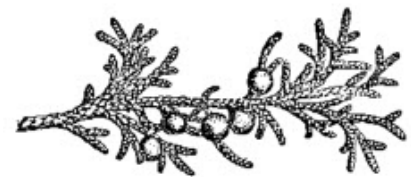
The cones are edible and used in meat dishes as a seasoning. The fruit, whose flavor and aroma are familiar to anyone who has ever tasted or smelled gin, will recognize the flavor used in gin. Birds and mammals eat the fruit of this

shrub. The major use of juniper by herbalists has been for its stimulant effect on the urinary tract as a diuretic. Juniper oil is one of the ingredients in many patent remedies and widely used historically in various concoctions for colds, skin diseases and other treatments. Needles burned on top of a hot stove work as an incense. An ingredient in 16th century blends to fumigate rooms; in fact, this evergreen does give off a disinfectant gas that destroys infectious fungi. Hospitals burned juniper in the rooms during epidemics.

CREEPING JUNIPER

(*Juniperus horizontalis*) Cypress Family

A prostrate or trailing evergreen shrub with long horizontal stems often rooting and short erect twigs. Unlike common juniper these leaves appear very different. They are mostly scale-like, blunt, blue-green in color, spreading and more closely resemble cedar leaves. Sharply pointed leaves sometimes do occur on very young plants. The berry-like cones are light blue. They prefer rocky and sandy habitats such as along the



Creeping Juniper (Trailing with scalelike leaves)

Copper and Chitina Rivers. Junipers used as an ornamental ground cover, are difficult to transplant as the roots reach out a long way and it is hard to get enough.

BLACK SPRUCE (*Picea mariana*) Pine Family

Another one of our common area conifers, considered to be the strongest tree per square inch in North America, is the black spruce. That fact seems contradictory to the scraggly appearance of this evergreen that is often plagued by deformity. These trees occupy a niche that's relatively free of competition.

Sphagnum mosses, sedges and grasses make up vegetation in black spruce stands. These spruce, usually found in a different habitat of cold wet flats, muskegs, lake margins and north facing slopes, favor acid soil. These resinous evergreen averages 15 to 30 feet in height with trunk diameters to 6 inches that seldom exceed 8 inches. The needles, ¼ to ⅝ inch long, are blue-green with whitish lines and grow on all sides of the twig. Distinguishing black spruce from white spruce are shorter and blunter needles. The twigs are hairy, rusty colored and are also tougher to break. The branches are shorter and sparse. The bark consists of gray scales that are brown underneath. The inner bark is yellowish. They have very fine, almost microscopic, growth rings that show just how slow they can grow. A two inch diameter tree can be a hundred years old!

The gray to black cones are round or egg-shaped and ⅝ to 1¼ inch long and curve downward on short stalks. They contain brown ½ inch large winged seeds. Mature cones may remain closed, in clusters near tree tops, for years. Black spruce comes in abundantly

after a fire because the cones then open and spread seed. Fire killed stands can remain for decades and provide good firewood.

Clusters of black spruce are common because the roots radiate out from the parent tree and produce a ring of small trees. This tree is a prime example of northern trees adapting to their environment and can tolerate permafrost (permanently frozen soil) better than other species. The trees are unable to sink their roots very deep so instead make an extensive network barely below the surface of the soil. Certainly reflected in the size and appearance of the black spruce is the lack of abundant nutrients available!

Black spruce can hybridize with white spruce. These trees do not make good logs for cabins. They twist as they dry producing spiral checks. We have a couple of examples of these in our house. The crosses do better and can be much larger in size. In spite of the white cross these logs, when dry, twist to spiral checks causing a different appearance as well as problems with fit.

SITKA SPRUCE (*Picea sitchensis*) Pine Family

The next few trees mentioned comprise part of our coastal spruce-hemlock forests. The Sitka spruce is our official state tree and lives to be 500 to 750 years or more old. These evergreens average 100 to 160 feet in height with 3 to 5 foot diameter trunks and, on occasion, grow considerably larger. They grow in coastal forests starting at sea level to about 1,500 feet in elevation. Recorded high above ice fields, examples of dwarfed spruce grow. The needles appear slightly flattened, dark green, ⅝ to 1 inch long and stand out on all sides of the twigs. These

needles are stiff and sharp. The branches droop down more than other species. The smooth bark is gray that becomes dark brown with scaly plates on older growth.

Cylindrical hanging cones with fluted edges are 2 ½ to 3 ½ inches long. The cones are prolific seed manufacturers and produce ½ inch long winged seeds. Sitka spruce can propagate by layering, as well as by seeds. Branches that touch the ground become covered up and develop roots and a new stem. Interestingly, sprouts from stumps occur. Sitka spruce can also hybridize with white spruce. Another fact is that this is the only conifer growing on Kodiak or Afognak islands.

Closely spaced, the Sitka spruce growth rings produce a strong, fine-grained wood. These long fibers have resulted in extensive manufacture use in newsprint. During the first and second World Wars this spruce became important in aircraft construction. The wood now primarily consists of piano and guitar sounding boards, gliders, boats and construction. Many years of logged Sitka spruce occur from Alaska's coastal forests. The bark and twigs of this tree also produce tan to brown dyes.

WESTERN HEMLOCK (*Tsuga heterophylla*) Pine Family

The coastal forests composed primarily of Sitka spruce and western hemlock has a scattering of mountain hemlock and Alaska cedar. Western hemlock is a large evergreen averaging 100 to 150 feet tall with a diameter of 2 to 5 feet. The trunk often becomes fluted when large. Amazingly, some of these trees grow to be 1,000 years old or even older.

The shiny, flattened, dark green and soft needles attach by

slender stalks to the twigs. The twigs have fine hairs and rough bases where old needles fell off. The very top twig of a hemlock (leader) appears curved down and droopy. The rough scaly bark is reddish or gray-brown and the inner bark is red (not found in spruce). The non-resinous outer bark contains tannin. The cones grow to 1 inch long and hang down from the ends of the branches. This tree tolerates shade well and thus has the ability to slowly grow under dense canopies in coastal forests.

To avoid confusion, this hemlock has no relation to the poison hemlock. Poisonous hemlock is a member of the parsley family. The western hemlock infused as a tea with wide historical uses for colds, flu, fevers and prevention of scurvy. Other uses found include a preservative, red-brown dye and for tanning. Distilled hemlock oil is an ingredient in veterinary liniments. Alaskan Indians made a coarse bread from the inner bark. The species honors the German naturalist, Karl Heinrich Mertens (1796-1830), who discovered the conifer near Sitka, Alaska in 1827.

MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK (*Tsuga mertensiana*) Pine Family

Closely related to western hemlock, but a much smaller tree, mountain hemlock grows 50 to 100 feet tall with 2 to 3 foot diameter trunks. They also grow above timberline, where they grow stunted to dwarf *krummholz* (low-lying shrubs). The short stalked, blunt (flattened on top, angled below) needles are blue-green and grow on short, slender twigs. The bark is thick, gray to dark brown and deeply furrowed into scaly plates. The heartwood is red-brown with lighter colored sapwood. The wood is slightly more dense than the western variety. The stalkless cones hang down, are purple in color when fresh, then turn brown producing seeds with long wings. In the past, railroad ties were made from the lumber. The tree transplanted and pruned, makes a nice bush shape.

ALASKA CYPRESS
(*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*)
Cypress Family

A slow growing cedar that attains heights of 40 to 80 feet and diameters of 2 feet or less. A 15 to 20 inch trunk can be 200 to 300

years old. Some very notable specimens recorded are 120 feet with 8 foot diameters! The leaves are scale-like, a dull yellow-green color and 1/8 inch with spreading tips. The sprays appear flat and become drooping branches. This cedar has gray or brown bark, not at all smooth composing shreds and fissures. The heartwood is a bright yellow. Near the tips of the limbs the sprays scattered with 1/2 inch or less round cones grow. The cones are two years old before the seeds ripen. The tree is very distinctive for its wonderful aromatic essence. Japan prizes cedar as a very durable wood. A traditional use was native canoe paddles.

All this talk of trees reminds us it's time to hit the wood lot. We enjoy every aspect of harvesting trees for logs to build with or firewood for fuel. March (our spring) is our favorite month for this detail and so will occupy much of our time for the next few weeks.

Next issue, as the time of new growth and green leaves approach, I'll cover our most commonly seen deciduous trees.

Guns on the homestead—handloading

BY RICK KENYON

One of the goals of bush living is self-sufficiency. A great deal of satisfaction comes from being able to harvest one's heating fuel, vegetables and game. For us, a full woodshed, root cellar and freezer is "money in the bank."

When it comes to guns on the homestead, handloading is the road to self-sufficiency. Given the sky-rocketing cost of factory ammunition, this is more

true today than any time in the past. In order to become and remain proficient with firearms, it is necessary to shoot those firearms. At today's prices this can quickly become a problem for any but the idle rich. Significant savings can be realized by "rolling your own."

Remember our forefathers were all handloaders. Powder, ball, patch and some sort of ignition (flash-pan or later percussion caps) were tailored to the

gun and the game. Powder could be saved by shooting reduced loads for practice. Loads could be tailored to obtain the best accuracy for head shooting grouse, or the power level boosted to take on large, dangerous game.

The same is true today. Not only can you save significant amounts of cash by loading your own ammunition, that same customization or tailoring can be

very beneficial now, just as it was a hundred and fifty years ago.

“Yes, but it costs hundreds of dollars for the equipment needed to get started,” you might say.

While it is certainly possible to spend hundreds, if not thousands of dollars on handloading equipment (ask me how I know), you can actually get started for a very small outlay of cash.

Millions of rounds of quality ammunition have been loaded with what is called the Classic Lee Loader.

<http://www.leeprecision.com/html/catalog/cleeloader.html>

The Lee Loader includes everything you need to begin loading one caliber except for the actual components. At a retail of \$35.98 it is extremely affordable. (I see them offered for about \$26 at places like Midway USA.)

Add a box of primers, a can of powder, bullets and brass (hopefully brass that you have saved after shooting factory ammunition) and you are all set to enter the wonderful and rewarding world of handloading ammunition.

The fact that the brass cartridge case can be loaded many times is one of the secrets to the cost-saving benefits of handloading. I have many cases that have been loaded 20 or more times and are still serviceable.

You will also need a reliable source of data for your reloads. I have a number of loading manuals written by bullet or component manufacturers. Some are distributed free by the powder companies. There is also an on-line source called loaddata.com that is continually updating and

about \$0.31 if you already have the brass cartridge case. That works out to just over \$15 per box of 50. Hmm, the savings just about pays for a Lee Loader by loading just one box of ammunition!

If you are shooting a high power rifle, especially the mag-

num rounds, the savings are even more significant. And believe me, the little Lee Loader can deliver ammunition just as accurate as a much more expensive system.

Of course, you don't actually spend less money because you end up shooting more, but that is what we are after, are we not? Practice may not make perfect, but it helps.

And, you may find you enjoy the loading process so much that you will

want to move to a single or multi-stage press.

And, if you really want to save some serious money, or shoot serious amounts of ammunition at a very low cost, consider casting your own bullets from lead wheel weights. They are still available for free or a very low cost at tire repair facilities, though they are getting more scarce than they were a few years ago. Using this method I have been loading very nice .45 Colt ammunition for less than 10 cents per round, or \$5 for a box of 50. But that is a subject for a



adding new data and is available for a reasonable annual fee.

How much money can I save? Plenty. Let's look at the cost of a box of handgun ammunition. I am going to use the .45 Colt just because it is what I am most familiar with.

A box of 50 rounds of jacketed hollow point ammunition using premium bullets will run pretty close to \$50, or a dollar a round. Ouch!

Using the Lee Loader, you can load those same premium bullets to the same velocity for

Alaska-grown—a tale of growing up in the Bush

BY RICK KENYON JR.

Throughout the years, the question of “Where did you come from?” occasionally comes up in the conversation. I usually hesitate, inwardly deciding whether there is enough time to get into this subject. If there is enough time, I go into more detail. If not, then it’s a very brief, short version; just the highlights. Eyebrows usually rise, however, when I mention growing up in Alaska.

My birthplace was Daytona Beach, Florida. While just a “tot,” we moved to Sarasota on the west coast of the Sunshine State. There are vague memories of the block house on Constitution Blvd. that I called “home.” I do remember the orange tree in the backyard (I thought the oranges made excellent “grenades”), and swimming in the neighbor’s pool. But it was a special day when Dad came home with a 29’ travel trailer behind our green Chevy Suburban. That was the spring of 1976. Life was going to be much, much different; little did I know!

Camping was not the idea my Dad had when he bought that travel trailer. Moving to Alaska

was, (talk about one extreme to another)! But to an eight year-old, that was an adventure to get excited about. I wasn’t old enough to realize the many factors that led up to that point in time in our lives. I certainly didn’t worry about Dad selling his gun shop, Mom selling her book store, or the selling of our



house before we could move. Kids don’t focus on that stuff—leave that up to the adults!

Finally the day came, and loaded to the “gills,” we pulled out of the driveway. We drove to Daytona Beach to say good bye to family before heading north. (Little did I realize that 5,500 miles was going to be a long journey!) Our journey north took us through Michigan, where we stayed a short while; visiting with

family and loved ones in the Holly and Mt. Morris area.

After saying more goodbyes, we left Michigan and headed toward Canada. As we drove through Wisconsin, I recall miles and miles of sunflowers growing along each side of the highway. Then there was a farmer’s stand

where we tasted samples of delicious cheese! When we got up into Canada, there were fields of golden wheat that stretched for miles in all directions. (While I don’t recall many prices in those days, it seems that gas cost nearly 50 cents a litre in Canada).

Many of the details on the trip through Canada are not clear, but one place stood out. That was the place where hundreds of “signs” were placed on poles from all over the world. Travelers from all over left their street sign or the name of their home town for the rest to see. In those days, the condition of the Alcan Highway wasn’t the greatest. It was two-lane and half-gravel, half-paved. Travel over the mountains with an overweight SUV and trailer was slow, at best.

(To be continued next edition!)

“No one is a firmer believer in the power of prayer than the devil; not that he practices it, but he suffers from it.” —Guy H. King

“The value of consistent prayer is not that He will hear us, but that we will hear Him.” —William McGill



Winter Biking- A Possibly Crazy Alaska Tradition

BY CRAIG MCCAIA

Early on Sunday, Mar. 27, about 65 intrepid souls will cross the starting line of the second White Mountains 100, a 100-mile human-powered endurance race that loops over the ridges and through the valleys of the one-million-acre White Mountains National Recreation Area north of Fairbanks. The BLM issues a permit for this race event.

Roughly a third of the racers – those not skiing or running – will be on bicycles. Bikes are a conveyance not often associated with winter transportation in Alaska, but for more than 100 years, bicycles have held a steady, though unheralded, role in how Alaskans move across snow and ice.

The White Mountain 100 race's co-founder, Ed Plumb, said that when he and Ann Farris decided to establish a new human-powered endurance race in the Interior, it seemed natural to include bicyclists. "We just wanted to include as many people as possible," Plumb explains.

That doesn't mean that Plumb, an avid skier and veteran of many frigid backcountry ski trips, necessarily sees the attraction of winter biking himself. "It seems like it would be really cold sitting on a bike," he says with a laugh.



Photo courtesy the author

Today's winter bicyclists benefit from specialized gear, including bicycle frames that fit oversized tires for riding through deep or soft snow.

Endurance racers who participate in Plumb and Farris' race – or in similar Alaska races like the Iditarod Trail Invitational, the Susitna 100, and the Sheep Mountain 150 – represent the hard-core fringe of a winter biking scene that today largely focuses on recreation and fitness.

What most people don't know is that the bicycle's roots in Alaska date back at least as far as the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897. That year brought thousands of gold seekers to Alaska soon after a bicycling craze hit the nation. Some of those newcomers saw packed winter trails left by dogs, horses, and foot traffic, and thought, "Why couldn't we ride bicycles on those trails?"

Soon "wheels," as many people called bicycles at the time, and their riders, were riding the trails across Alaska and the Yukon.

In *Wheels on Ice: Bicycling in Alaska, 1898-1908*, historian Terrence Cole noted the advantages of bicycles in those days. Long before the invention of snowmachines, bicycles were

relatively inexpensive, sturdy, and easy to repair. And, at the end of a long and tiring day of travel, there were no sled dogs or horses to feed and care for.

What the h--- are you going to do with the wheel, he asked. Going to Nome, I said. He called Harry Smith and John Nelson, proprietors of the hotel, and some other oldtimers. He said this brother of mine is going to try to go to Nome on a bicycle. He's crazy, they all said. We will have to put him on the wood-pile until he comes out of it.

— Reaction of Edward R. Jesson's brother and friends when learning he intended to ride a bicycle from Dawson to Nome during the winter of 1900. From Terrence Cole's *Wheels on Ice: Bicycling in Alaska, 1898-1908*.

Under the right conditions, a bicycle was a fast way to cover ground during Alaska winters. Gold Rush-era bicycle riders often outpaced dog teams on the trail. In good weather, bicyclists could easily ride between the roadhouses on major winter trails in a day.

Today, with more advanced equipment, bicycling remains much faster than other human-powered options – at least on a well-packed trail. In last year's

White Mountains 100 endurance race, conditions favored the bikers, who grabbed the top six places before the first skier finished the course. The winner, Jeff Oatley of Fairbanks, powered his bike at an average pace of slightly over eight miles per hour over a 100-mile course, with nearly 8,000 feet of elevation gain.

Oatley says the speed and efficiency of winter biking – plus a lifelong love of riding bicycles – is a large part of what draws him to the sport.

"I ski a little bit, but pretty much only if I know the trail will be so soft that riding will not be possible," Oatley says. "That's pretty rare around here. I think the advancement of 'snow bikes' over the last 10 years or so has made it so that biking is the more efficient option most of the time in the Interior. If you're on a trail that has been put in by a snowmachine (and set up at all) a bike is a faster way to travel."

Klondike-era "wheels," considered technological marvels in their day, were a far cry from modern performance bikes, with their titanium frames, disc brakes, and hi-tech lubricants. Yet the frontier wheelmen, for whom the bicycle held pragmatic appeal as a useful means of win-

ter transportation, would find much in common with another group of winter bikers – those Alaskans who commute by bicycle year-round.

The appeals of winter bike commuting – whether it's the calories burned or the gasoline saved – have never captivated large numbers of the state's residents, but every sizeable community in Alaska probably has at least a few diehards who refuse to put their bikes away when the snow starts falling. In Fairbanks, bicyclists' blinking tail lights can be seen flashing through the ice fog even when it's 20 or 30 degrees F. below zero.

Whether they do it for commuting or recreation, those who choose to ride bicycles through Alaska winters must contend with frequent questions about their sanity. But a two-hour trail ride or a 30-minute commute at 10 below zero doesn't seem nearly as extreme when you consider what it must have been like to ride over a thousand miles from Dawson to Nome on a single-speed bike such as Edward Jesson – and at least three other men – did during the winter of 1900. Then again, everyone thought Jesson was crazy.

— Craig McCaa

Craig_McCaa@blm.gov

"For instance, the bicycle is the most efficient machine ever created: Converting calories into gas, a bicycle gets the equivalent of three thousand miles per gallon." —Bill Strickland, The

Quotable Cyclist

"The regular distribution of power into distinct departments; the introduction of legislative balances and checks; the institution of courts composed of judges holding their offices during good behavior; the representation of the people in the legislature by deputies of their own election... They are means, and powerful means, by which the excellences of republican government may be retained and its imperfections lessened or avoided."—Alexander Hamilton, Federalist No. 9, 1787

Outrage building against DOI 'wild lands' order

(Continued from the cover)

policy expressly circumvents Congress' statutory authority to establish Wilderness areas. Under this policy, the public's access to public lands can be limited or halted entirely – impacting our economy, jobs, recreation opportunities and American energy production. Millions of acres of multi-use land in the West are at risk of being locked-up if the Administration carries out this policy.”

“There are so many unanswered questions surrounding the creation of the new Wild Lands designation and this Administration's plans to redo many of the recently completed inventories of public lands,” said National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee Chairman Rob Bishop. “In Utah, for example, the BLM just completed an open, seven-year, twenty million dollar process to create resource management plans. Now, this Administration is saying they want to start over. There are thousands of Americans, especially out West, who question the wisdom of such an action and who will be affected by this unilateral secretarial order. We believe this new policy raises a number of troubling questions and that this hearing will be instrumental in bringing greater clarity to the situation.”

Alaska's Governor Sean Parnell was one of the first to react to Salazar's order. His letter dated January 26 sets forth the State's concerns.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I have grave concerns about Secretarial Order 3310 and asso-

ciated policies, which appear to allow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to create de facto wilderness in a state without Congressional oversight. My concerns center on how the Order imposes a new “Wild Lands” designation for BLM to administer, and on the Interior's intention to conduct wilderness reviews in the BLM planning process.

The new “Wild Lands” designation places a higher priority

Interior improperly acted as an administrative surrogate for Congressionally-designated Wilderness;

- In Alaska, where most of BLM's 86 million acres retain their wilderness values, the heavily-weighted default protection of wilderness characteristics could easily render most BLM lands de facto wilderness areas absent BLM's multiple-use direction. This would have a devastat-

“Putting such a sweeping initiative in place overnight, with no Congressional direction and no advance consultation with affected states or the public, is unfathomable. This approach not only runs counter to President Obama's January 21, 2009 Memorandum entitled Transparency and Open Government and similar supplemental directives, but federal law as well.”—AK Governor Sean Parnell

on protection of “wilderness characteristics,” as defined by the Wilderness Act, which effectively trumps most other land uses.

Putting such a sweeping initiative in place overnight, with no Congressional direction and no advance consultation with affected states or the public, is unfathomable. This approach not only runs counter to President Obama's January 21, 2009 Memorandum entitled Transparency and Open Government and similar supplemental directives, but federal law as well.

The following outlines my specific concerns with Order 3310 and accompanying planning guidance:

- By designating “Wild Lands,” Order 3310 usurps congressional authority where the

ing effect on Alaska's people, economy, and land use and access. Thus, the Order directly conflicts with the “no more” clauses in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) as well as the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA);

- The Order is, for all practical purposes, an end-run around ANILCA, which I predict will lead to egregious social and economic consequences for Alaskans. Without the explicit provisions of ANILCA that apply to conservation system units, BLM Wild Lands will likely be managed more restrictively in Alaska than ANILCA-designated Wilderness managed by the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, or Forest Service;

• The Order purports to seek “balance” between responsible resource development and protection of wilderness characteristics; yet there is a strong presumption in favor of wilderness-style protection. For that reason, this Order will have a severe chilling effect on future proposals designed to create jobs in resource development once an area is designated Wild Lands. This approach also contradicts BLM’s multiple use mandate under FLPMA;

• BLM managers’ discretion to determine where and when “impairment” of wilderness characteristics is “appropriate” is subject to undue scrutiny and approval in Washington DC,

where decisions tend to be political and knowledge of local conditions, issues, and needs is diluted, at best;

• Last, but certainly not least, BLM has no authority whatsoever to apply this policy to the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska because it is not subject to FLPMA.

These and other key issues are discussed in more depth in an attachment.

I know other western states are similarly concerned, if not appalled, by this new policy. Our state, and likely many others, would be best served by the former policy regarding wilderness reviews and recommendations

that respected the preferences of State and local elected officials. Barring that, any new policy and associated planning direction must first undergo formal State and public review and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and as appropriate, the Administrative Procedure Act.

In addition, no such policy should be applicable to the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. I urge you to work with the State Director of BLM in Alaska to ensure Secretarial direction does not run counter to the “balance” already established by ANILCA for Alaska.

Oscar Watsjold, 1917—2011

Longtime Alaskan Oscar Watsjold, 93, died Sunday Jan. 9, 2011 at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage, of complications caused by Alzheimer’s disease.

A private memorial service was held Jan. 15th at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Seward, followed by a public celebration of life at 2:30 p.m. at the Alaska Railroad Terminal, Port Avenue (next to the Cruise Ship Dock) in Seward.

Oscar was born Sept. 4, 1917, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Oscar G. and Gudren Watsjold.

In 1919, the family moved back to their home in Bergen, Norway, where they lived until 1929, when they relocated to McCarthy. There they owned and operated a hardware/grocery store until the late 1930s.

In 1939, Oscar moved to Seward, where he raised his three children, Stanley, David and Linda, with his first wife, Inger.

From 1942 through 1947, Oscar served with the Alaska Territorial Guard, protecting Seward from enemy invasion during World War II.

On Dec. 9, 1966, Oscar married Nell Mainard, with whom he shared his remaining years in Seward.

Oscar’s life was built on hard work and commitment to family and community. His entrepreneurial ventures in Seward included a butcher shop in the 1940s, and a home oil delivery company, Watsjold’s Fuel, which he owned and operated into the 1970s.

Oscar was most proud of his service with the Seward Volunteer Fire Department, which began in

1941 and continued through 2009, an “astonishing 69 years of service to the community.” Oscar was chief of the Volunteer Fire Department from 1962 until 1982. Oscar was the Fire Chief in Seward during the 1964 earthquake that destroyed much of the city and other parts of the state. He played a major part in the reconstruction of the city and the building of the fire department. While he retired as chief in 1982, at the age of 65, his active involvement with the department and his fellow firefighters continued well into his 80s, and he remained a volunteer until his death.

He has been a member of the Kenai Chiefs Association and is a life member of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association, as well a member of the Alaska State Firefighters Association. In 1992, Oscar was awarded the Del Moffit Firefighter of the Year Award by the Alaska State Firefighters Association.

“With Oscar’s passing, we have lost a significant and beloved member of our department, the likes of which I doubt we will see again,” said Dave Squires, Fire Chief, Seward Volunteer Fire Department.

After retirement from the Fire Department, Oscar enjoyed volunteer work. He especially enjoyed time spent with special needs youth, whom he taught to bowl, as well as annual volunteer work with the Seward Volunteer Fire Department’s Angel Tree Program. Additionally, Oscar was a charter member of Elks Lodge #1773 and former president and member of Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo 9.

Oscar is survived by his wife, the love of his life, Nell; children and spouses, Stan and Sally Watsjold of Nancy Lake, Linda and Mike Brown of Anchorage, David and Mary Watsjold of Anchorage, Andy and Tami Mainard of Florida, and Sherry and David Borer of Anchorage; 16 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren; as well as his former wife and dear friend, Inger, and her husband, Charlie Ricci; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Oscar was predeceased by parents Oscar and Gudren Watsjold; his sister, Stella, who lived in Bergen, Norway; and his brother, John, who lived in Anchorage.

Memorial donations in Oscar’s honor can be made to; St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 676, Seward, AK 99664 or; the Seward Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 832, Seward, AK 99664.

The family would like to thank the staffs at All About Care Assisted Living and Providence Hospital for the care they gave Oscar during the last months of his life.

The above article was published in adn.com from January 13-14, 2011.

Editor’s Note: Oscar’s family owned and operated RO. G. Watsjold Groceries & Meats/hardware store in McCarthy during the 1930s. Oscar’s wife, Nell, filled me in on the following information—“Oscar did attend school in McCarthy. When he was ready to attend school, he came to Seward and lived with good friends, Mrs. Garrity and her son Gene. Oscar then returned to McCarthy in the summer. The one-story addition on the side (of the store) was the Watsjold residence. Oscar and his brother, John, slept in a room upstairs in the main building. Their mother, Gudren, sent Stella, Oscar’s sister, back to Norway to live with family and she was educated there. She did attend school in McCarthy in 1929, as did the boys. After high school, Oscar went to Seattle and studied diesel engineering.”

Fire Chief Oscar Watsjold honored by Seward community

The Seward community, its fire department and 11 other fire departments from throughout the region honored, and bid fond farewells to the late retired Chief Oscar Watsjold. On Saturday, January 15th, approximately 400 people gathered at the Alaska Railroad/Cruise Ship terminal to attend the Celebration of Life ceremony.

It was preceded by a solemn processional of private vehicles, fire trucks, rescue trucks and ambulances that made its way from the fire station down town and headed up 4th Avenue, turning right on Port Avenue.

Those entering the cruise terminal passed through two rows of smartly attired firefighters in their dark uniforms with fold stripes,

caps, and white gloves, where attendees signed a guest book for the family.

Seward Fire Chief David Squires read aloud condolence letters from Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich, Congressman Don Young and State Senator Gary Stevens.

Oscar’s son, David Watsjold, described his dad as a quiet man of few words, but strong willed, and when he talked, you listened. He remembered how his father used to take the children skiing on Mount Marathon and fishing for rockfish outside Rugged Island on the little 16-foot skiff he had built in their garage.

Mayor Willard Dunham said, “Oscar was a good, solid public servant. He was proud of his town, and of how it has grown and improved, and of the people that participate. Oscar was always active in anything that we did, any kind of project, and was always helpful, a great guy.”

The fire service traditions honored Oscar by concluding the ceremony with three rings of the fire truck’s silver bell, a bugler playing “Taps,” bagpipes, and piercing tri-tones signifying an end of an emergency. Finally, to white-gloved firefighter salutes, a crackling dispatch system announced, “This is the final tone out for Oscar Watsjold. the Seward Fire Department wishes to thank you for your years of service. Although you are gone, you will never be forgotten.”

The above information was taken from an article written by Heidi Zemach for Seward City News and published January 15, 2011.

THE McCARTHY WEEKLY NEWS

1920 March & April editions

An important business deal took place this week when O.W. Brehmer of the McCarthy Drug Store, sold an interest in the business to Jack Conway. Mr. Conway will have charge of this store and Mr. Brehmer will leave for Cordova, where he will open another drug store. Mr. Conway has been associated with the Kennecott Copper Corporation for a number of years and is well acquainted with everyone in this section. We all wish him the best of luck in his new venture.

Mrs. R.W. Williams has moved into the New York building which will hereafter be known as the Home Restaurant. Special lunches, short orders and catering will be featured.

Mr. A.L. Powell is in McCarthy this morning anxiously awaiting the arrival of today's train which will bring his bride elect from California. They will be married today.

LOCAL NEWS

M.B. Vaughn and Martin Nelson left this morning on an extensive prospecting trip to that country between the head of the Chitina and the Bremner. They have purchased two sled dogs from J. Pitcher and will haul their outfit of about 1500 pounds in relays, expect to land at their destination before the breakup. The country they will traverse is most alluring for prospectors there being indications of placer gold, quartz, copper, oil and coal, and since the oil and coal leasing bill is passed there is nothing they may not stake.

Yakataga Beach is only 100 miles distant as the crow flies in the same direction, and James Barclay, who was one of our chief prospectors before he lost his life in a snowslide near here a few years ago, used to speak of a lake of oil he once found between Yakataga and the Chitina

TOWN TOPICS

E. L. French, instructor of the Kennecott mine schools paid us a visit last Monday. The pupils have attained a high grade of efficiency during the term & Mr. French is in receipt of gratifying letters from the Commissioner of Education and the Immigration Department

at Washington, D.C. Forty percent of the pupils have 100 percent attendance and all have correspondingly high marks in the various subjects they have studied.

Mr. French deplores the fact that there is no way for applicants for citizenship to secure their papers without taking the journey to Valdez, and several of his pupils have found it impossible to secure their final papers on that account.

The "honest prospector" Chick Nelson visited our city this week.

Chris Radovich is now busy putting up ice for the hotel de Golden, for next summer.

LOST

A.B. Building Certificate, No. 209. Finder please notify R.L.H. Marshall.

March 6

WEDDING BELLS One of our most popular "sourdoughs" was leading man at a very interesting wedding last Saturday afternoon March 6th at the residence of Mr. Chas. Graber, the contracting parties being Arthur L. Powell of Kennecott and Mrs. Bertha Lewis of Grass Valley, California. The bride, who had just arrived from the Outside was attired in a pretty gown of Alice blue chartreuse, most becoming to her blond complexion. Mrs. J. B. O'Neill attended her as matron of honor. The bridegroom wore a most beautiful expression and was able supported by Dr. Jack Conway as best man. The ceremony was performed by U.S. Commissioner Graber, in the presence of the following guests: Mrs. Graber, Mrs. J. Underwood, Mr. and Mrs. Cole, Messrs. Ed Bassett, C. Parker Smith, Chas. Baster and J.W. Nickell. They will make their home in the copper camp and start housekeeping with a liberal supply of hearty good wishes from their many friends with whom the News is pleased to join.

March 13

Frank Farnham, who spent the winter at Kennecott, left on the last train for Strelna to develop his quartz prospects.

CHITINA NEWS March 20 (Special to News.)

One of the most enjoyable dances of the season was given by the Arctic Brotherhood to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The Hall was elaborately decorated with green and white streamers, and various emblems suitable to the day. The dancers were presented with paper caps and aprons, which they donned, adding a great deal to the merriment. Each Lady received a green box of candy and each gentleman a shamrock.

A very large number of people from the interior of Alaska who spent the winter outside, are returning via Chitina. The Brower Stage is carrying capacity loads and the Sheldon auto stages left today with four autos carrying five passengers each.

The Sampson Hardware Co. of Fairbanks, Alaska, has purchased a tractor for freighting purposes. It arrived on today's train and will be operated by Robert Sheldon, carrying freight from Chitina to Fairbanks. This is the third tractor operating on the trail this season.

Mr. D. Davis returned last train from Seattle, where Dr. M.F. Hoffman removed a cataract from his eye, and his sight is now completely restored. He is glad to return North, where labor unions cease to trouble.

FOR SALE

Light draught mud wagon \$40. Apply to Al Doze.

LOCAL NEWS

Mr. N.P. Nelson arrived in town last Monday from Chisana after a very stormy trip over the glacier, expecting to meet his wife, who has been spending the winter in Iowa. Owing no doubt to the difficulty in securing reservations on north bound boats at this season the lady has not yet reached here and Mr. Nelson left today on a short trip to the glacier with his supplies, to return here when the next train bringing passengers from outside arrives.

Tony Grisko, trader and trapper from the lower White river is visiting our city this week for the first time. He has been doing extensive trading with the Indians and secured large quantities of furs of all kinds.

Fred Cope, Con Miller, Fred Lubbe and Vernon Anderson are leaving next week for a long prospecting trip to the Bremner country, expecting to be away several months.

Great interest is being taken in the new Alaskan magazine the Pathfinder, and the February copies are having a ready sale at the News office. Pete Erickson, John Underwood, Jas. Hussey, and Cap. Hubrick have subscribed for one year.

March 20

Local News

A party was given last Wednesday evening. Starting from town at seven, a sleigh ride was enjoyed, the destination being the Iverson ranch, where the host and hostess were most completely surprised. Games and jokes were indulged in till a late hour and a hearty lunch which the intruders brought was enjoyed. Twelve were in the party which Mrs. Fry arranged. Fred Lubbe furnished the sleigh and acted as skinner.

J.P. Hubrick leaves tomorrow morning for the coast. He will meet a hunting party from Tennessee and spend a couple of months hunting bear to the westward.

Fred Ahrens received a letter from our former townsman and depot agent George Stratman. Mr. Stratman is now located at Seattle and is with the purchasing department of the Alaska railroad. His family has suffered severely through the flue. His mother and brother have died and his son is still very sick.

The snow birds are with us again, according to Ed. Maddock this means summer in three weeks.

The following magazines are on sale at the Post Office. The Century, Vogue, Atlantic Review of Reviews and Harpers.

Dog Feed at Marshall's

A.E. Trim and Tony Grisko left this week for the interior on a trapping expedition.

C. Parker Smith was reappointed Commissioner, Vice C. Graber resigned.

Lysle Brown is now freighting up White creek. John Nickell took a flying trip to the creeks returning on Thursday. Will Henry and George Andersen traded horses this week, we don't know who got the best of it but somehow they are both out five bales of hay over the transaction.

The Murie Transfer Co., is working overtime these days moving freight to the creeks, the last shipment being fifty

thousand feet of lumber consigned to Bert Carvey who will operate on a large scale this season.

March 27

PROSPECTORS LEAVE

A.G. Grate and S. Underwood left last Sunday morning for the Chitina River country on a prospecting expedition. They are taking enough provisions to last them till snow flies again next Fall. If the prospects justify, a large outfit will be placed in that country next winter. Mike Knowles accompanied them on this trip, having secured the contract to deliver their freight.

PERSONAL

Joe Prout, foreman at the Jumbo mine, is enjoying a vacation, he is leaving tomorrow on a dog team trip to the head of the Chitina and other points, & expects to be away a couple of weeks, on his return he will make a short visit outside.

The final reels of "Tarzan of the Apes" will be shown at Kennecott tomorrow.

A novelty carnival and entertainment is to be given at Kennecott on Monday evening, all sorts of attractions, fortune telling and fish ponds etc. Lots of fun is assured.

April 3

Arthur Lang, clerk of the District Court at Valdez, spent a few days here this week, during which time he granted first papers to the following applicants for citizenship: Fred Engel, J.H. Murie, Pete Brenwick, Victor Johnson, Chris Radovich, Oscar Hansen and fourteen others. Oscar Anderson of Long Lake and Mike McDonnell have applied for their second papers, which will be granted them by Mr. Lang next September.

At the School election last Monday, Mr. Sam Seltenreich was elected director, and Mrs. John Barrett, clerk, and Mr. John Underwood treasurer, were re-elected for another term. Mrs. Fry, Pete Johnson, and Jas. Hussey served as election judges.

LOCAL NEWS

Delegate Grigsby has not forgotten that Spring is at hand in Alaska. A shipment of Government seeds has been received at the Post Office for distribution. Roy Snyder and wife have leased the Cole house & store at Nizina, which will now be known as the Chititu Store. They have a large stock and are well prepared to take care of the trade this season. With the price of oats at \$7.50 per sack and

hay \$100 per ton it would not surprise us if packing rates were boosted up a notch.

Shorty Gwin had the bad luck to lose one of his grey mares recently which took sick and died on the trail. This mare "Belle" with her mate "Flora" was originally brought into the country by George Hazelet at the time of the Chisana stampede and sold to Gwin the same Fall, who has used them ever since between here and the creeks. Mr. Gilliland, who is employed by the Kennecott Copper corporation at the Jumbo mine has just finished a very beautiful piece of carving in his spare time. It is in the form of a star and is of highly polished cobalite; he is sending it to the Eastern Star chapter at his home in New York.

April 17

PERSONAL

Cliff Cayouette, who has spent the winter at Kennecott, left this week to spend the summer on his Dan Creek property. Mesdames Barrett and Hubrick were the guests of Al Doze last Sunday for a pleasant drive down the Kennecott. Judge O'Connor made a trip to Kennecott on Wednesday for dental treatment. Mrs. J.B. O'Neil who shot a wolverine last fall and shipped the skin outside, has just received the returns - \$23.

CHITINA NEWS April 19th.

(Special to News.) Earl Hirst has purchased the roadhouse at Chistochina, formerly owned by John Paulson. His cousin Mrs. Marshall & her brother Mr. Hirst, of Spokane, Washington, left Saturday on Hans Desman's auto stage to conduct the roadhouse during Mr. Earl Hirst's absence to the Elmer bros. property, where he be employed during the mining season. Mrs. Marshall's mother and two little daughters will join her later Mrs. Hellrich, who formerly conducted a restaurant in Cordova left on the Brower stage Tuesday to take charge of Mr. Meirs roadhouse this summer. A very fine seven passenger Kissell car arrived on Friday's train for Oscar Breedman. Some very pleasant rides are being planned for the summer season on the Richardson Highway.

Fred Handy and family, formerly of Chitina and McCarthy, are planning to make their home in Ketchikan, Alaska. During their residence in Seattle Mr. Handy suffered a severe injury in a street car accident which temporarily disabled his left hand.

April 24

Rediscovering the "tastefully rotten"

BY NED ROZELL

While processing backyard chickens last summer, Sveta Yamin-Pasternak thought how nice it would be to bury those fresh carcasses in the ground and let microorganisms preserve her food the easy way. When the time was right, she could dig up the fermented fowl and enjoy them.

Though she instead decided to use a freezer for her chickens, Yamin-Pasternak is a student of the "tastefully rotten" foods of people who live in far-east Russia. She admires the simpler, if smellier, way of doing things.

Originally from Belarus, Yamin-Pasternak now lives in Alaska, but has traveled for the last decade to villages in Chukotka, the part of Russia that rubs noses with Alaska's Seward Peninsula. There, the anthropologist studied a return to fermented food preparation. She recently gave a talk at the University of Alaska Fairbanks detailing her "marvelous stinky path."

Native peoples of northern Russian and throughout the Arctic have for ages included some partially decomposed foods in their diet. One example from the west coast of Alaska is "stink flipper," the paw of a bearded seal buried in the tundra and later retrieved and eaten when it has attained the proper level of rotteness, a measurement learned from experience.

Yamin-Pasternak described how these foods had waned in popularity in Russia's far east during the height of the Soviet regime. Government-sponsored boarding schools in the villages featured menus similar to those in central Russia.

"There was lots of pasta, sweetened condensed milk and sausages (rather than marine mammals and reindeer)," Yamin-Pasternak said. During the peak of Soviet control, government officials made it illegal for hunters to go out on the ocean before first signing in with border guards on the coast—a law that still exists.

"(Government decision makers) didn't regard Native foods as food," Yamin-Pasternak said.

The change in diet that came with the powerful Soviet regime was hard for some people to stomach, Yamin-Pasternak said.

"Rice and porridge and bread didn't satisfy their need to feel full," she said. "They needed certain foods, like seal oil and whale skin fat (known in Alaska as maktak), to quench their hunger."

People still ate foods like fermented walrus meat, but they partook on the sly. Things began to change when the carbohydrate-rich staples of the regime diet became hard to find during the breakup of the Soviet Union in the 1990s. Village stores that supplied the sweetened condensed milk lost their government subsidies. The shelves went

empty, forcing villagers to rely more on subsistence foods. There began a "rotten renaissance," Yamin-Pasternak said.

"The generation gaps created by the Soviet system started to break down. People were going back to their grandparents, asking how to prepare (the 'tastefully rotten' foods)."

When she visits the Chukotka villages today, Yamin-Pasternak knows when she's around walrus flipper fermented in a bag made of bearded seal skin ("it does not do this talk justice not to smell it,"), and she knows which dipping bowl is full of seal oil and which contains the reindeer blood. She can partake in some of the fermented foods, but said she can't get past her gag reflex with others, and has noticed the same reaction in some of the younger generations of the Chukotka Yupik and Chukchi, raised with more Russified tastes. She thinks that, over time, she could adapt to even the most fragrant menu items, because she has seen so many people in the villages grow to love the foods of their ancestors.

"It really illuminates the power of socialization," she said. "Food practices are learned."

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.

Alaska politicians defend Essential Air Service

BY RICK KENYON

An effort in the U.S. Senate to end the Essential Air Service program brought swift action by Alaska's elected officials.

On February 9, 2011, the Alaska State House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 5, which puts the body's support for the federal Essential Air Service Program on the record and calls on the U.S. Congress not to adopt an amendment to a bill before the U.S. Senate seeking to strip the program. House Majority Whip Peggy Wilson, R-Wrangell, sponsored the bill, which was brought up as a special order of business during today's House floor session and passed with one amendment 38 to zero.

U.S. Senator John McCain, R-Arizona, has crafted amendment four to the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act which would eliminate funding for the EAS program, which provides subsidies for 44 Alaska communities.

"This program is vital for rural Alaska, and touches five communities in my district here in Southeast," Whip Wilson said. "While I can understand the senior senator from Arizona's thinking when it comes to Lower

48 recipients with communities on road systems, it's just not the case here in Alaska. We have some of the most isolated and remote communities in the nation, and without EAS support from the FAA they'd lose a critical link to the 'outside world.' Many of us are aware that air travel in a majority of our state isn't a convenience, it's the only way in or out — it's a way of life."

Both of Alaska's Senators in Washington spoke out against the amendment.

"I can say without any reservation that this amendment would create an economic and a transportation disaster for Alaska, including the loss of jobs, livelihoods and would potentially impact health and medical situations," Senator Lisa Murkowski said. "The complete elimination of the EAS program could destabilize many of our rural communities, could negatively impact the integrity of Alaska's interconnected aviation system and severely reduce air services to essential parts of the state."

One hundred and fifty three communities across the nation, including 44 in Alaska, receive EAS subsidies. Murkowski said that Alaska was unique because, unlike the rest of the nation, the majority of the state's EAS com-

munities are not connected to a road system.

"Given what we face with the limited road system, weather and terrain issues, we in the state treat an airplane or helicopters like most Americans would treat their minivans. Aircraft in Alaska are not just a nice thing to have. They are a lifeline for survival, for subsistence, for travel, for recreation. They're truly an essential part of our everyday life," Murkowski said.

Sen. Mark Begich noted aviation is the equivalent to Alaska's "highway in the sky," and that goods, people, mail, and medical supplies all have to be flown into many rural communities. Begich read from letters he received from communities served by EAS and the small air carriers that fly EAS routes which all stood to lose service had the McCain amendment passed.

"Unfortunately, Senator McCain doesn't understand aviation is a lifeline for Alaskans. I am thrilled we were able to defeat his amendment, which would have isolated communities and greatly increased the cost of living throughout rural Alaska," Begich said.

The McCain Amendment failed by a vote of 61 to 38.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

1/23/11

Hi - Just a small note to tell you how much we enjoy going to Kennicott & McCarthy. We try to make it at least once a year. We really enjoyed the article on Mile 13 & the piece on Orange Hill. That copper deposit would have employed lots of people. Thanks again for your paper.

Herman & Pennie Hauck

Welcome to District 6, Representative Alan Dick

BY BONNIE KENYON

Congratulations to McCarthy area's new representative, Alan Dick, who successfully won the district's seat this past November. We also want to thank our past representative, Woodie Salmon, for his service to our area.

Most of us had never heard the name Alan Dick until the election campaign began last fall. Here is a short introduction to our new representative in Juneau—in his own words:

"I moved to District 6 as a young man and have lived, worked

and raised my family here for 45 years. I lived a subsistence lifestyle for 15 years—fishing, hunting, trapping, fire fighting and racing, and then spent 30 years teaching school in various communities in our district."

Rep. Dick's wife, Helen, is a culture bearer for the Dena'ina Athabascans. They have 5 grown children.

The following statements give us a look into his heart:

"A heart for the Bush, for the little guy, for the teachers and kids. Naive enough to believe that government should serve the peo-

ple, that we can turn the country around. Wise enough to know that when good men are silent, evil men rule. Bold enough to make a stand in the face of absolute adversity. Compassionate enough to believe that the smallest of us is the most important. Convinced that the best government governs the least."

To contact Rep. Dick, you may write him at: State Capitol Room #104, Juneau, AK. 99801. His phone number is: 907-465-4527. Email: representative_alan_dick@legis.ak.us

Starband offers free installation in rural areas

MCLEAN, VA

Spacenet Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Global Satellite Networks Ltd. (Nasdaq: GILT) and a leading provider of broadband network solutions, announced availability of StarBand Open Skies for rural unserved regions of Alaska and Hawaii. Spacenet's StarBand Open Skies initiative offers broadband-over-satellite service to these regions with no upfront cost for equipment and standard installation, and an entry-level monthly service fee of \$50. The initiative is in response to the \$7.5 million award of federal grant funding from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which was announced in August 2010, to provide discounted broadband service to rural unserved markets in Alaska and Hawaii. The grant will enable Spacenet to provide its StarBand broadband Internet service to over thousands of potential subscribers in Alaska and Hawaii.

"We are pleased to announce the launch of StarBand Open Skies and to provide the communities in rural unserved areas of Alaska and Hawaii with availability of affordable broadband Internet access," said Spacenet CEO Andreas Georghiou. "Our goal is to provide StarBand Internet to thousands of consumers in Alaska and Hawaii that currently lack access to alternate options. We are actively pursuing outreach efforts to make these communities aware that they are no longer restricted by some of the previous challenges of accessing high-speed Internet, including high upfront costs."

U.S. Sen. Mark Begich (D-Alaska), one of the leading advocates of the Alaska ARRA program, said, "The broadband investment is much-needed in rural Alaska to help expand affordable broadband services. Improving access to high-speed Internet is critical for connecting rural areas of the state and will impact the daily lives of thousands of residents. StarBand Open Skies

will enable access to services and resources including education and health care tools that millions of people across America already benefit from."

Spacenet is basing its StarBand Open Skies service offerings for Alaska and Hawaii on custom versions of its Nova 1000 and 1500 products. Both packages exceed the performance requirements set forth by the RUS for this program. The Nova 1000 service provides download speeds of up to 1 Mbps and upload speeds of 200 Kbps, and the Nova 1500 service provides download speeds of up to 1.5 Mbps and upload speeds of 256 Kbps. Both services also offer value added features including: 10 free hours of dial access per month for backup or traveling; virus protection; spam filtering; access to the StarBand Member Portal powered by Google; 24X7 online support; and up to 15 email accounts.

For more information visit www.starband.com/alaska or call 800-296-5818.

NPS Alaska targets invasive plants

NPS ANCHORAGE AK

The inventory and removal of invasive plants from national parks in Alaska reached a record level in 2010, thanks in large part to increased funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Crew time on the ground doubled to more than 17,000 hours in 2010 compared to the year before, as the National Park Service used youth hires through AmeriCorps and internships to accomplish work in several parks.

These unwanted invasive plants often display rapid growth, spread with little or no human assistance, and are expensive to remove and difficult to control once established. Invasive plants are a concern because they threaten the genetic integrity of native flora through hybridization, can out-compete native plant species for limited resources, and can result in loss of habitat and food

sources for native insects, birds, fish, and other wildlife.

In Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, the Alaska Exotic Plant Management Team was able to inventory more than 1,400 acres, checking areas around backcountry cabins, trails and airstrips that had never been surveyed. Most areas were still in pristine condition, with the exception of small infestations at several airstrips.

The 2010 season was also the first time the Alaska Exotic Plant Management Team had staff stationed at Katmai National Park, with work focused on the Brooks Camp area. During the season they discovered three invasive species that had never been documented in the park: bird vetch, fall dandelion, and narrowleaf hawksbeard.

The NPS invasive plants program also focuses on education efforts and encourages park visitors and employees to recognize invasive species. At Denali National Park bus drivers found new in-

festations of narrowleaf hawksbeard and common tansy was found just outside Wrangell-St. Elias by maintenance crews.

The 2011 field season will mark the first time herbicides will be used at multiple national parks in Alaska. Specific dates of application will be made available through the park when the application date is more definite. A preliminary description of the work to be accomplished and the herbicides to be used is available at

http://www.nps.gov/akso/NatRes/EPMT/2011_treatments.html

All proposed applications will be made by State of Alaska certified pesticide applicators using a precise, spot application method with calibrated backpack sprayers. Herbicide application is dependent on the target plant's growth stage and the weather. Applications will only be made when weather conditions are appropriate.

Superintendent named for Western Arctic Parklands

NPS ANCHORAGE AK

Frank Hays will move from one beach community to another next month, but the contrast could hardly be more striking as he departs Honolulu and heads to Kotzebue, Alaska, where he will take over as superintendent of four National Park Service areas.

Hays has been selected to lead the Western Arctic Parklands, comprised of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Kobuk Valley National Park, Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Noatak National Preserve. Together the four units total 11 million acres.

"Frank brings great management talent to his new position and we look forward to having him in Alaska," said Sue Masica, Alaska Regional Director.

Hays is currently the Pacific Area Director for the National Park Service, overseeing the NPS Pacific West Region's Honolulu office. This office provides technical services and policy oversight for the 11 national park areas in the Pacific. Before his current job, Frank was superintendent of Manzanar National Historic Site in California, where he oversaw operations of that national historic site that preserves and interprets the

cultural and natural resources associated with the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

"I'm excited to come to Alaska and work with the residents and visitors to the Western Arctic Parklands," Hays said.

Hays began his career with the NPS in 1980 as a seasonal park ranger at Zion National Park. He received his Bachelor of Science in Renewable Natural Resources from the University of Arizona and a Master's degree in Public Administration with Honors from Northern Arizona University.

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RAILROAD AND HISTORY BUFFS — PLAN AHEAD

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

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

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



McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum

ATTN: Patt Garrett

PO Box 671643

Chugiak, AK. 99567

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve

ATTN: Erica Edmonds

PO Box 439

Copper Center, AK. 99573-0439

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McCarthy & Kennecott Copper River & Northwestern Railway (CR&NW) Centennial Celebration July 8-10, 2011

Don't miss this Centennial Celebration commemorating completion of the 196 mile Copper River & Northwestern Railway from Cordova to Kennecott in 1911. Co-sponsored by the McCarthy-Kennecott Historical Museum, the Wrangell Mountains Center and the National Park Service, this historic weekend will look much like days of old when a parade of antique auto musers from Anchorage and Fairbanks arrive in town. With the cooperation of the Transportation & Industry Museum of Alaska located in Wasilla, Alaska,

we expect to have a 1938 Chevrolet auto-railer bus and a railroad speeder back on the still-existent CR & NW rails. Dave Syren has gone to great lengths to arrange

for the return of these historic vehicles to our town for the summer. Kenny Smith has stories to tell about playing in both of these once-abandoned vehicles as a child.

Pictured right on a CR & NW speeder in McCarthy is Dick Anderson's Grandpa Fred Ahrens. Dick is a local historian, long time Historical Museum board member and property-owner in the McCarthy Creek Sub-division. His Grandpa Ahrens was born in Germany in 1885.

Arriving in McCarthy with his wife in 1916 or 17, Fred Ahrens served as McCarthy Section foreman for a decade, presumably driving the speeder in his work much the same as modern-day employees drive company cars. Dick's mother, Margaret Anna was

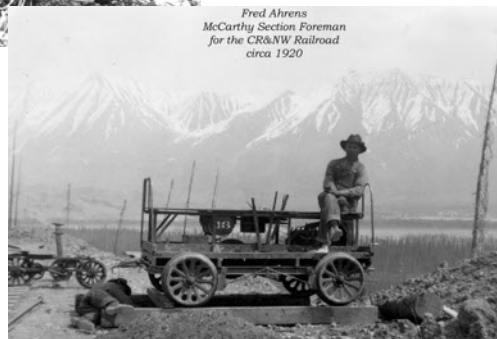
born on December 7, 1918 in the Kennecott Copper Corporation Hospital. Later she attended the little school on the hill where Mrs. Harrais was the teacher. The Ahrens lived near the depot and locomotive turntable on land rented from McCarthy homesteader, John Barrett.

Recently our volunteer Museum Docent Patt Garrett's grandson and his pals discovered a child's bedstead and twisted bed springs in the vicinity of the Museum Caretaker's cabin. They carried it to the museum. Pat surmises the bed may have belonged to the

Ahrens family. Perhaps Dick Anderson's mother slept in the little bed? What a find, and what fun to have our youngest generation in McCarthy already in hot pursuit of our historic past!

The CR & NW Depot pictured left center was the original McCarthy Depot, end of the line for most passengers. Only employees of the Kennecott Copper Corporation were allowed to get off the train in the company town. In a fall 1924 issue of Our Town, "Hurray Folks! We have a new Depot, which is quite a

contrast to the old ramshackle thing which has been called a Depot here for the last 12 years." The Depot is now home to the McCarthy-Kennecott Historical Museum, open from Memorial Day until Labor Day. For more information on Centennial plans, contact crnw2011@gmail.com.



Fred Ahrens
McCarthy Section Foreman
for the CR&NW Railroad
circa 1920

WMC Summer schedule

Registration is now open for Summer 2011 courses at the Wrangell Mountains Center. Discounts for early registration is available for many courses.

Alaska Natural History Workshop for Educators

Tools and Content for Engaging Youth in the Natural World
June 2-4, 2011 in McCarthy
(dinner time 2nd through noon 4th)

Glaciers, rivers, volcanoes, landslides and succession! Join us for two days of intensive and interactive field based learning about these exciting and dynamic processes. This action-packed workshop includes Alaska natural history content, lesson modeling; placed-based, hands-on activities, and focused discussions. We will spend most of the course out on the trail, enjoying the dynamic environment of the McCarthy area as a classroom. Evenings will be spent engaging in insightful, indoor discussion in the Wrangell Mountains Center's historic facilities. To learn more and register, see <http://wrangells.org/tw.html> or call 907 554 4464

Telling Alaska's Stories with Jack Dalton

Teaching Natural History & Native Culture through Storytelling
June 4-6
(dinner time 4th through noon 6th)

Explore the art of engaging youth in and out of the classroom through storytelling with renowned Native Storyteller Jack Dalton. A professional storyteller, writer, and teacher, Dalton has been honored by the World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education as a Distinguished Dignitary, and considered by many people around the world to be "The Storyteller." Jack

has created and produced five theatrical works of storytelling, written a book, several plays and created curricula used in all levels of education.

This two-day interactive workshop for educators, guides, and natural and cultural history interpreters will be one not to forget. Participants will be both audience members and storytellers in turn as Jack weaves their stories with his, creating opportunities to learn and strengthen skills while immersed in the provocative landscape of the Kennicott Valley. To learn more and register, see <http://wrangells.org/sw.html> or call 907 554 4464

Natural History Field Sketching & Journaling Workshop with Kristin Link.

July 15, 5 pm - July 17, 4:30 pm This course combines science and art in a unique approach to learning about our natural world. While experimenting with different field sketching and writing techniques, we will explore the environment surrounding McCarthy, Alaska within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. We will draw on the long tradition of documenting observations about the natural world in a sketchbook. Much of the course will occur in the field studying the unique glaciology and geomorphology of the Kennicott Valley and the Wrangell's flora and fauna. The aspiring naturalist will leave with a set of skills to further their ability to observe and document the natural world through the practice of keeping a sketchbook. By learning new ways to study their surroundings, and by sharing and building on new methods, students will come away better equipped to appreciate and experience natural environments. To learn more and register, see

<http://wrangells.org/nhfsj.html> or call 907 554 4464

The Wrangell Mountains Center is also pleased to offer two week-long creative writing workshops this year. Creative Nonfiction with Kathleen Dean Moore, Nancy Cook, and Maria Shell is offered July 24-30. A poetry workshop with Elizabeth Bradfield and Jeremy Pataky is offered August 12-18. Read complete course descriptions and find out how to register by logging on to <http://wrangells.org/ww.html>. Or, call 907 554 4464 with questions.

Our seven-week Alaska Wildlands Studies: The Wrangell Mountains Project college field course is also open! Participants enjoy seven weeks of intensive summer field work amid the peaks, glaciers, meadows and forests of the Wrangells wilderness. Participants earn 12 semester units (18 quarter units) of transferable, upper division college credit studying with the support of experienced faculty and our student group. Through rigorous natural history observation, writing, science and the arts, we explore geological, ecological, and cultural processes that shape the Wrangell Mountains. We divide our time between backpacking and camping in the backcountry and basing at the Wrangell Mountains Center in the historic, tiny town of McCarthy in the middle of the Park. 2011 marks our 29th year of Wildlands Studies courses in Wrangell St. Elias National Park & Preserve. Join us! Learn more on our website:

<http://wrangells.org/aws.html>

We will have many other day courses and events all summer long; monitor our website www.wrangells.org or Facebook page for details, or write info@wrangells.org

Can you solve a Mystery?

Does anyone know anything about a Rail Road Speeder removed (by permission) from the Long Lake area a number of years ago?

Any information will be appreciated. Please call Dave at (907) 274-9046 or 440-2982. Thanks.

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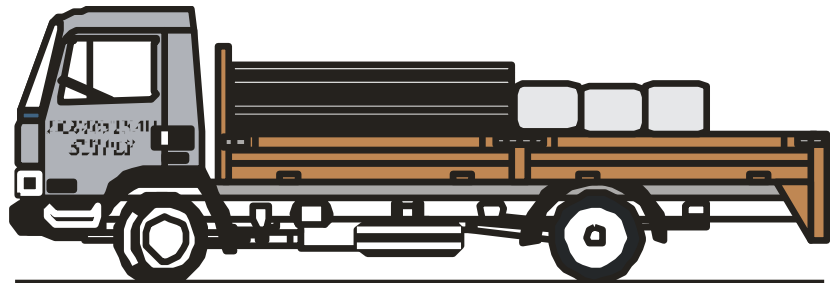
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A Visitor's Guide to Kennicott and McCarthy

Time is running short. If you would like to be included in the 2011 edition of A Visitor's Guide to Kennicott and McCarthy contact us at 907-554-4454 or email WSEN@wsen.net.

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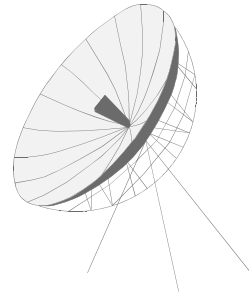
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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

As I write this I am still trying to warm up from Tucson's record low of 17 degrees last week. We had thousands and thousands of people, including parts of the hospitals, without water or gas. When I went to church Sunday, five days later, people were still without gas. At our house, we cook with electricity, heat with wood and were lucky enough not to have our pipes break.

Did you try any new recipes over the holidays? I did and loved a couple of them which, of course, I want to share with all my friends out there in the eating world. By the way, last week I heard on the television that the people who are obese now are the ones who had formula as infants! This week I heard that the people who are obese now are the ones who started eating solid food as infants. Actually, everyone, I just want you to know that even though I fit into both of those categories, I'm obese (gosh I hate that word) simply because I love food and have very little will power.

Well, on with the good stuff. A girlfriend handed me a frozen 7 or 8 lb. pork roast which I thawed enough to cut in half. These are the two recipes I used.

SHREDDED PORK (crockpot recipe)

- 1 pork roast (shoulder, butt, fresh picnic) about 4 lbs.
- 1 large onion
- 4-6 garlic cloves, sliced
- Your favorite BarBQ sauce.

Brown the pork roast in a skillet with a small amount of oil. Peel and slice one onion. Place half of the onion in the bottom of a crockpot. Put the roast in the crockpot and add 1/2 cup of water. Add the remaining onion and garlic. Cover and cook on low 9-11 hrs. Remove the meat and let it cool enough to handle. Discard the onion and juices that are left in the crockpot. Tear the roast into small pieces or shred with forks. Put pork back in crockpot and add BarBQ sauce (I added 1 bottle), until it is as juicy as you like. Continue to cook on low for another 1 1/2 - 3 hrs. until flavors are blended. Serve on buns. Serves 8 - 10 people.

DELICIOUS COMPANY PORK ROAST

- About 3 lbs. of boneless pork shoulder or butt
- 1 jar of orange marmalade
- Soy sauce
- Salt and pepper
- Garlic
- Minced onions

Wash and dry the pork roast. Season with salt, pepper, garlic, and onions. Sprinkle the top, bottom, and sides thoroughly with soy sauce. Cover and bake for 2 - 2 1/2 hours in a preheated 325 degree oven. Spread the marmalade on the top and bake uncovered for 30 - 40 minutes more.

I checked over the list of recipes that I've given you in the past and discovered that I've never shared the recipe for a soup that everyone seems to like. Now that Jim is "retired" and home for

twice as many meals as he was before, I just cook up a big pot of soup and give it to him for breakfast and lunch (just kidding) and he seems to like it whether it is summer or winter. Try this one.

RED BEAN AND SAUSAGE SOUP

- 1 lb. - 1 1/2 lbs. Sweet Italian Sausage links (remove the casings)
- 1 medium onion, diced (I love the sweet onions)
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 3 medium tart apples, peeled and chopped (here in Tucson I find the Granny Smiths are the best for this soup and for pies)
- 1 can (14 1/2 oz.) crushed tomatoes, unstrained
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons chopped green pepper
- 2 tablespoons chopped sweet red pepper
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon rubbed sage
- 1/4 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can (16 oz.) kidney beans, drained and rinsed

In a large saucepan or soup kettle, cook the sausage and onion until the meat is no longer pink; drain. Add the next 12 ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce the heat; cover and simmer for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add beans and heat through.

(Don't be afraid to try this because apples in soup are unusual. It really is good!)

O.K., in the last issue I promised you a recipe for Black Forest Brownie Pecan Pie. I didn't have room for it then so said I would give it to you this time. Look at it this way — by not having it available to you in the last issue, I saved you tons of calories!

**BLACK FOREST BROWNIE
PECAN PIE**

- 1 cup Karo light or dark corn syrup
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 4 oz. semi-sweet baking chocolate, broken into pieces
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 4 eggs, slightly beaten

- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecans
- 1 Keebler Ready Crust — graham cracker
- Whipped Cream — optional (Oh Yeah!) How about some ice cream!

Combine corn syrup, sugar and salt in a small pan. Bring mixture to a boil over medium heat, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. Boil for two minutes. Remove pan from the heat.

Add chocolate and butter to syrup mixture, stirring until the chocolate is melted and the mixture is smooth. Let cool for about 5 minutes.

Pour chocolate mixture slowly over eggs, stirring constantly. Add vanilla and pecans. Mix well. Place pie crust on a baking sheet or pizza pan for stability. Pour mixture into the crust.

Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for about 50 minutes. The center of the pie will be slightly puffed. Cool at least one hour. Serve with a dollop (or two or three) of whipped cream, and or ice cream!

Hope you all find something here you would like to try. Enjoy the rest of your winter. Count everyday as a special one. I'll start testing some recipes for the spring issue.



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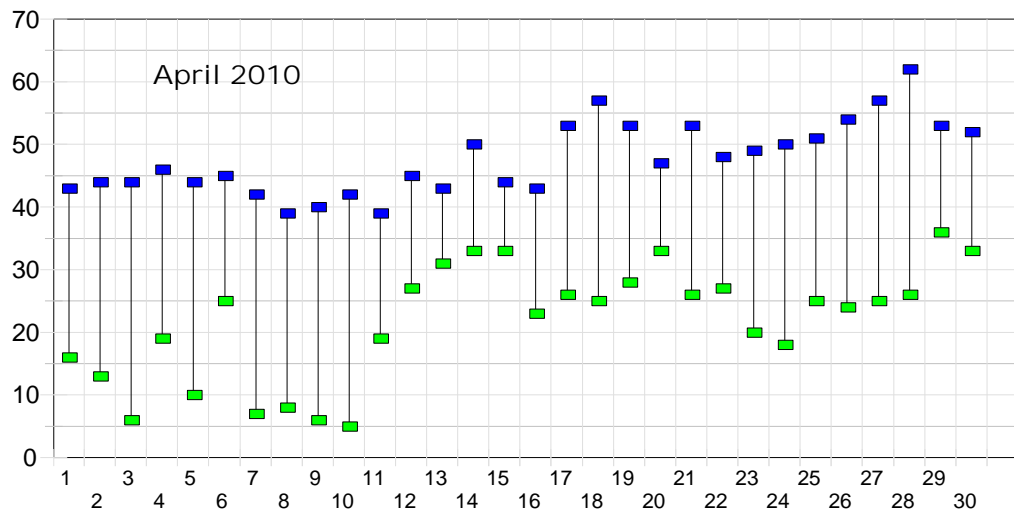
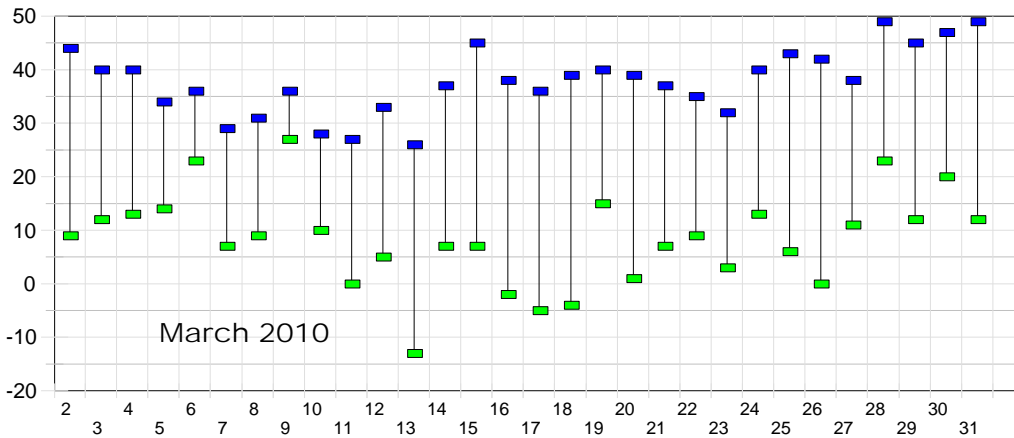
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