

Wrangell St. Elias News

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

VOL. TWO ISSUE THREE

MAY & JUNE 1993

ONE DOLLAR

Area residents speak out on subsistence proposal

A recent proposal which would give subsistence preference to people who live near a road or a town drew criticism from Copper River Valley area residents at a meeting on April 7 and 8 at the Caribou Cafe in Glennallen. Present were the seven members of the Subsistence Resource Commission for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, and representatives of the National Park Service, including the Superintendent and the Chief Ranger of America's largest National Park.

Approximately 20 area residents attended the meeting on Wednesday, the day set aside for public testimony. Chairman of the SRC, Bill Ellis, said the Commission had received about 58 letters of comment and a petition signed by 117 people. He said that most of the letters opposed proposal A, which would have created separate areas for each community. He stated that they had also received several letters from some of the environmental groups such as the Sierra Club which had opposed the current resident zone system, and favored some type of roster system.

Ellis said that the SRC had opposed drawing boundaries at all, but had been pressured to do so by the Park Service. In August of 1992 the Superintendent, Karen Wade, identified proposed boundaries for all 18 resident zone communities. These proposals were given to the SRC at their annual meeting last November 30. The Park Service gave the Commission an ultimatum: draw your

The Park Service gave the Commission an ultimatum: draw your own boundaries, or recommend some other alternative, or the proposed zones will be put into effect by NPS.

own boundaries, or recommend some other alternative, or the proposed zones will be put into effect by NPS. As one Commission member said, "NPS has made it clear that they have the authority to do it. I think it would be better for SRC to do the line drawing."

The Commission enlarged the boundaries of the proposed zones, with the exception of the McCarthy area,

which was left as the Superintendent proposed it. This became proposal A. Then they drew up proposal B, which is the park & preserve, and a band 15 miles wide all around the park (and preserve). These maps were circulated in the Copper River Valley early this spring, and people were asked to comment.

The comments from area residents at the meeting had a common theme. As one lady put it, "Try to include as many people in the communities as possible. The Copper River Valley is one community, not a lot of separate ones." Another person said, "If anyone is rural, they should be included." Mike Lannagan of Glennallen Sporting Goods gave an impromptu speech that received a rousing hand clap. "Leave it alone, it's been working," said Lannagan. "We're talking about maybe 300 people using the park, 9 million acres. That is no impact at all. This thing is just not real."

The Commission asked Jim Edwards of McCarthy about the McCarthy zone in proposal A. Edwards said that almost no-one lived in the proposed zone. Asked how it

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Cooking with
Sourdough



King Floyd

part two

"Floyd has to make a change"

OUR TOWN

May, June 1918



could be modified to include the McCarthy residents, Edwards told them it would have to extend "from Chitina to the Canadian border. The whole park and preserve should be part of the zone."

A representative from the Slana Settlement Community read a prepared statement. He stated that the BLM created the settlement area in Slana in 1983. "This is an area created by the government, right next to the park, and I came there because of the subsistence opportunity. I would like to protest the Park Service and Department of Interior trying to take away my rights. All bush residents should be equal when it comes to harvesting game." He summed up with this statement: "If you try to exclude me because I wasn't using the area before it became a park, then I believe the material that I have presented would be substantial for a class action lawsuit."

Roy Ewan, one of the Commission members, said that he could not support any proposal that was less than proposal B, and even then Northway and Tetlin would need to be included, since they had a history of subsistence use in the park. Bill Ellis said that the Commission had earlier applied to the Secretary of the Interior to have Northway added to the resident zone. They were told by the Secretary that it would need more study. Superintendent Karen Wade said that she would not like to see the Commission try to add Northway in this proposal. "Adding an additional area at this time would make it harder for us to compete for funding," said Wade.

The Commission and the Park Service met on Thursday for a "work session." I talked with Bill Ellis and Karen Wade on Friday, after the meetings were over. They both told me that the likely outcome will be a

"modified proposal B," which would be the entire park and preserve, and a partial 15 mile zone around all but the southern part of the park & preserve. However, the separate zones, similar to proposal A, would also be part of the proposal. Superintendent Wade said that the individual communities must be designated now, since they might need to be removed from the zone at a later date if they become "non-rural." She also said that the Commission would finalize a proposal and submit it to her. Then, she will discuss it with the Regional Director in Anchorage, Jack Morehead, to see if they can implement the plan without going to the Secretary of the Interior. She also said that Chief Ranger Jay Wells and Commission member Paul Claus would go to McCarthy to explain the plan to residents there. ■

*Wrangell St. Elias
News*

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Wife shoots husband at Long Lake

A woman shot and killed her husband at Long Lake after he beat her all day and threatened to kill her, state troopers said. The shooting occurred April 12, about 9:30 p.m.

Susan Berg, 45, and her husband Ralph Berg, 39, were staying in a cabin at Long Lake. She reportedly told the troopers that her husband had been drinking and threatening her all day. "He had physically assaulted her and threatened her with a knife and shotgun," said Sgt. Greg Tanner of the Glennallen Troopers. Apparently at some point she was able to get the shotgun away from him and shot him with it.

After the shooting, Susan Berg tried to drive to Chitina, 45 miles away. Although the road had been plowed several weeks earlier by the state, there were still numerous glaciers and she only made it a few miles before her pickup got stuck. She then walked some

15 miles farther to Chokosna. Although it was 3 a.m., guide & outfitter Roland Hammack was up with one of his horses, which was delivering a foal. Roland drove to Chitina and called the troopers, and Susan stayed behind at the Hammack's home.

The troopers were able to drive the 27 miles from Chitina to Chokosna, but according to Sgt. Tanner it wasn't an easy trip. Rather than attempt another 18 miles by vehicle, a helicopter was sent out from Anchorage and took the troopers to Long Lake to recover the body. Susan Berg was taken to Cross Road Medical Center in Glennallen for treatment.

The Bergs had been in the Chitina-McCarthy area for about 3 years. They had been at the Long Lake cabin since April 6. The cabin belongs to Jo King, who was out of the state at the time of the shooting. ■

Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Tyler Green: Due to a sledding accident which resulted in a fracture to his leg, Tyler was flown to the clinic at Glennallen the first week of March. He came home sporting a cast from thigh to toes! It is now off and Tyler says his leg is just fine.

Malcolm Vance/Gary Hickling: As most of our readers might guess, Malcolm is off again on another Arctic journey. This time Gary has teamed up with him. The two fellas left McCarthy the second week of March. They planned to truck 12 of Malcolm's sled dogs as far as Prudhoe Bay using the Haul Road. Then from Prudhoe Bay they would each take 6 dogs and a 15 ft. sled. Their destination is Kotzebue. The latest word we have is that everything is going on schedule and they are due to arrive in Kotzebue sometime the first week of May. Stay tuned for an exclusive account of their adventures!

Kelly and Natalie Bay: Speaking of adventures...Kelly and Natalie are off on their own. First of a kind for them, however! They left for Anchorage April 2 to await the birth of "baby" Bay. We here at WSEN had hoped to have a special announcement in this issue but we don't seem to have much say in the matter. As of printing time—April 30—there is nothing yet to report. In a recent phone patch to Kelly, he said Natalie was doing just fine. We aren't sure about Kelly, though; the night we talked to him, he was experiencing some difficulty remembering his name!

Greg Donely: Greg is a new face in McCarthy. Arriving here in March, he comes from California and is employed by Wrangell Mountain Air. We understand he was recently awarded "Employee of the month" by owners, Kelly and Natalie Bay. We realize he is their only employee at this time, but, then, that makes Greg mighty special! Welcome to our town, Greg.

Biene Krupinski: Arriving on the mail plane February 27, was 12 year old, Biene, from Port Townsend, Wash. Though she was a new face to most of us, that wasn't the case with Gaia Thurston/Shaine. Biene and Gaia have been friends since Kindergarten. It is obvious Biene has enjoyed her visit. She shared with me that much of her time is being spent writing letters to friends and family, she guesses about 40! Biene's departure date is May 1. Good-bye, Biene!

Loy Green: Loy might be seen driving a snowmachine in the winter, flying his Avid Flyer airplane in the summer, but cruising in a Datsun 280ZX down in the Lower 48?? He is on a vacation and will be visiting his sister, Martha Berg, in Ashland, Oregon. Loy is not expected back to McCarthy till the end of May. Ed LaChapelle reports from Olympia that Loy paid him a visit and is thoroughly enjoying his vacation.

Gary and Nancy Green: If anyone is looking for Gary or Nancy these days, you'll have to take a look downtown McCarthy. They are busy building a 20'X28' building for their business—McCarthy Air.

Being constructed out of local aspen trees, the office will make a beautiful addition to main street. Fred Denner of Dan Creek is heading up the project for the Greens. Nancy is in charge of the log peeling and is thrilled with all the help she has received from the neighbors who occasionally stop by to give her a hand!

John and Adam Adams: John and his son, Adam, have been doing their share of building, too. In fact, they have constructed a 10'X12' cabin which they plan to rent out this summer..Just how much work Adam did on the project is questionable. He "inconveniently" cut his finger while using his new pocket knife!

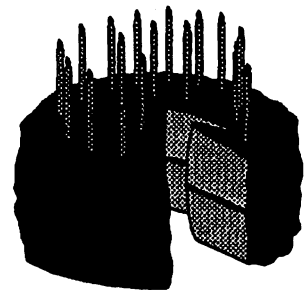
Richard Villa/George (Bob) Pinney: What some people do for fun! Richard and George just returned (April 30) from a 25-30 day trip climbing on the backside of Mt. Blackburn. When I first heard of the venture, I thought it must be an "official" trip for Richard—he works for St. Elias Alpine Guides. Instead, the answer I got from Lilly Goodman was, "No, it was just for fun!" Everyone is glad they had a safe trip. I'll see if I can coax a story or two out of them for next issue.

Howard Mozen: A new business has sprung up in town and its name is quite appropriate—Copper Oar. Howard is at the helm and he is making wilderness rafting in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park his theme. All of us at WSEN wish Howard and his guides successful rafting.

The Miller family: If you can't find Jim, Jeannie or the kids in McCarthy busy at work on their pizza parlor, you just might find them constructing a pig pen! Jim and Jeannie didn't come back from town empty handed—they brought in several baby pigs.

Rick and Bonnie Kenyon: For those of you who are interested in our "grandparent" statis—we are still waiting. We expect word any day now as Maria is due May 2! I'm wondering if Rick will allow me a full page in the next issue of WSEN—just for pictures!

Randy Elliot: Randy is back from his winter travels. At the present time, he cannot be found at Dan Creek mining gold, or on his computer turning out "King Floyd" episodes, but you will find him at Kennicott on his D-6 Bulldozer. He is moving a couple of buildings for Rich Kirkwood.



Happy Birthday greetings: We would like to congratulate all those who celebrated birthdays during March and April. Gaia and Ardea Thurston-Shaine, Matt Miller, Tyler Green, Nancy Green, Adam Adams and, last but not least, Chris Richards who may have found this particular birthday a bit hard to take—he turned "40."

Meetings, meetings, and more meetings

M.A.L.A.

Wednesday, April 28 was another busy day for McCarthy area residents. After the normal mail sorting chores were finished, MALA held its April meeting. The meeting had been scheduled for 2 weeks earlier, but was postponed as there were not enough members to make a quorum on the day assigned. MALA members met at the McCarthy airstrip, near the mail shack.

The agenda: trash and toilet problems in the McCarthy and Kennicott townsites that have been created by the large influx of tourists in recent years. A letter was passed around from NPS Superintendent Karen Wade stating that Laura Rotegard could be assigned to help with technical advice, if MALA wrote a letter requesting it. A vote was taken and the decision reached to handle the problem locally, without outside assistance at this time.

The next meeting will be after mail on May 12. Bring your work clothes and carpenter tools.

SRC, NPS

After the MALA meeting, those interested in the proposed changes in the subsistence regulations had a chance to talk with Paul Claus, who is on the Subsistence Resource Commission. Paul was accompanied by 3 uniformed Park Rangers, including Chief Ranger for Wrangell-St. Elias, Jay Wells.

Claus said that because of the public opposition to proposal A, which is 18 separate, relatively small areas, the SRC is prepared to offer proposal B. Proposal B includes the park, preserve, and a 15 mile wide zone around the park/preserve. He said, however, that in order to gain support from the Park Service, they needed to "superimpose" the original community boundaries of proposal A, so that community boundaries would be defined. He said NPS felt community boundaries were necessary so that they could delete communities if they no longer qualified for resident zone status. He gave as an example a factory springing up in McCarthy. Paul said it might be better for the community if the small area designation is

left to stand. Then, if it is deleted from the resident zone it will not affect many people. This met with heated opposition from those present, who agreed that there should be no boundaries drawn around McCarthy. They said that lines could be drawn later if the community changes that much. Someone pointed out that the proposed McCarthy resident zone would not qualify under the rules since it contained no "significant concentration of people ..."

Mark Vail said that the important issue is whether only people who had used the area before 1980, the year WRST became a Park, were going to be allowed subsistence use of the Park. If so, eventually the resident zones would be all "deleted" anyway. Jay Wells said that the "before 1980 interpretation" was "being debated" by NPS. Fred Denner asked Wells if he was familiar with the 15 conditions that people were asked to sign when they applied for a 13.44 permit. "I'm very familiar with them, I wrote them," Wells said. Fred read some of the conditions to the group, including the statement about aircraft access. (See story

page 5) Wells replied that he had "made some mistakes," that he would revise the conditions. He said they had been written "in a hurry." Judy Miller said she had tried to work with the NPS, but she felt they were trying to "squeeze the local residents out with layer on layer of regulations."

Wells said about 40 people had gotten 13.44 permits, but those who live in Valdez had their permit revoked when Valdez was declared to be "non-rural." He also told those present that the Superintendent was under considerable pressure to draw these boundaries. When asked who was applying so much pressure, he would only respond "the regional office."

Paul was asked if he felt that he could be an effective Commission member in light of the fact that the Park Service has yet to approve an important land exchange for the Claus family. He said that he did not consider it to be a conflict of interest, that it did not affect his decisions. Paul was appointed to the SRC by the Secretary of the Interior.

State, NPS vie for Chisana Airstrip

Dave McCaleb, Chief of Planning and Design with the Alaska Department of Transportation, advised the National Park Service in February that the State is filing a Title 11 Application for the Chisana Airstrip. According to NPS documents, a petition from local residents supporting the action accompanied the application. The State is also preparing a Master Plan for FAA spelling out its intention for improvement and upgrade during the next 20 years.

The ownership of the Chisana and May Creek Airstrips has been in contention. Both the State and the National Park Service claim them.

Lynx Study

The National Park Service received \$16,100 for a study of the Lynx Population.

Friends of Kennecott ask for \$200,000 ISTEAFunds

Friends of Kennecott have asked DOT&PF for an additional \$200,000 to "complete this emergency stabilization project and halt deterioration of the key core buildings of this National Historical Landmark."

of routes and sites which will receive designation under the program. "It is anticipated, however, that a site such as the Kennecott Mine National Historic Landmark would be a prime candidate for consideration," Turpin said.

Frank Turpin, Commissioner for DOT/PF, said that the project might be included under the Scenic Travel Enhancement Program (STEP). STEP first needs to complete the selection

The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat!

Local resident turns down 13.44 permit

Says "lifetime permit" has too many strings attached

The National Park Service 13.44 permits, sometimes called "lifetime permits," turned out to be a big disappointment to long time local resident Bob Hammer. After filling out the 6 page form required to determine eligibility for subsistence uses in the park, Bob received a Special Use Permit, along with two pages of "conditions," and was asked to sign both documents. After reading the conditions, 15 in all, Bob said "thanks, but no thanks."

The permit itself is a generic Special Use Permit that NPS uses to issue a permit for everything from Stock Watering to Chemical Storage Bins. It has 8 conditions on the back, including the statement that the permit may be terminated "at the discretion of the superintendent." The instruction sheet that is attached to the permit notes that "this form may be used to permit either LONG TERM (not to exceed 5 years) or SHORT TERM (not to exceed 1 year) uses. Check the appropriate space at the top of the form." Long Term is checked.

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 36 CFR 13.44 spell out the criteria for the Superintendent of the park to use in determining whether to issue the permit to an applicant. For those who live outside a resident zone it is quite simple: "The Superintendent shall grant the permit if the permit applicant demonstrates that without using aircraft as a means of access for purposes of taking fish and wildlife for subsistence uses, the applicant has (or is a member of a family who has) customarily and traditionally engaged in subsistence uses within a national park or monument." NPS, however, has apparently decided to add permanent residency as a requirement to keep the permits. Supplemental Permit Condition number 10 says that "This permit is void if permittee changes his/her permanent residence. The permittee must reapply for a subsistence eligibility permit (13.44) if there is a change in permanent residency."

Condition number 11 is apparently how the Valdez residents lost their permits: "This permit is void if the permittee's permanent residence is determined to be

'non-rural' by federal regulation." Since anyone who meets the criteria of 13.44 is by federal definition a "rural resident" (13.42 (a)(ii)), this poses an interesting question. How could the residence of a rural resident be determined to be non-rural? Apparently it has happened.

Condition number 14 deals with aircraft access. Federal regulations state that aircraft cannot be used for access to or from the park when engaged in subsistence

activities. But the permit carries this several steps farther with this statement: "Aircraft access is prohibited for any portion of the access whether it occurs within the park, preserve, private lands within the boundaries or lands outside the boundary of the park." Just what that means is certainly not clear, but to Bob it sounds like a trap. He summed it up this way: "They know where I live. I'm not going to sign my life away for a permit I don't need anyway."

SUPPLEMENTAL PERMIT CONDITIONS

PERMIT NUMBER: ARO-WRST-6000/H93-002 **Robert K. Hammer**

1-8 See reverse side of 10-114 permit cover sheet

9. This permit establishes eligibility only for subsistence uses within Wrangell-St Elias National Park. Specific subsistence activities (i.e. house logs, firewood, cabins, subsistence registration hunts, ATV use, caches, etc.) require separate authorization or permits.

10. This permit is void if permittee changes his/her permanent residence. The permittee must reapply for a subsistence eligibility permit (13.44) if there is a change in permanent residency.

11. This permit is void if the permittee's permanent residence is determined to be "non-rural" by federal regulation.

12. The permittee is subject to other requirements including, but not limited to, seasons and bag limits, community customary and traditional determinations, methods and means.

13. Only those family members living within the permittee's household are authorized by this permit for subsistence uses in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. It is the responsibility of the permittee to notify the Superintendent of changes in the composition of the household, including additions (through birth, adoption or marriage) or deletions (a family member moving out of the household) to the household.

14. The permittee is prohibited by federal regulations (36 CFR 13.45) from using aircraft access the park for the purpose of engaging in subsistence activities. Aircraft access is prohibited for any portion of the access whether it occurs within the park, preserve, private lands within the boundaries or lands outside the boundary of the park.

15. Violations of federal regulations and the conditions of this permit may result in the revocation of this permit.

I have read and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

X

 Permittee Signature

 Date

Seven of the fifteen conditions attached to the 13.44 permit for subsistence eligibility

Background

RESIDENT ZONE

The federal regulations that define the Wrangell-St. Elias resident zone are found in the Federal Register, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Subpart B-Subsistence. They were written in 1981.

13.42 -- Definitions

Local rural resident. "Any person who has his/her primary, permanent home within the resident zone as defined by this section, and whenever absent ... has the intention of returning to it. Factors demonstrating the location of a persons primary, permanent home may include, but are not limited to, the permanent address indicated on licenses ...,tax returns, and the location of registration to vote.

or:

Any person authorized to engage in subsistence uses in a national park or monument by a subsistence permit issued pursuant to 13.44

13.43 Determinations of resident zones

A resident zone shall include the area within a national park or monument, and the communities and areas near a national park or monument which contain significant concentrations of rural residents who, without using aircraft as a means of access for purposes of taking fish or wildlife for subsistence use (except in extraordinary cases where no reasonable alternative existed), have customarily and traditionally engaged in subsistence uses within a national park or monument.

13.44 Subsistence eligibility permit

Any rural resident whose primary, permanent home is outside the boundaries of a resident zone may apply ... for a subsistence permit. The Superintendent shall grant the permit if the permit applicant demonstrates that without using aircraft as a means of access for purposes of taking fish and wildlife for subsistence uses, the applicant has (or is a member of a family which has) customarily and traditionally engaged in subsistence uses within a national park or monument.

Subpart C describes the resident zone for Wrangell-St. Elias:

13.73 The following communities and areas are included within the resident zone for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park:

Chisana	Chistochina	Chitina
Copper Center	Gakona	Gakona Junction
Glennallen	Kenny Lake	Lower Tonsina
McCarthy	Mentasta Lake	Nabesna
Siana	Tazlina	Tok
Tonsina	Yakutat	

Why resident zone boundaries?

According to a National Park document prepared for the Subsistence Resource Commission, the reason for the proposed resident zone boundaries is that the "local population has dispersed along the highways, spreading beyond the implicit boundaries of the communities as they existed at the time of designation for resident zone purposes."

The document, which was given to the SRC at their November meeting, says that the Park Service used aerial photographs taken between 1978-1980 to make boundary lines on maps, "in a consistent and logical manner." The proposed boundaries were identified by the Superintendent in August of 1992 and were given to the SRC in November for review.

"NPS staff are currently seeking out individuals or families who clearly live outside the resident zone communities, who are known to have an established use of subsistence resources in the Park. We are assisting them in applying for and receiving subsistence eligibility permits to ensure that their continued subsistence privileges are protected."

For further information contact Jay Wells, PO Box 29, Glennallen, AK 99588 or phone 822-5234.

National Geographic Society to do Park story

The planning council for the National Geographic Society has approved an article on Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. George Mobley will be directing the project.

(from NPS squad notes)

The six most important words: I admit I made a mistake.
The five most important words: You did a good job.
The four most important words: What is your opinion ?
The three most important words: If you please.
The two most important words: Thank you.
The one most important word: We
The least important word: I

NPS Superintendent meets with McCarthy residents

March was a month of meetings for McCarthy area residents. On Wednesday, March 10, the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park held a public meeting at Ed LaChapelle's cabin to talk about the subsistence resident zone issue.

The Superintendent, Karen Wade, started the meeting with a short history of subsistence uses in national parks. "Congress after long debate decided that subsistence should be allowed in National Parks in Alaska. That was a radical departure from the pattern of the way national parks are generally managed in the lower 48," said Wade. "Congress specifically allowed for the continuation of subsistence for local rural residents who had established patterns of use of park resources prior to the establishment of the park," she said. "Those people should be allowed to continue to practice subsistence, after the establishment of the park. No one else should do so."

Mrs. Wade read from a senate report that recommended using the resident zone concept rather than a permit system. The report said that with the resident zone system the government would be spared the expense of a permit system, and that traditional movement of rural residents between rural villages and Alaska's larger population centers can continue. The report went on to say that if the community changes drastically the NPS can delete it from the resident zone. It also mentioned that if at some point in time it may be necessary to restrict taking, then subsistence gets priority use.

According to the Superintendent this park has never identified its zone. She said, "If someone walks into my office and asks if they can hunt in the park, I ask them if they were around using the park for subsistence prior to 1980, and where do they live. If they live roughly in the Copper River Basin and they were around prior to 1980, and they used those resources without flying in, (which is another thing Congress put on us) we let them hunt. There is no line at all. The other thing we have not done since 1980 is to establish resident zone community boundaries, and we haven't put people under a permit that live outside of those community boundaries.

"People who work for the park service in Glennallen are not stupid, and they realized how hard this was to do, because the communities are not communities per se. You cannot fly over a place like McCarthy and say, 'this is this community, where this concentration of houses are.' Park staff knows that. It's true of almost all the communities out here.

"My predecessors were under considerable pressure to take that step, to try to identify where the zone was, so anyone who lives outside of that zone clearly cannot harvest park resources. People who are within that zone can. This park staff is also not stupid. It knows that people in Alaska do not like permits. It knows that. And it knows that those who have permits and those who don't need a permit, that sets up kind of a dual system that makes people very nervous, they don't like it. So we kept going to the SRC and telling them 'you gotta come up with another way.'

"I am in a position right now where I have to go forward with a resolution to this issue. You can't keep going like this year after year after year, because people move in and establish patterns of living and technically they are not qualified under these regulations. And so I said, 'O.K., I'm going to go to the SRC and I'm going to say to them, 'This agency is going to do something if you don't. So if you don't like this way of doing things, you're going to have to come up with a better way.' ' That's pressure, I guess. But it also had become necessary to do."

Superintendent Wade encouraged the community to become more politically active. "For people who want to live an unregulated, permit free society, I have never seen such a mess. Alaska is full of real conflicts because of lands issues. I think if you want it to come out in your favor you are going to have to participate more actively, and I think we are going to have to establish relationships. I don't think we can agree all the time, I know we can't. But we can sure talk things through, and if you talk things through you have a better chance of coming up with something that is more acceptable than what may very well happen. And these representatives that serve on the boards, I would take seriously. I would also say, that if they don't do well, if they don't represent you well, they are not considered seriously.

"I have some ability to influence the way things go as long as the decisions are delegated to me. I have to lobby too. I have to go say, 'Well at Wrangells the world doesn't look like that. And you need to be responsive to the way the

world does look at Wrangells.' I lobby. I don't always get what I want. I am part of an agency that is very much influenced by people who don't live in Alaska. The National Park Service has a big constituency, and the majority of that constituency is not in Alaska."

Mrs. Wade discussed the subsistence permit, sometimes called a "13.44" or "lifetime" permit. She said that there were currently 8 active permits in the state. There had been more, but people who live in Valdez lost theirs. Malcolm Vance asked, "How can these permits be called lifetime, since they have already been revoked for those who live in Valdez? Wade responded, "Valdez went from being rural to being urban. I don't know the history of all that, Malcolm."

Nancy Green asked, "If we get a permit, leave for two years, or five years, then come back here, is that permit still going to be valid?" "I don't know the answer to that, but that should be something we consider," Wade said.

Kelly Bay asked if the SRC proposal will be given to the Superintendent. She responded, "No, it goes directly from the Commission to the Secretary of the Interior, it doesn't come to me at all. Kelly suggested that Karen and Bill Ellis come together to McCarthy for a meeting with MALA. She said, "I don't think I want, that I should be at a meeting representing the Park Service with Bill Ellis because basically now this is a SRC issue, and I don't want to represent the agency at that meeting, it should be Jay Wells." Karen Wade suggested the community talk with Paul Claus rather than Bill Ellis.

Group negotiates historic winter trail

BY KIM NORTHRUP

Hundreds of years ago, Yukon natives of the Burwash area established a winter trail for trade with the Copper River Indians. Inspired by the tales of a neighbor who had made the journey as a child, Peter Upton and Elizabeth Hofer of Kluane Lake, Yukon, along with friends Angela Milani and Mark Conner of Marsh lake, decided to give the trail a try.

Mountain man Morley Bones' travels from McCarthy to Silver City depicted by G. O. Young in *Yukon Trophies Won and Lost* suggested McCarthy as a final destination to the skiers.

The modern day foursome began their journey at the White River Lodge where a chance meeting with Al and Fran Gagnon ended with an

invitation to drop by for a visit. Eighteen days and 140 miles later Peter and friends arrived in May Creek safe and sound, for a cup of Al's coffee and a slice of Fran's homemade bread. Plans to negotiate the Nizina River and travel the final distance to McCarthy were vetoed in favor of a dry, relaxing, ride on the mail plane.



All in all the trip went well and the group had a good time, unscathed but for a few broken bindings. After skiing ice up the White River for 70 miles, they arrived at Solo Flats

and their food cache on the Russell Glacier. Out of snow it took four days to ferry the supplies to upper Skolai Lake

where things began to get challenging. The most difficult part of the trail, negotiating the thirteen miles of Skolai

Creek to the Nizina River, took a bit of rope, a lot of ingenuity and four days. Making better time after finding good snow at Moonshine Creek, the group had their best day between West Fork and May Creek. Now that the vacation is over Peter



and Elizabeth are back to work in Kluane Lake where they own and operate St. Elias Ski and Tour.

If this sounds like a great kind of vacation and your looking for a guide who really enjoys his/her job, Peter and Elizabeth can be reached via St. Elias Ski and Tour Mile 1055 AK hwy. Silver Creek, Yukon

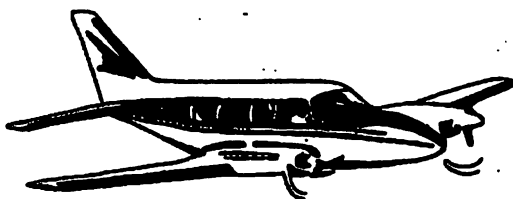
"Fire goes out for lack of fuel, and tensions disappear when gossip stops." -Proverbs 26:20 (TLB)

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

Now you can leave Anchorage at 8:30 on Wednesday or Friday morning and arrive in Gulkana at 9:45, McCarthy at 11:00. Or, you can leave McCarthy at 11:15 and be back in Anchorage by 2:00pm the same day! (Leaves Gulkana at 12:45)
This service is year around.

Rates :	
Gulkana/McCarthy	\$56*
McCarthy/Gulkana	\$58*
Gulkana/MayCreek	\$60
May Creek/Gulkana	\$60
Anchorage/Gulkana	\$105*
Gulkana/Anchorage	\$105*

* Ask about special round-trip rates
Baggage allowance 40 lbs.
(charge for excess baggage)



Ellis Air Taxi, Inc.

Gulkana Airfield Box 106, Glennallen, AK 99588
Phone 822-3368
800-478-3368

McCarthy Area Landowners Meet Twice in March

McCarthy—March was a busy but eventful month for the residents of McCarthy and Kennicott. The McCarthy Area Landowners Association met in McCarthy on March 3 and 17 to discuss and vote on the most desired and needed access to the communities of McCarthy and Kennicott

Because of a growing interest in the surrounding Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, the two tram cars that cross the Kennicott River are seeing a much-increased volume of traffic. Long lines of visitors waiting to cross the river on last July 4 were seen in pictures passed out by one of the local residents. The consensus of the M.A.L.A. members was that an upgrade was needed.

Footbridge chosen

At the March 17 meeting various proposals were presented for consideration: a railway/monorail, a restricted vehicular bridge, a tram capable of handling the increased traffic, and footbridges. After much discussion a vote was taken. There was overwhelming support for the construction of footbridges for pedestrian access. The trams might be retained for freighting.

A letter has since been written by M.A.L.A. to John Horn of the Department of Transportation stating the consensus of the local residents. D.O.T. has been asked to assist McCarthy and Kennicott in providing safe and desired access to the area.

Visitors address residents

Laura Rotegard of the National Park Service, James Winchester and Lee Santoro representing radio station KCHU addressed the 31 in attendance during the March 3 meeting.

Rotegard works for the National Park Service in Denver, Colorado. In describing her background she says, "I'm a landscape architect which means I have lots of years experience and college education on how you move earth and how you shape the ground, how you plant plants, how you look at the way people move around the area and visitor and tourist development..." She is also a community planner and has just as much background working with small communities. Rotegard has been asked by NPS to formulate a process to study their possible role in the future of Kennicott. "That study has a couple of directions," explained Rotegard. "I've been asked to look at two questions concerning this area. What is the future of Kennicott? What is the Park Services' role in its future? And that has to do with an acquisition question. The other question is: How does McCarthy want to be involved in what happens with the Park Services' role?"

Funding for the "Kennicott/McCarthy Special Research Study" is lacking. According to Rotegard, a funding meeting in Washington DC in September left them without the funding necessary to continue the project. However, the Alaska Regional Director of the Park Service, Jack Morehead, and Karen

Wade, Superintendent of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, asked the Denver NPS if they could buy Rotegard's time for 5, 6, or 8 weeks this year—"just to keep some steps going in hopes that the funding would really take off in October."

This trip to McCarthy was Rotegard's second visit to the area. A 12 day visit in August gave her an opportunity to see the lay of the land, visit with some of the local residents and look over Kennicott. A 10 page report she wrote afterwards resulted in some local concern with her description of everyday life in McCarthy. In March she made herself available for interviews and was personally invited into various homes to address those concerns and answer questions regarding the future of McCarthy and Kennicott. Although Rotegard was quick to ask local opinion on the possible acquisition of Kennicott by NPS, she does not consider herself a liaison between the Park and the community.

James Winchester, Manager of radio KCHU, presented their goal of including the Copper Basin region into their public radio system. KCHU's AM transmitter is located in Valdez. According to a fact sheet for legislative support Winchester passed out to those attending the McCarthy town meeting, the signal is just not strong enough for the valley. While some in the McCarthy and Kennicott area receive the signal fine, others complain of a very weak signal which is subject to a lot of atmospheric changes and interference. To improve the situation, the station would like to put a

low-powered (10 watt) FM translator in the McCarthy area. The system, according to Winchester, will be solar powered as much as possible.

In order to expand and improve their present radio signal, KCHU has chosen to try for legislative funding. "The total price tag for the system for the Copper Basin is \$80,000," explains Winchester. "In terms of the way those folks spend money, it's not a great deal." The McCarthy area project could cost \$25,000 of that. With funding for public broadcasting being cut progressively Winchester warns, "We have to fight for every dime we get."

Winchester encouraged those in attendance to get in contact with local legislators and Governor Hickel. He stressed the need for our legislators to hear from the community—describing our area as rural, isolated with not too many other sources of media. To aid local KCHU supporters even more, Winchester sent McCarthy residents a petition to sign and even sent envelopes to be used for writing letters to legislators.

Challenges ahead

With several town meetings behind them and others yet to come, McCarthy Area Landowners Association is well aware of the challenges ahead. Openly discussing and choosing a desired access was a major hurdle for the residents of the area. Other issues, more town meetings and discussions are down the road. Change is evident—the choice for footbridges is the proof!



Ellis Air Taxi took delivery of a Piper PA-31-350 Navajo Chief on April 9, 1993. The new owner, Lynn Ellis, said he plans to use the new aircraft on the McCarthy/May Creek mail run starting June 1. The Chief has 8 passenger seats and cruises at 170 knots.

Security Aviation provides scheduled service from Anchorage to Glennallen on Wednesdays and Fridays. The new aircraft will be able to bring these passengers to McCarthy or May Creek. Passengers from McCarthy or May Creek heading to Anchorage can also link with the Security flights. In the past, using single engine Cessna aircraft, Ellis has had to make more than one flight on days when there were more passengers than there were seats available. ■



Bon Voyage
TRAVEL AGENCY

NOW THAT WE ARE LOOKING
AT MAY AND JUNE,
JULY AND AUGUST WILL BE HERE
WAY TOO SOON.

THEN COMES THE SEASON
THAT'S KNOWN AS FALL,
WHEN MOON AND STARS SHINE BRIGHT,
AND BIRDS OF TRAVEL
BEGIN THEIR MIGRATORY FLIGHT.

SHOULD THEIR WISDOM
INSPIRE YOU AT ALL,
JUST REMEMBER, AT BON VOYAGE,
WE ARE WAITING FOR YOUR CALL.

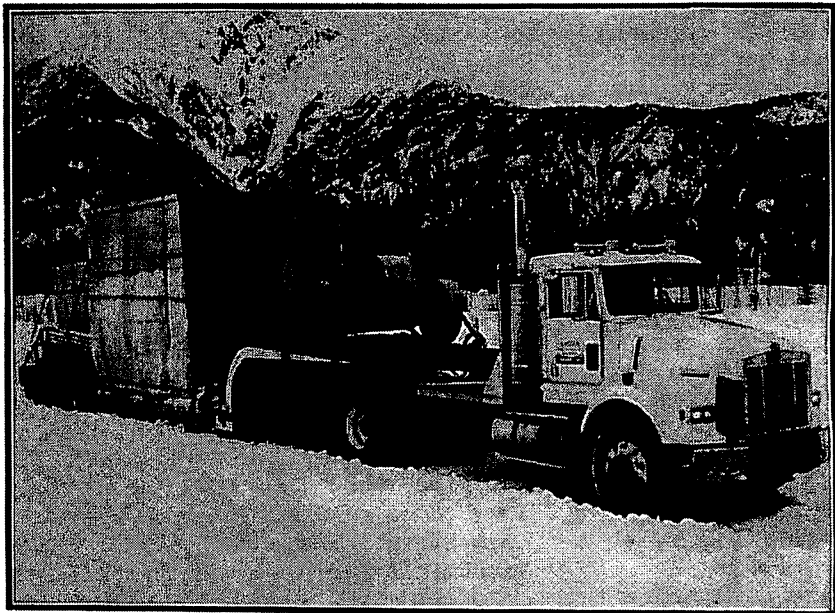
Bon Voyage Travel
822-3427
S.R. Box 470, GAKONA AK 99586

"Get your dimes and go to the river crossing, they're bringing in the phones." That was the announcement on the local CB channel in the early afternoon of March 24. Although spoken in jest, there was a hint of excitement in the announcer's voice. What "they" were actually bringing was the building that will house the telephone equipment.

Bill Harris of Harris Sand and Gravel (Valdez) drove the truck carrying the building. He was able to cross both branches of the Kennicott River on the ice. A second, smaller truck brought a large spool of cable for the project. The building and equipment is expected to end up near the south end of the McCarthy airstrip, but since there was still 2 feet of snow on the ground it was unloaded near the east tram.

The previous week Jim Bartley, an engineer with Alascom, came and checked the proposed site to see if the satellite would be visible from there. He gave his blessing on the location.

Scott Smith, the General Manager for Copper Valley Telephone sent a letter to



Truck brings "switch" for new phone system

photo courtesy Ed LaChapelle

MALA on March 29. In the letter Smith said, "This is a complicated process which will involve work over several years, and which we are just in the early stages of planning. We have taken advantage of the DOT equipment and the

ice in order to get some equipment located on the McCarthy side of the river, but it will be a few months before we will actually be in a position to accomplish any construction."

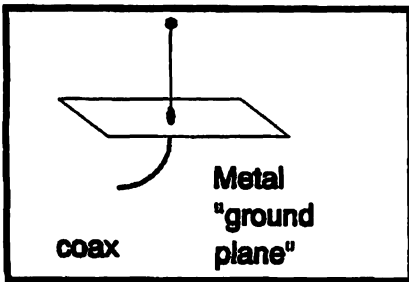
Rick and Ed's Radio Rap

This is the second installment in our column offering advice to our readers concerning radio related problems. Please write us with your problems and we'll help you as much as we can. Be sure to include as much information as possible about your radio, such as make, model and approximate age, and describe your location.

Dear Rappers: I have a CB radio that everyone tells me sounds horrible. I can hear others fair, but not real well. My antenna is from an automobile installation. It is about 2 feet long and I have it mounted in a tree. Any suggestions?

— A CB hopeful.

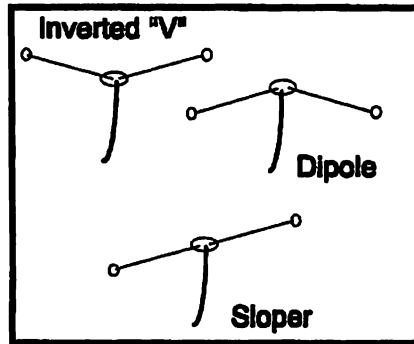
Ed: The first problem I see is that your antenna was made to mount on a car, not in a tree. When the antenna was installed on the car roof or on a fender, the car body actually served as part of the antenna system. The stiff wire or rod was the part called the "radiating element," and the car body part was called a "ground plane." By putting the antenna in a tree, one half of the system is actually missing, because the tree is wood rather than metal.



Rick: You can still use the same antenna if you can mount it on a piece of metal to act as the ground plane part of the system. If you have a metal roof on your cabin this will work. Actually any large piece of metal that you can mount the antenna on is O.K. The antenna should be mounted at right angles to the metal. One piece of metal roofing attached to a shingled roof or other structure works fine. Just be sure you use "coaxial cable," or "coax," to feed the signal from the radio to the antenna. Have the antenna as high as you can, but keep the feedline as short as possible.

Ed: Attach the center wire of the coax to the center part of the antenna, and the braid to the metal roof or other ground plane. If you have one of the antennas with a magnetic base, it probably already has the coax attached. Just let the magnet do its job on the metal.

Rick: If you don't have a handy piece of metal for a ground plane, you can make your own antenna with some wire and a few bits of plastic or other insulating material. It's called a "dipole" and works better than the type of antenna made to mount on a car.

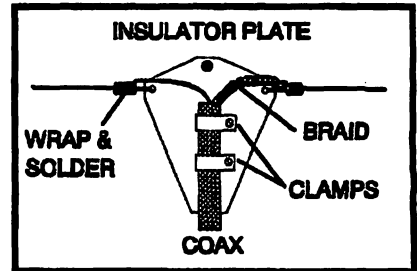


Ed: The only critical part of making your own dipole is to understand that it has to be a certain length, which varies with the frequency of the radio signal. For CB use a total length of 17 feet 2 inches will work on both channel 5 and channel 18, the two main local channels.

Rick: The dipole is made up of two pieces of wire, with a center insulator and an insulator at each end. It can be supported between two trees or other supports, or it can even be supported in the middle and the two wires can slant down towards the ground in the shape of an inverted "V." Or one end can be hung from a tree or other support and the other end slope down towards the ground. This arrangement is called a "sloper." See drawing.

Ed: The insulators can either be commercial models, or you can make them in the best "bush" tradition from a piece of "pvc" pipe or similar material. The drawing gives the idea of how to shape the center one. In a pinch, you can even use wood if you coat it good with varnish or other

sealer. A discarded toothbrush handle can be used to make the end insulators. You can even dispense with the two end insulators if you support the antenna with monofilament fishing line as it is a good insulator.



Rick: Use copper wire for the "elements" if possible. The diameter is not critical, and it doesn't matter if it is bare or has insulation on it, as long as you strip any insulation from the end that joins the coax wires. The type of wire that lamp cords is made of (sometimes called zip cord) works fine, as does automotive wire or even house wiring. Just separate the wires and use one on each side. Cut the wires to approximately 9' to allow for a loop at each insulator. The finished length should be 8'7" per side, or 17'2" total.

Ed: You should solder the coax center wire to one side of the antenna, and the braid to the other side. Use resin core solder, not acid core. Be sure the coax is supported by the center insulator in some manner. You can use a piece of PVC pipe 1" or 2" in diameter and 4" long for a center insulator, and loop the coax over it with a plastic tie wrap to keep it from slipping. Just don't let the coax hang from the small wires or it will soon break. Keep the braid and center conductor as short as practical. The coax should run away from the antenna at as near to a right angle as possible.

Rick: You don't want water to get under the protective covering on the coax cable as it will cause the copper braid to corrode. Cover the area where the cover stops with a silicon sealant, and before it sets up wrap it with black plastic electrical tape. With our dry Alaska climate that should last for years.



Notes From Saigon

BY MIKE MCCARTHY

I've been traveling around Vietnam now for about three weeks. I arrived in Saigon from Bangkok on Thai Airways after a couple of hours of flying. I obtained a one month Vietnamese visa from the Vietnamese Embassy in Bangkok. This was no problem as a U.S. citizen and cost about \$55.00.

Vietnam is a very beautiful country with a varied climate and terrain. It's also a very poor country where the people work hard to survive.

In Saigon there is a lot of private enterprise starting to happen; it's a "wide-open city" and seems pretty wild at times. The rest of the country hasn't quite grasped that capitalistic feeling yet. About three years ago the government implemented land and political reforms while encouraging foreign business to invest in Vietnam. The results have been a freer society and a slow economic growth.

Food in Vietnam is very good most places and quite inexpensive. Fresh vegetables come from the highlands, fruits and rice from the Mekong Delta region. Markets seem well stocked with a wide variety of food, everything from snake, chicken, pork, venison, fish, wild boar to M&Ms and French cheeses. All it takes is money.

The streets of downtown Saigon (officially Ho Chi Min City) are busy with small motorcycles, a few cars, and lots of peddle cycles which clog the streets—transporting everything you can imagine. It's quite amazing to see a small 70cc Honda loaded with 5 pigs

or 40 ducks weaving through traffic. Or a peddle cycle weighted down with a Vietnamese family of 6 and all their trappings cruising along. There are no center lines, and horn use by autos and trucks is constant. On Sunday nights in Saigon the downtown squares become jammed with small motorcycles cruising around and around with people dressed in their best and making the

for most Vietnamese people. These people are very poor. One dollar a day seems like an average wage with many lucky to get that. Their day is 12-14 hours usually.

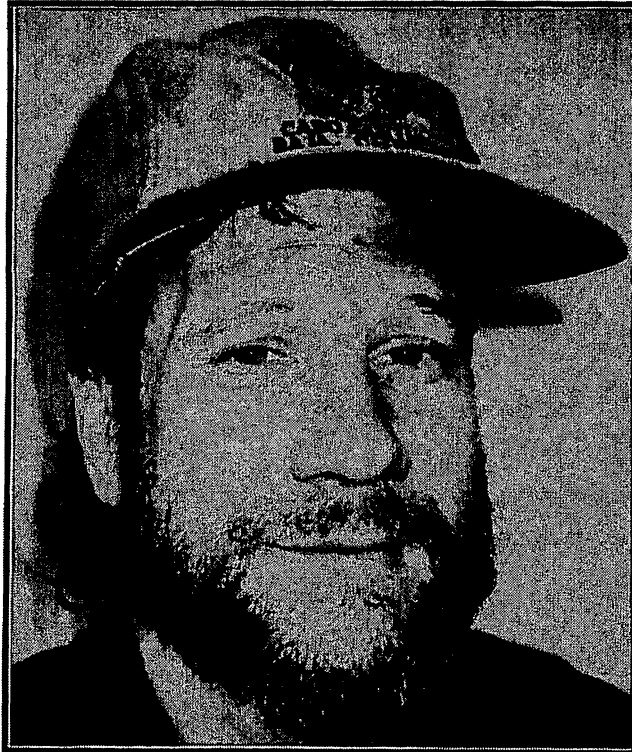
I met a lady whose mother had taught school for 35 years and was about to retire. She earned a dollar a day working and would retire at 70% of that!

Gold is used for major purchases such as a motorcycle or a house.

It's the week of TET, Lunar New Year, the largest and most celebrated holiday for the Vietnamese. Saigon City builds with excitement as the anticipation of the great event takes hold of the population. Vietnamese from abroad (called Vietque by locals) arrive by boat, plane, and train bringing gifts, and family members to visit relatives and celebrate TET. Many of these folks haven't seen each other in many years. Family reunifications are common as Vietnam returns to a more "normal" political policy enabling Vietques to feel more comfortable returning. The Vietnamese government encourages these returns as it knows the people coming back will bring hard currency to spend. More on TET in a bit.

I went for a two-hour boat ride up the Saigon River. It is a major route for small freighters and other cargo coming into the country. I noticed quite a few old L.C.M.s, L.S.T. and other American surplus craft left over from the war plying the waterways. You see old American vehicles and equipment working everywhere you go in Vietnam. I saw 250 ft. freighters up river as far as Saigon; some were in a dry dock receiving bottom repairs.

I encountered many Americans traveling in Vietnam. Tourists, businessmen, and ex-G.I.s are seen at restaurants, hotels, and other places frequented by foreigners. As an American I was treated very kindly by the Vietnamese people.



Mike McCarthy, Kennicott resident

photo courtesy Ed Lachapelle

"scene." Beggars, pickpockets, little kids selling postcards, street vendors hawking their wares, and cyclo drivers yelling, "Hey, you, where you go?" It's all these sights and sounds assaulting you from every angle. It's overwhelming at times and you need to dive into a quiet place or head back to your hotel to clear your mind and regain some sort of "reality." What is really here? It's very different for me then

The currency of Vietnam is the Dong. About 10,000 Dong will exchange for 1 U.S. dollar. Dong come in 10,000, 5,000, 2,000, 1,000, 500, and 200 denomination notes. They have no coins currently in use. U.S. dollars are also used by everyone and exchange easily for Dong which are better for small transactions. Travelers cheques can be exchanged but only in large cities at a bank.

Many of these people in the south worked for the Americans before 1975. Some traveled to the U.S. for education and training. After the 1975 Communist victory, life has been very difficult for the people who worked with the Americans. Most who didn't escape were sent to reeducation camps or prison. After their release, work was impossible for them to find. They now hope the Americans will return with our economic power to help the Vietnamese people find a better life.

Another sign of the approaching New Year is the flowering shrubs, flowers, and fruit trees people are buying in the streets. The small Honda cycles are loaded down with them and appear as moving gardens weaving through the streets heading for new beginnings. They are all in bloom or laden with fruit and are very beautiful. The new owners decorate them with New Year's cards such as we decorate our Christmas trees. Large strings of firecrackers are starting to be heard as the day of TET comes closer.

It would be helpful to learn the French language before visiting Vietnam. Many Vietnamese speak fluent French, especially the older generations. This legacy is left over from the French colonial days. Street vendors sell fresh baguettes on every corner in the cities and country villages; they are excellent. The streets in Saigon sometimes have three names. A French one, a post French pre 1975 and a post 1975 one. This can become very confusing when trying to communicate your intentions to a cyclo driver. Some of the streets of Saigon are beautiful boulevards lined with Elmlike trees and terminating at a cathedral, park or a square with a statue in the center. Some of the old French architecture is very lovely also. It is an interesting contrast of old

French buildings, American 1960's concrete, and modern Vietnamese structures lining the streets.

Until three years ago Russian was the language you were encouraged to learn if you were a Vietnamese University student. After the government in Hanoi realized the Soviet Union was finished they began encouraging everyone to learn English.

Most of these students' grammar was far superior to mine, but their conversation or English was lacking—mainly due to the absence of "real" English-speaking teachers. I had some great impromptu English lessons, everywhere from a doctor's office (while he was examining patients) to train stations and places in between. It was a lot of fun to help them with their English while they taught me about how they lived. Some of the South Vietnamese army vets spoke an interesting 1960's slang which only an American would understand. It was "colorful" to say the least.

The people of Vietnam are predominantly Buddhists with a large population of Catholics also. There are many ornate and colorful pagodas found in every city. Some are quite old and date back 1,000 years or so. I was invited to a pagoda for lunch by an old Buddhist monk one day. He was very educated and spoke five languages fluently and had a master's degree in English literature. As we sat eating a wonderful vegetarian meal, we discussed politics, religion, and Alaska. He was very interested in Alaska as I was the first person from the 49th state he had ever met. He was a kind and colorful man who had led an interesting life.

Well, it's New Years Eve and I'm joining a couple from Belgium for dinner at a rooftop open-air restaurant in the Rex

Hotel in downtown Saigon. We are about 5 stories above the main square. As we sat eating our dinner, rockets and parachute flares began to explode over our heads as the magic hour of New Years drew closer.

The management hung a 10 meter long string of firecrackers in the center of the restaurant as more and more explosions were heard on the streets below. Some of these "firecrackers" would be considered dynamite size by our standards. People on the restaurant's terrace were firing roman candles into the streets below and were rewarded with an accurate return fire! It was quite exciting as more and more rockets, bombs and strings of firecrackers exploded in a deafening roar.

I found myself a large shrub to hide behind with a solid wall to my back for protection from these missiles. When the moment of New Years arrived, a huge roar arose and the city filled with clouds of gray gunpowder smoke. The maitre d'hotel lit the tail of the string of firecrackers and it began to jump and dance around wildly chasing the "evil spirits" out of the building as the guests scattered for cover. The noise was so loud my head pounded for days afterwards. It was an event I certainly will never forget. This year's celebration was reported to be the grandest in 50 years.

The people of Saigon were happy because their lives were slowly improving. I wish them luck in the New Year ahead—the year of the Rooster.

The History of the World

(according to student bloopers)



Part one

Without the Greeks, we wouldn't have history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns - Corinthian, Doric and Ionic. They also had myths. A myth is a female moth. One myth says that the mother of Achilles dipped him in the River Styx until he became intolerable. Achilles appears in "The Illiad", by Homer. Homer also wrote the "Oddity", in which Penelope was the last hardship that Ulysses endured on his journey. Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.

Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock. In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits, and threw the java. The reward to the victor was a coral wreath. The government of Athens was democratic because the people took the law into their own hands. There were no wars in Greece, as the mountains were so high that they couldn't climb over to see what their neighbors were doing. When they fought the Parisians, the Greeks were outnumbered because the Persians had more men.

Eventually, the Ramons conquered the Geeks. History call people Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long. At Roman banquets, the guests wore garlic in their hair. Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March killed him because they thought he was going to be made king. Nero was a cruel tyranny who would torture his poor subjects by playing the fiddle to them.

OUR TOWN

May  1918  June

MANY SNOW SLIDES AT KENNECOTT

Bonanza trains are again running O.K. Another slide took place in Jumbo Canyon, taking out all towers between stations two and three, six men having a narrow escape.

This accident will not affect the output at all as there is a big supply of ore at the stockpile.

ARCTIC HYSTERIA

An article written by H.U. Hall of the University of Pennsylvania, throws some light, we think, on the peculiarities of many individuals who inhabit the Northland.

The effect of the long darkness in high latitudes in the Arctic gives rise to what he calls "Arctic Hysteria" under which people find it impossible to practice self-control so that they are nervous, irritable and quarrelsome. Sometimes having hysterical seizures in which all conversation is full of absurd exaggerations or laughable glorification's of themselves.

(May 4)

THE BOARD OF HEALTH COMMANDS

that all premises be cleaned up by May 20th.

On that date the Board will inspect the town and those not complying with this order will be prosecuted according to law.

Board of Health,
McCarthy Chamber of
Commerce.

(May 11)

ARMY AT WORK

The army with the rake, hoe and bonfire has been at work this week, everybody's yard has been given the "once over" pending the inspection visit of the Board of Health.

LOCAL NEWS

All the ranchers are now busy with their spring planting; Sam Seltenrich, Lubbe and Iverson expect to raise bumper crops of wheat.

Pete Johnson of Johnson's Hotel has equipped his house with running water, having tapped the spring at the side of his property. His next move will be to pipe the water to the upper floor. These rooms have just been kalsomined, and present an attractive appearance.

Angus McDougall the copper king of Strelina is visiting our city. He says the Kuskolima country is developing rapidly. Two concentrators will be in operation this season. There seems to be no shortage of labor and a highly successful season is looked for.

Dr. Homer A. Blyth, Dentist., will be in McCarthy for a few weeks and may be consulted at the Golden Hotel.

(May 18)

LOCAL NEWS

Wm. Longley and Billy Woodin returned from Fourth of July Pass, bringing in a fine brown bear skin, the first of the season.

SCHOOL NEWS

School will close June 7th. Besides their studies, the children have accomplished a great deal this term; having, in a period of three months, through their efforts purchased \$121.00 worth of Liberty Bonds, War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamps, an average of \$7.82 per capita.

Can any other school show such an average?

Through the kindness of Mr. Barrett, who has donated the use of a piece of ground, a War Garden has been started, and the older pupils have entered into the work with zest, complying with the request of the Food Administration which

feels no one is too young to help the great cause.

The Star Spangled Banner now floats with pride from the new flagpole and can be seen for miles around as the pole is 65 feet high.

(May 25)

CHITINA NEWS

Mrs. Rose Johnson of Valdez has secured the summer contract from Chitina to Fairbanks.

Mrs. Johnson has had a motorcycle with side baskets shipped in, and plans to carry the mail with it. As the season is fully a month late, and there is still much snow, it seems to most people an impossible undertaking. Mrs. Johnson arrived from Valdez over the trail today.

The contract starts June 4th.

(June 1)

ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

An eclipse of the sun was visible today about 1 p.m. and lasted for nearly an hour.

This was only a partial eclipse in Alaska, but in many parts of the U.S. a total one was seen.

BIG FIRE AT BONANZA MINE

At 2 a.m. on June 3rd a serious fire occurred at the Bonanza Mine resulting in the total destruction of the new four story bunkhouse and mess house.

Electric wires caused the fire and damage is estimated at \$50,000.

The fire started in the top story of the bunkhouse and was all ablaze in a few minutes.

After the messhouse was destroyed, the foreman sent half the homeless men to Kennicott to take care of them—the same as we are doing with our soldier and Red Cross relief.

The cooks had no grub left and those who had stayed behind were wondering where on earth their next meal was coming from when the ore buckets began to move and they were loaded with good things to eat - the men cheered - and the cooks got busy and supper was ready like lightning - at half past six everyone was fed - at 2 next morning new cook house & dining room were ready - at eleven 2 new bunkhouse tents were ready.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

A meeting of the Commercial Club was advertised for last Wednesday evening. Business: to arrange for a Fourth of July

International Cafe

Late Mrs. Smith's.
Under New Management.
Meals at all hours.
Rooms and Bunks, We have Nothing But The Best.

Celebration, and other matters of benefit to McCarthy.

Strange as it may appear, on that evening there were not enough members present to make a quorum.

We cannot understand why townspeople will not attend these meetings when they are fully aware that important matters will be under discussion - they are content to let all the work devolve upon a faithful few, then if these happen to make one mistake they are severely criticized.

(June 8)

SORRY--

Owing to the fact that freight shipments are delayed through war conditions, this weeks issue is printed on wrapping paper -for which we apologize- but feel our subscribers want news more than style.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The first shipment of strawberries this season arrived this week and were greatly enjoyed.

(June 15)

CHITINA NEWS

The contractor for the summer mail service from Chitina-Fairbanks was given an extension of time from June 4 to June 18 on account of the late season.

However, just as was feared, even with this advantage, the motor cycle proved inadequate, and has been abandoned as unfit for the service.

The contractor, Mrs. Rose Johnson, gives out that she has

two Ford cars at Valdez, but cannot get them over the trail to Chitina for some time on account of slides in Keystone Canyon, and deep snow in Thompson's Pass.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Nizina Bridge is now practically complete, and it is the opinion of James Wilson, Road Commissioner, that the contractors have constructed the best \$25,000 worth of public improvements in the country.

The trail to the bridge is the next thing which will be placed under way.

Miss Vera McCarthy who for the past year has taught McCarthy School left today to visit her home in Galena Ill.

During her sojourn here Miss McCarthy has made a great many friends and it is to be hoped she will return to Alaska.

A Tennis Court has been prepared by some of our enterprising residents, and this week the tennis equipment has arrived and play will commence.

(June 29)

FIRE

A NIGHT ALARM

At 1:45 this morning the fire alarm rang out. Immediately the residents rushed to the scene which proved to be the McLellan house on Second Street, already a mass of flames. The fire crew, aided by many willing hands did noble work, but it could readily be seen that no effort could save it, so all endeavors were turned towards saving those buildings adjacent.

Unfortunately the Faddis store and residence was completely destroyed, but there was time to save most of their effects. Mr. Faddis was out of town on business, but Mrs. Faddis and the children showed great presence of mind.

Meantime on the other side the Woodln Restaurant caught fire and only by yeoman service of hose and bucket brigade was it kept in check and the building only damaged.

The origin of the fire is a mystery as the McLellans were out visiting, returning to find their home in flames, and their worldly possessions what they stood up in.

Great sympathy is felt for those who suffer through the calamity.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Paul Harmi and Steve Boravac returned from a trip to the head of the Chitina this week, where they have been prospecting. They found a cache of furs and grub just above the upper boat landing on the Chitina, but as they met no one in their travels, feel that something might have happened to the owner. As far as we know only one trapper, Wm. Urless, who has not been to town for six weeks, is not located.

Mrs. N. A. Erickson wishes to announce to the public that she has leased Cole's Store and Roadhouse at Nizina.

General Line of Merchandise carried.

- Best accommodations.
- Meals at all hours.
- Good Stabling.
- Post Office at store.
- Close to Kernan and Carvey camps.

King Floyd

THE TALE OF A SMALL TIME DICTATOR

Part two

BY RANDY ELLIOT

A week had passed and Floyd was eagerly awaiting the mail as Wings and his trusty heap chugged into view. Instead of his victory barrel roll on approach, Wings did a pull up to a hammerhead turn recovering on the numbers; Floyd realized something must be very wrong. Wings was hardly ever this restrained when it came to public flying. The much repaired canvas biplane had no sooner stopped when Floyd saw Wings put his face in his hands and weep rather than get out. Floyd raced for the fire bucket for he assumed Wings had gotten a cinder from the old coal burner in his good eye.

Running back to the plane he dashed the gallons of ice cold water on the hapless pilot, and Wings leapt into the air landing on his feet after a half gainer with full twist. Blinded by the bath, he raged at the innocent air until he realized Floyd was behind him.

"What in the name of Sam Hill's Horses are you doing Floyd?" Wings sputtered.

"Thought you had a hot eye, Wings." Wings paused for a few seconds and realizing Floyd was only trying to help as a friend, he shook himself like a wet dog and then he deflated. Tears started anew as he thought of his problem again.

"Uh, What is the matter Wings, did the Flight Deck take away your approach plate?"

Wings shook his head but the tears stopped. He blew his nose loudly.

"Naw, fact is Floyd I won't be seeing you and Maureen any more."

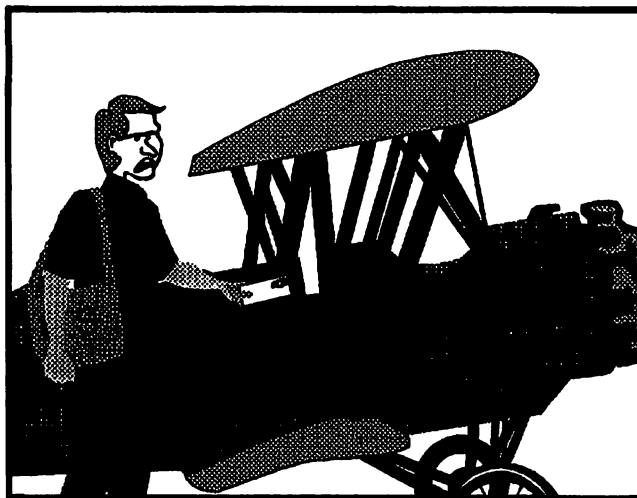
"What!"

"New regulations from Lord Fedgov. It seems only qualified pilots can fly over the essential lands. So I'm out of a

knew how to barrel roll correctly on approach.

"I can't say but there is a letter in your last mail which might have the answer. If you want to open it we could see," Wings said hopefully.

Floyd shook his head no.



job."

"But I thought you had a license to fly all these fifteen years," Floyd said in amazement.

"I have a license to fly but I have to be condor rated."

"Condor rated?"

"Yeh, in order to fly over the essential lands I have to have five thousand hours flying around Californian condors in helicopters and fixed wings."

"There aren't any condors here Wings so what difference does that make."

"I know, I know," Wings said sadly, "but the examiner was adamant. 'One land, one law' was all he would say."

"Well who will fly the mail then?" Floyd asked nervously for Wings was the only pilot they had in so many years there weren't any more who even

"Maureen always reads the mail, Wings, its our own law."

Wings' shoulders fell so far Floyd thought they would catch on his rodeo buckle, and his heart broke to see his dear friend so depressed. He took the letter from the bag and turned to the despondent pilot.

"Well since it's your last visit, Wings, we might as well not stand on tradition, eh?" and Floyd was rewarded with a smile that burned all the way to his feet. He removed the single sheet and read aloud:

"Dear resident or current outlaw,

"In accordance with Congress' wishes to better serve you, three million dollars was appropriated to preserve the essential air services currently provided in areas deemed to be essential. A blue ribbon commission of Fedgov

employees from our Dallas office was appointed to look into this matter. Inasmuch as these services cross essential airspace as many as two times a week and that these crossings have been shown as a potential cause of fluctuations in the molting and flea counts of immature Californian condors which are on the president's protected species list, it has been determined that the suspension of your airmail privileges is in accordance with section 43.2 paragraph 2 and 6 of the Artful Negation of Interested Land Claims Act and after careful considerations of all the possibilities it has been found that such suspension will have no significant impact to the essential lands. Such a finding is based on careful research and your comments are urged in this matter. Such comments will be accepted for a period of two days from the date of this mailing. Please use the reverse of this missive for that purpose."

Signed Clearly Biased, First Assistant Deputy to the Director for Useful Program Money Extraction."

"Wasn't that act called something else?" Wings asked quizzically.

"Uh, you might be right." Floyd was distracted mightily by the sudden end to his mail.

"It looks as if no one is going to take your place, Wings."

"Yeh, so it seems. Well I guess I will have to open a museum of flight with old Betsy then. Tourism is the wave of the future you know." But he said it sadly.

"So I have heard," said Floyd. Suddenly he was seized

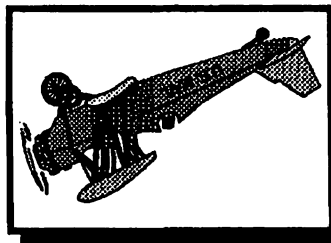
This story is purely fictional. Any resemblance to actual people, agencies, places, or events is merely coincidence.

by nostalgia. He grabbed Wings in a bear hug and the startled pilot pulled his bear gun but the shot went harmlessly astray.

"See ya Wings," Floyd said as the embarrassed airman holstered his pistol and climbed aboard Betsy for his terminal flight home. With

fragrance. Gathering the mail he mounted his trusty Honda 126 and was away on the narrow trail home.

At home, firmly ensconced on his favorite log round, he quietly slurped turnip and caterpillar soup as Maureen perused the before read letter.



book again, and she was forced to hold her curiosity in check until the morning.

The oil burned late again as Floyd perused those fine printed pages with their multifarious footnotes and references. At last he gave a strangled cry, for it was late, and joining Maureen in the connubial quarter of their cabin he fell asleep with a small smile on his face and slept the sleep of the just. ■

Leaving the runway Wings flew inverted for a moment to gain speed and then climbing gave a last wave before turning right side up in an impressive outside loop with a half twist.

whizbangs whirring, wasp-like whining wails wickedly whipped witnesses wistfully watching Wings wan weaving winging wave wane. Leaving the runway Wings flew inverted for a moment to gain speed and then climbing gave a last wave before turning right side up in an impressive outside loop with a half twist.

"And how shall we get our mail from now on, Floyd?" she asked, wringing her hands at the thought of no more packages of darning needles and balls of yarn from India.

Floyd's tongue teased a tangy twisted turnip tucked ticklishly tight through the tiniest teeth in front of his molar as he thought of a reply.

"I guess I'll have to go to Thoughtful for it."

"But how will you cross the Ugly river?"

"I'll have to use the same method the Thoughtful folk do."

"But it's dangerous, Floyd, and you can't carry any packages of any size when you pole-vault."

"We have to make some sacrifices for our lifestyle Maureen. Regardless, I had better read the Artful Negation of Interested Land Claims Act again to see if there are any possibilities of getting Wings back."

Saying this Floyd began to paw through his landfill library system to find the terrible tome.

"Wasn't that called something else?" Maureen asked quizzically but Floyd was nose down in the bestial

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



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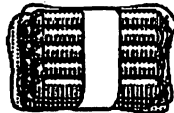
25 lb. All Purpose Flour \$6.10 (50 lb. \$11.40)
25 lb. White Rice \$7.59
25 lb. Sugar \$10.59



10 lb. Buttermilk pancake mix \$5.40
25 lb. Buttermilk pancake mix \$13.64
5 lb. Extra Wide Egg Noodles \$3.75
10 lb. Long Spaghetti \$5.40
7 lb. Fusilli \$4.34
4 lb. Raisins \$5.15
9 lb. Oatmeal \$6.58
1 Gal. Borden Pancake & waffle syrup \$4.80

50 lb. 100% Whole Wheat Flour \$17.95
50 lb. Brown Rice \$39.50
40 qt. Milkman \$17.64

25 lb. Buttermilk biscuit mix \$16.11
12 pack Macaroni and Cheddar \$4.11
10 lb. Long Fettuccini \$5.75
5 lb. Blocks of Cheese \$10.25 (Average price)
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Cooking with Sourdough

BY CARLY KRITCHEN

When I first got interested in cooking with sourdough, I was told that the older the starter, the better the "sourdough" flavor. Many people in Alaska get their sourdough starters from friends or family. I got my first starter from Marion Wiese, owner of the Pioneer Cafe in Cordova, who made THE BEST sourdough pancakes in town. (Alas, she has since retired).

I fed and nurtured my starter for several years, until I went on vacation, forgot all about my sourdough pot for several weeks, and came back home to find it had died a horrible, smelly, green death!

A few months later I saw a recipe for a starter in Alaska magazine that looked good. I started a batch out at fish camp, and was surprised to find that after a week or so it was even better than my old sourdough!

Nowadays, I don't worry about keeping a starter. If I find myself without—for one reason or another—I either make a new one or beg a cup from a friend.

Every starter tastes different. Marion's was quite smooth and almost sweet, while a starter I once got from Bonnie Morris was very tart—a classic San Francisco sourdough flavor. I liked them both!

Here is my favorite starter recipe and a couple recipes to try. The only rules I know for sure about sourdough are these:

- Don't use metal utensils.
- Don't forget to stir every day.
- Throw away green or orange starter.
- You can refrigerate sourdough as long as you take it out at least once a week to feed and stir it.

I don't claim to be an expert on sourdough, but I do know it is easy and fun to cook with your own sourdough pot!

MASHED POTATO STARTER

(from Ruth Allman of Juneau, AK)

- 2 cups potato water
- 2 tablespoon sugar
- 2 cups flour
- ½ teaspoon yeast

To make potato water, boil a couple medium to large potatoes until they fall to pieces. Cool. Add more water to make 2 cups, if necessary. The richer the potato water, the richer the starter. Put all ingredients in a pot and mix until smooth. Cover. Set in a warm place. Should be ready in about three days but gets better the longer it works. Add more water if it looks too thick. Add more sugar and flour if it is working too slowly. When ready should look like sour cream with lots of bubbles. As you use it, replace it with flour, water and a little sugar.

I usually do not set a separate sponge as most people do. I make sure to stir and feed my sourdough the night before I make pancakes, then use this recipe.

MARION'S PANCAKES

- 1 cup starter
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon oil
- pinch of salt
- ¼ teaspoon soda dissolved in ¼ cup warm water

Replace the starter you take from pot with flour, water and a little sugar. Mix the first five ingredients in a bowl until smooth. Add soda and warm water mixture. Too much soda makes the pancakes tough and too brown. Add more warm water if batter is too thick. Bake on a hot griddle until golden brown. Yield: Enough for 1 or 2 persons

CINNAMON ROLLS

- 2 cups starter
- 1 cup lukewarm milk
- 3 cups flour
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup oil
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda

Filling: melted butter, brown sugar, cinnamon,

raisins, and chopped nuts (optional)

Frosting: 1 cup powdered sugar, 2 tablespoons milk, ½ teaspoon vanilla

Mix together sourdough starter, milk and 2 cups of the flour. Beat until smooth. Add eggs and oil and beat again. In a small bowl, blend ½ cup flour, soda and salt. Sprinkle over dough and stir. Turn dough onto a board sprinkled with the remaining ½ cup flour. Knead lightly, mixing in most of the flour. This is a very soft dough. Place dough in a greased bowl. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1-1 ½ hours. Turn dough out onto board sprinkled with ½ cup flour. Cut in half. Roll each half into a rectangle about ¼ inch thick. Brush with melted butter. Sprinkle with brown sugar and cinnamon, then with raisins and nuts as desired. Roll up lengthwise and cut into 1 inch lengths. Place in a well-buttered pan that is at least 2 ½ inches deep. Cover and let rise until doubled, about 30-45 minutes. Bake at 375 degrees for 40 minutes. Turn rolls out of pan at once. Turn right side up. Combine frosting ingredients and drizzle over the rolls while they are still warm.

Carly and her husband, Ken, divide up their time between Cordova and their cabin near McCarthy. When they are not out commercial fishing, they can usually be found working on some building project. At the present, they are busy finishing an addition to their log cabin in McCarthy. Carly loves to cook; Ken loves to eat. They make a wonderful team! ☺☺

There isn't much to be seen in a little town, but what you hear makes up for it.
—Kin Hubbard

Snowmachine spacemen meet Wrangell Mountain women

BY NANCY COOK

While the snow melts away and many are preparing for the summer tourism rush, there's one story of winter tourism that might draw a chuckle or a hoot.

As many may know during the last week of March, McCarthy Lodge opened its doors for a crew of five male recreational snowmachiners. One can't say for certain what these guys were after, but a safe guess is they came to the Wrangells looking for sun, snow, excitement and maybe a little "male bonding" out in the bush.

Mother nature took care of the first two items; the sun was shining and the trails were at least semi-hard. The Nizina

River crossing (always a tricky one) must have provided a bit of excitement—if not somewhat of a scare. However, this area's active women may have thrown them a loophole if one of their hopes was to leave the women at home for the weekend...

During their short visit, the crew got to witness Betty Hickling doing her thing on the backhoe with Kim's support on the four-wheeler. Up the road, were Marci Thurston and Nancy Green peeling logs for the new McCarthy Air office and Verna Lee Cantor working on her truck. A little later, Carol Morrison mused in from Clear Creek with two dog teams, two kids, and a skirt on!

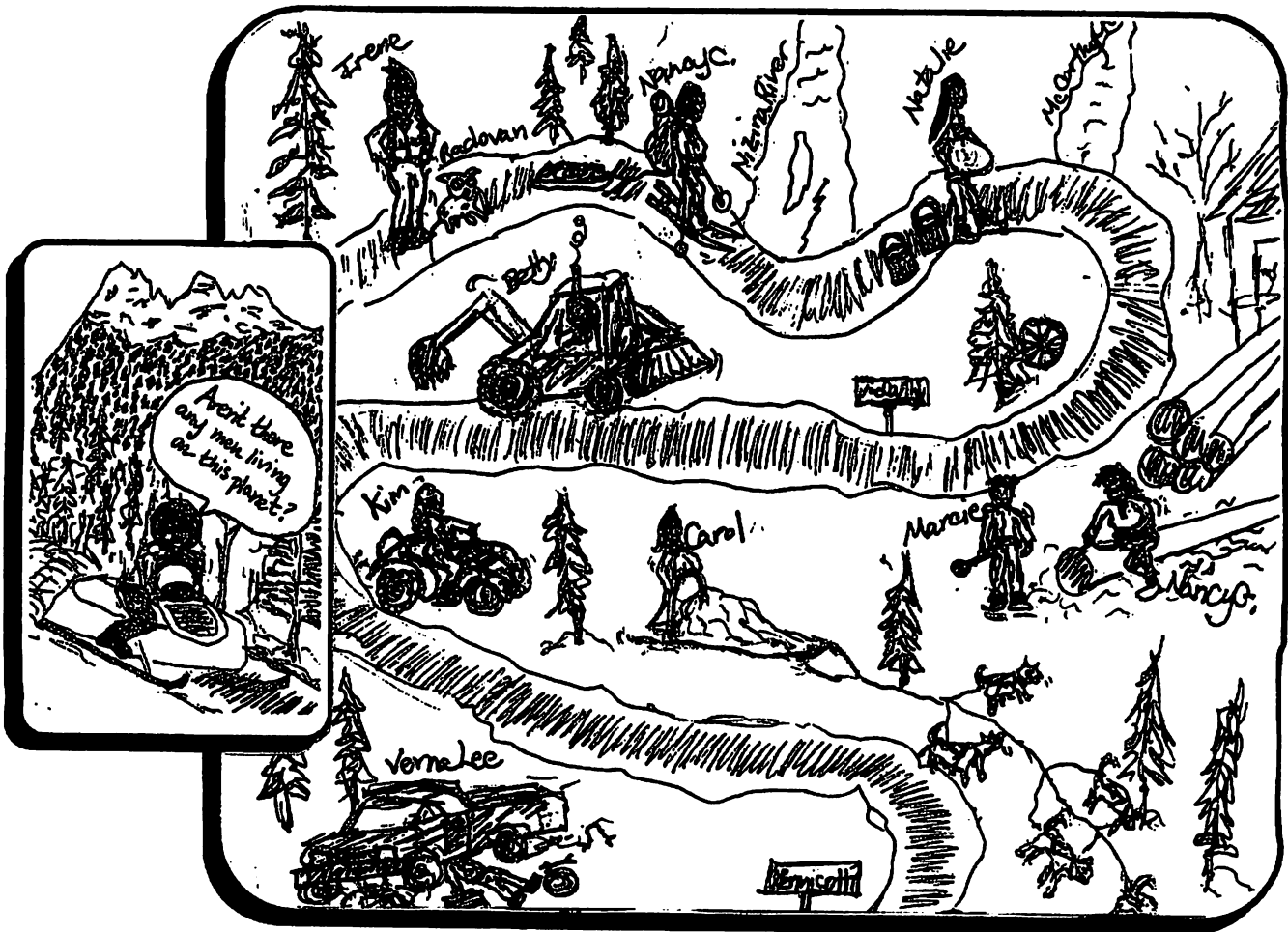
If the fellows thought it would be just them and the wilds once they got out of town, again they were mistaken. On the Nizina Road the guys crossed paths with Natalie Bay, eight months pregnant and hauling her water buckets. At Dan Creek they met Irene Koivu taking her pup, Radovan, out for a hike, and finally, on their way back about midway along the May Creek trail, the fellows (almost literally) "ran into" me. I was on skis with a large pack and pulling my little orange sled.

If they'd stopped to chat, the men would have discovered I was on my way home to Spruce Point from a short solo trip out towards the Chitina. But, as it was, they roared on

by—all five of them masked under bright helmets and fancy dark shades—leaving only some fumes to assure me they were real.

Comparing notes a few hours later, Irene and I agreed the guys looked more like spacemen than any humans we'd seen in awhile! At the time, I thought they were a bit rude to not even wave a hello, but now I wonder if they weren't as bewildered by me as I was by them.

At any rate, it's possible that these visitors went home telling stories about the Wrangells in winter "where it's not only the land which is wild and the old towns which are curious, but the men and the women!"



Handcrafted in Alaska

BY BONNIE KENYON

Since arriving in Alaska from Indiana, Terry and Dee Frady found themselves spending every spare moment—every day off work—scouring the Alaskan countryside.

This particular summer day in 1981 didn't seem any different from others. Gathering their camping gear, they excitedly headed for a new spot to hike, explore and maybe even catch a fish or two. By the time the day ended, however, Terry and Dee had made a decision that drastically changed their lifestyle.

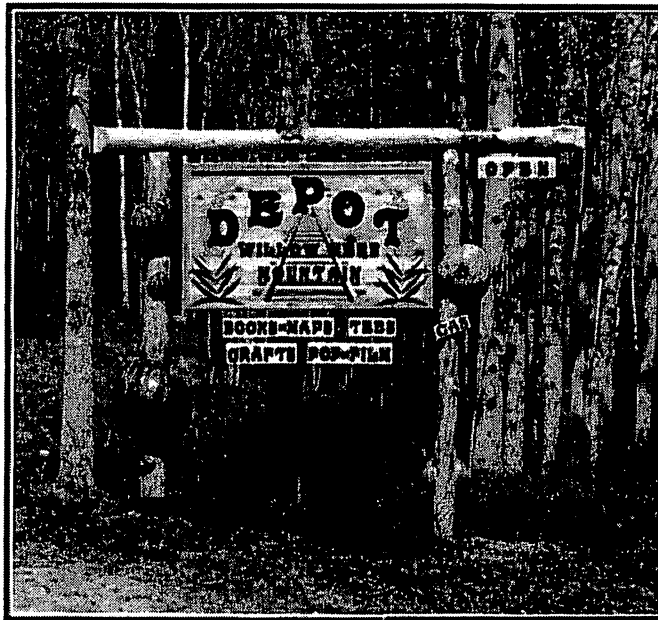
When Terry returned from military duty in Vietnam ten years earlier, he kept hearing stories about Alaska. "They were begging for people at Elmendorf at that time. So, I put in for it and got Alaska within 6 months—which is unheard of!" recalls Terry.

After the Fradys moved to Anchorage in 1972, Dee enrolled at the University of Alaska and completed her nurses' training. She went to work at what is now Alaska Regional Hospital.

Terry left the military in 1979. He then went to work under a government contract doing computer work for the Alaska Railroad and eventually, the Bureau of Land Management.

They purchased a home in Eagle River and settled down into their new surroundings. Things looked like they would go on like this forever—that is, until that summer day in '81!

"It was a very sudden decision. Made on the spur of the moment," recalls Dee. "We decided we were going to change our lifestyle and give up everything and sell our home. We were very secure. We had very good jobs—very good incomes. We just decided we were going to change our



lifestyle completely."

After reading about the McCarthy area, Terry and Dee were intrigued. Maybe they should drive out and take a look. After all they had checked out the Nabesna and Kenai areas—even purchased a piece of property up towards Talketna. "It wasn't remote enough for us at the time so we sold the Talketna property," says Dee. Somehow these places were not "the" place.

Terry and Dee's first trip out the McCarthy Road ended at the Lakinaw Bridge near Long Lake. The bridge had washed out. Disappointed but not ready to give up, they returned when the bridge was replaced.

They loved the Wrangell Mountains right from the start. Some people are drawn to the area because of McCarthy and Kennicott, but that was not the case with Terry and Dee. In fact, they didn't even go up to Kennicott for a long time. "That was not our focus when we came out," explains Dee. "We just came here for a change of lifestyle and peace and quiet."

They quickly agreed the McCarthy area was where they wanted to buy property. At Mile 55 they found just what they were looking for! A parcel of land for sale that had road access and a good water source. Needless to say, they bought it.

Terry looks back on that moment, "When we came in and saw the property, for some reason we wanted to build with logs. There's just some satisfaction that comes with building with logs.

To start at complete scratch. I grew up in western North Carolina where there was a lot of log building."

Fortunately for them, the University of Alaska was offering a log cabin building course for a semester. They both enrolled. They learned a lot and began to apply that knowledge by building their own log cabin on the McCarthy area property.

The change from city life to bush living came gradually. They spent good portions of their summers from 1982-84 working on the cabin—choosing spruce trees local to the area. They winched the logs up their hill to the cabin site with a chain saw winch.

A couple of days before Thanksgiving 1985 they finished the 750 sq. ft cabin. An excellent time to celebrate and give Dee's new wood cookstove a good working out! Quitting his Anchorage job the same year, Terry says, "That's when we moved out here--lock, stock and 2 barrels!"

Terry and Dee agreed they would just stay a year to see if they could make it through all the different seasons. They planned on returning someday to city life and use their cabin as a summer place. This is 1993, however, and Dee states. "We're still here so I guess we're not leaving. We've taken root."

After moving out to McCarthy, Dee continued her nursing job but only on a part-time basis. Even though she thoroughly enjoys nursing, the commute back and forth became very difficult.

Out of a need for an income, they began to look around them. They couldn't help but notice the increase of tourists to the area. Was it possible to make a living out here, they wondered? "We figured if there was anyway in the world we could make a living here at home, let's try doing something," said Terry.

Creating things with their hands had always been something they enjoyed doing. Then came the idea that they could sell what they made. Maybe they could create things out of the raw materials that they found on their property or in the local area. Taking an even closer look, they discovered the area was full of talented people. Why not bring together under one roof local handcrafted items, alongside their own creations, and offer them to the visitors? They could help their neighbors and, at the same time, "Give the people who come in here something positive to take back with them." Thus, Willow Herb Mountain

Depot was born! According to Dee, Willow Herb is another name for Fireweed that grows profusely in the area.

Building with logs is something the Fradys "just like doing." So, they began the process all over again. This time the log raising went quicker and



by Memorial Day 1991, they had the 16'X16' one room building finished. Just in time for the summer season!

This year is the gift shop's third season, and Terry and Dee are still excited and encouraged with its growth. Besides their own handmade crafts and other locally made items, they have searched out others in the state who have handicrafts to sell as well. They decided not to deal through wholesale groups but with each Alaskan artisan on a one-to-one basis. Dee estimates she has 15 local people who contribute their handiwork. The rest of her inventory is from people who live in other remote areas of the state. They are proud to claim 99% Alaskan made items. Willow basketry, collectible dolls, copper nugget jewelry, diamond willow and birch products, area books, field guides and maps are just a few of the items you'll find at Willow Herb Mountain Depot.

Setting slightly more than 100 ft. off the McCarthy Road and on the hillside, the Depot is a welcome sight to travelers. With a clear view of Sourdough Peak, most of their customers want to spend more than just a few minutes admiring the scenery. According to Terry, visitors have all sorts of questions. Anything from how does one build with logs, what is winter like and how do they manage loneliness.

For two people like Terry and Dee Frady, loneliness or boredom just doesn't fit into their busy schedule! Acting on one idea seems to lead to another idea. For example, they are presently working on a cookbook featuring recipes from local people. This is Dee's "baby" but Terry might contribute a drawing or even a recipe. They hope to have it ready for distribution by Christmas. Rental cabins are being planned, also, and an addition for the gift shop.

It's not likely the ideas will stop even though they are the first to admit the area is changing from when they first came. Instead of fighting the changes, the Fradys decided to do something about it. "Things have changed," admits Dee, "and we're just changing with the times like everybody else. We're going with the flow. It's a lot better than crying and whining about it. Change has its own good points. I think the possibilities out here for everyone are enormous."

Some of those good points for Terry and Dee Frady and others like them, is the opportunity to live the lifestyle they have chosen and, also, to make a living doing what they enjoy most.

"One out of four people in this country is mentally unbalanced. Think of your three closest friends; if they seem OK, then you're the one". - Ann Landers



Glennallen to McCarthy

(Mon, Wed)

Depart Glennallen 1:15pm
Chitina 2:30 pm
Arrive McCarthy 5:30 pm

(Th, Fri, Sun)

Depart Glennallen 8:00 am
Chitina 9:15 am
Arrive McCarthy 12:01pm

(Saturday)

Depart Glennallen 10:45 am
Chitina 12:01 pm
Arrive McCarthy 2:45 pm

McCarthy to Glennallen

(Mon, Wed)

Depart McCarthy 6:30 pm
Chitina 9:15 pm
Arrive Glennallen 10:30 pm

(Th, Fri, Sun)

Depart McCarthy 2:00 pm
Chitina 4:45 pm
Arrive Glennallen 6:00 pm

(Saturday)

Depart McCarthy 3:45 pm
Chitina 6:30 pm
Arrive Glennallen 7:45 pm

Glennallen to Valdez

(Mon, Wed)

Depart Glennallen 8:00 am
Arrive Valdez 11:00 am

(Friday)

Depart Glennallen 4:45 pm
Arrive Valdez 7:15 pm

Valdez to Glennallen

(Mon, Wed)

Depart Valdez 12:01 pm
Arrive Glennallen 3:00 pm

(Friday)

Depart Valdez 7:30 pm
Arrive Glennallen 10:00 pm

Valdez to McCarthy

(Mon, Wed)

Depart Valdez 12:01 pm
Arrive McCarthy 5:30 pm

McCarthy to Valdez

(Friday)

Depart McCarthy 2:00 pm
Arrive Valdez 7:15 pm

Glennallen to Denali

(Tues, Th) via Denali
Highway

Depart Glennallen 7:30 am
Arrive Denali 2:15 pm

Denali to Glennallen

(Tues, Th)

Depart Denali 3:00 pm
Arrive Glennallen 9:45 pm

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A look at the weather



BY GEORGE CEBULA

February had a cold start at McCarthy with a -39 on the 2nd, followed with the low for the month of -47 on the 3rd (-41 on Feb 19,92). The longer sunlight began to warm the air and by the 15th the high reached 39. The high for the month was 47 on the 26th (48 on Feb 25,92). The monthly average temperature was a rather warm 10.6 compared to 4.9 in Feb 92. Total liquid precipitation was just under an inch (.99) compared to 1.55 inches in Feb 92. Snowfall for the month was 7.4 inches (13.2 Feb 92). There was 23 inches of snow on the ground on the first and last day of Feb, with the greatest depth, 27 inches on the 10th. This was very close to Feb 92, with 21 inches on the first and last day, 27 inches on the 15th for the max depth.

Snow depths at other area stations on Feb 28 ranged from a low of 8 inches at KCAM in Glennallen to high of 25 inches at Tonsina. The average depth for the area was 20 inches.

March 93 was really the end of a long cold winter at McCarthy. The state had the road plowed to the river by the 9th and the temperature climbed to a high of 52 on the 31st (46 on Mar 8,92). The low for March was -19 on the 16th (-2 on Mar 3,92). The average temperature for March was 20.1 compared to 22.4 in March 92. Only a trace of precipitation was recorded this March compared to 0.86 liquid and 5.4 inches of snow in March 1992. The snow depth was identical with 22 inches on the ground at the end of March in 92 and 93.

The area stations had an average snow depth of 20 inches on March 31. By April

11 this had dropped to 15 inches. The ground should be free of snow by the end of April, unless we get a big dump before the end of the month.

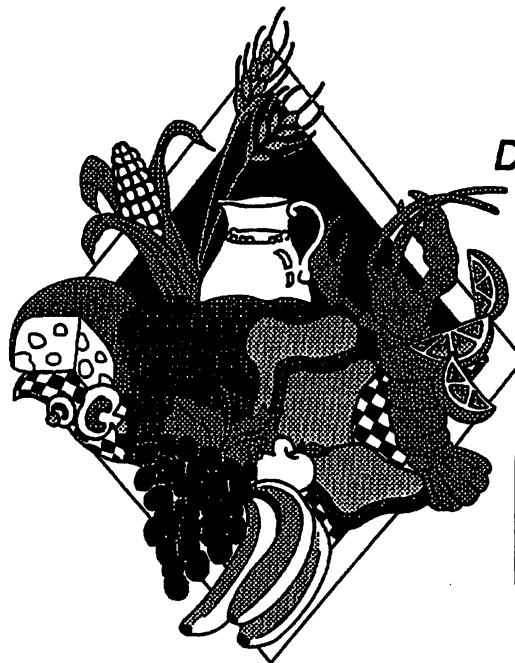
Looking ahead to May, the average temperature should be about 45 and highs into the 60s by mid month. Precipitation should be light with an average amount of less than an inch. June is usually the warmest month with an average temperature in the mid 50s and average precipitation of about 2 inches. These conditions tend to dry the road and make the drive dusty and bumpy. Please drive with care and be alert for oncoming traffic.

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

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*Kids: ages 3 to 12 are ½ price.

Chris Richards Box #1 Kennicott, AK 99588

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

"That this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." — Abraham Lincoln

Time for change

"The Congress finds and declares that the continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses by rural residents of Alaska, including both Natives and non-Natives, on the public lands, is essential to Native and non-Native physical, economic, traditional, and social existence." That statement opens Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, better known as ANILCA. ANILCA is the document that created Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. It goes on to say that "the utilization of the public lands in Alaska is to cause the least adverse impact possible on rural residents who depend on subsistence uses of the resources of such lands."

In the past three months the residents of the Copper River Valley in general, and the McCarthy area in particular have been told that it is very difficult to determine community boundaries. The Park Service, using aerial photographs, drew a line around the McCarthy Lodge and a few other downtown buildings and said that it represents the boundary for the community. NPS gave it to SRC. The SRC let it stand. Yet the McCarthy area residents had no trouble defining the community limits last fall. "From Crystal Creek on the McCarthy Road, east to the Canadian border, within the Chitina River drainage."

We were also told that it was necessary to draw these boundaries because the Park Service "has no method for identifying genuine subsistence users who are authorized to hunt and trap in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park." Too bad they didn't read their own regulations, regulations that they wrote in 1981. They spell it out very clearly. Local rural residents are authorized to hunt and trap in the Park. "Wait," they

said. "We don't have any way to know who is a local rural resident." Read the regulations. A local rural resident is someone who lives in the resident zone. "But that's just it, we need boundaries so we know who lives in the resident zone." Read the regulations. They tell you very clearly: look at their driver's license, or hunting license, or voter's registration. If the address is one of the 18 resident zone communities listed, they're local rural residents. "Well, the problem is that the people have spread out along the highways since 1980." On and on the mindless argument goes. If NPS cannot determine who is a "genuine subsistence user," it is because they cannot read a drivers license, not because McCarthy, Chisana, or Glennallen doesn't have a city limit sign.

Federal regulation and Congressional intent have been grossly perverted in order to "draw lines" around communities. The proposed "zone" for McCarthy does not meet the federal criteria for a resident zone at all, since virtually no one lives within the proposed boundaries. Whatever the real reason for these illogical boundaries, it certainly was not "to protect the privileges of the subsistence user" as we were told. Nearly all of the subsistence users live outside the proposed zones. The people of the Valley spoke loud and clear at the SRC meeting held in April. "We are not 18 communities, we are one community. We don't want boundary lines on maps."

Congress encouraged the resident zone concept in order to free the rural residents from burdensome permits, and the Park Service from needless expense. But we are told to get a 13.44 permit anyway, even if we live in the resident zone. Just fill out a six page application, sign 4 copies of a permit with 15 "conditions" attached to it, and

we will be "protected." Hardly. Not only are the permits less than useless, asking us to agree to absurd restrictions, but all we have to do is move across the road or have our residence declared "non-rural" in order for this wonderful permit to be automatically invalidated. I suppose it must be embarrassing that after 12 years only 8 valid permits remain. (At one time there were 40 permits, apparently 32 have already been revoked.)

It's time for a change. If the real agenda is to keep everyone out of the Park to prove some ecological theory or philosophy, then tell the people, and see if that is what they want. Perhaps Congress will be willing to revoke ANILCA so that you can draw your silly little lines on your maps, but don't tell us that Congress requires you to draw them. What Congress does require is that you leave the rural residents alone, let us lead our rural resident lives without the need to attend 3 meetings and write 9 letters just to defend our rural resident freedoms. Stop trying to control our lives and divide our communities, and start managing the lands you were given authority to manage. Stop spending all of your time and money on selfish little projects like quarter of a million dollar ranger stations and radio upgrades, and do something to enhance the lives of visitors and residents alike. Help the residents of Northway and Tetlin regain their lost subsistence rights. Work with the SRC rather than against it. It's time to start being a real friend to the residents rather than a pretend one. There will never be a relationship of trust between us until you stop twisting every regulation, always trying to take away our rights. We love this land, we chose to live in it. We could be your best friends, if you would only be honest with us. Try us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

March 6, 1993
McCarthy, AK

Dear Editor,

I wish to address as briefly as I can the "IMPRIMIS" insert in your March/April issue. In presenting any issue it is important to examine both sides of the matter before making judgments. I was disappointed to see Wrangell St. Elias News endorse a presentation that is not only very unbalanced regarding certain issues, but lacks pertinent information as well.

For one, in regards to acid rain, Edward Krug in "The Environmental Party's Bid for Power" asserts that acidification of streams and lakes is not as rampant or serious as the "Environmental Party" claims. Krug may be correct, but he fails to explain that acid rain, whether or not it reaches open waters, leaches aluminum out of the soil and into lakes and streams. Aluminum is a very poisonous to fish and also may be a cause of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Hundreds of previously productive lakes in the North-Eastern U.S. which have been a food source for humans are void of fish due to aluminum poisoning. The actual pH of these waters however, may not be that high.

In regards to Krug's claim that global warming is a "manufactured crisis," please let me reply that it is a well known fact (anybody who enjoys the convenience of a

greenhouse has learned the concept) that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere traps heat. It is also a well known and measurable fact that since the Industrial Revolution levels of CO2 in the atmosphere have sky-rocketed. No-one is sure however, how the earth may respond to increased warming. There are too many factors involved to enable agreement on only one affect. I cannot see however, that it hurts to make an effort to reduce CO2 levels in the meantime.

When we can already see hundreds of children suffering birth defects due to poisoned waters, precious top soil disappearing forever into the ocean, people in Africa starving from a human induced drought, does it really hurt to consider the future of our children? And as far as Krug's claim that "the Environmental Party...worships the creation but not the creator," well, all I can say is that I think that the people of whom Krug speaks, more than anybody worship the creator.

Sincerely,
Lilly Goodman

Dear Lilly,

Thank you for your letter. Writing a "letter to the editor" is a much more grown-up response than defacing the picture of Mr. Krug and posting it on the mail shack wall, as someone did.

For those of our readers who do not live in McCarthy,

we need to explain that the local residents got a copy of the Hillsdale College newsletter, IMPRIMIS, along with their March/April issue of Wrangell St. Elias News.

The main story, called "Save the Planet, Sacrifice the People: The Environmental Party's Bid for Power," was written by Edward C. Krug, who is a soil scientist. His premise: "The truth is that the Environmental Party is dominated by false prophets whose concern for the environment masks their real agenda, which is social engineering and their ultimate goal, which is power."

*If you would like a copy you can write to:
Hillsdale College
External Affairs
Hillsdale, Michigan
49242-9986*

Ask for the July 1991 issue of IMPRIMIS, and enclose seventy-five cents.

April 21, 1993
McCarthy, AK

Dear Editor,

The posting of the publication on the "propaganda wall" of the McCarthy mail shack entitled "Grizzly Bears; Structures that Work" belies

the enormous ignorance with which the Park Service treats this community.

First, they misspelled Mark's name, then addressed him as "president" of MALA, an offense to him and the other MALA members which did not go unnoticed.

The book was basically ignored by everyone but me. Many of these structures would indeed work. But asking us to post it ignores many obvious things about this community.

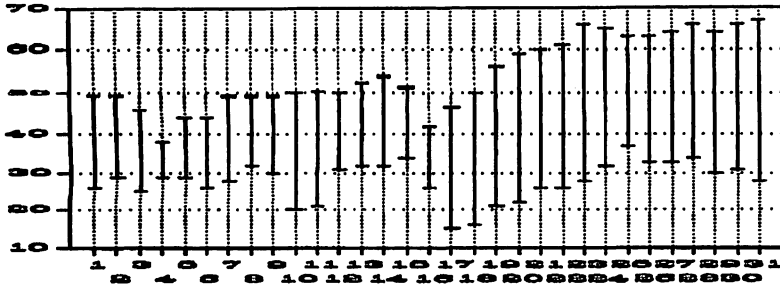
1. It ignores the fact that most of the bears shot around here are BLACK bears, and they climb trees.
2. It ignores the fact that most of those structures (especially the ones dealing with trash) are plate steel and simply too expensive and are unrealistic for bush people to build.
3. It ignores the fact that the attitude of most folks around here is to shoot the bear. As one person told me, "I find doctor magnum works just fine."

This seems to be typical of the Park Service's attitude towards the residents. They make assumptions about these people without living here, without getting to know the people first.

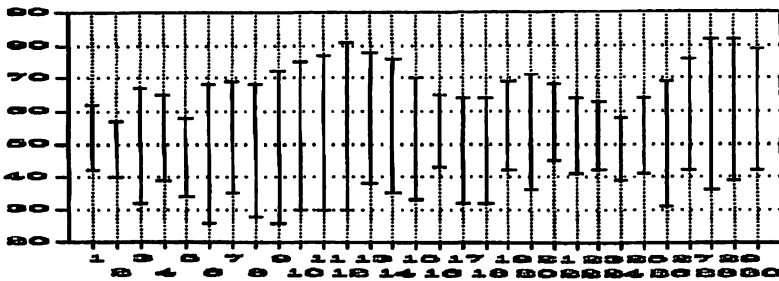
Sincerely,
Roger Brockman

Weather - What can we expect?

May 1992
MAX/MIN



June 1992
MAX/MIN



Wrangell St. Elias News
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Special Edition for McCarthy area subscribers

Local Ozone Layer Takes a Heavy Hit

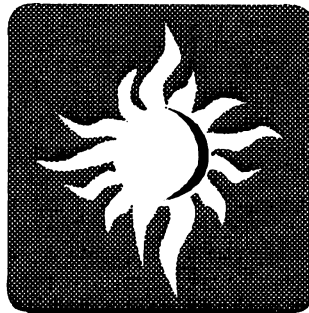
Scientists say harmful ultraviolet radiation may be 19% higher than normal this summer in Wrangells

BY ED LACHAPELLE

Data just released by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center indicate that the ozone mapping sensor on the Nimbus-7 satellite has found an alarming decrease in the stratospheric ozone levels beyond that already reported for the notorious Antarctic ozone hole. Ozone is the trace gas in the upper atmosphere responsible for blocking much of the harmful part of the ultraviolet spectrum. The NASA researchers report there have been sharp drops in the ozone levels everywhere outside the poles, except along the equator. In the temperate mid latitudes, the drop has amounted to about 9%, leading to about 12% increase in harmful ultraviolet reaching the earth's surface.

The maximum ozone losses, about 14%, were found around latitude 60 degrees N., corresponding closely to our own part of the world here in the Wrangell Mountains. Such an ozone

loss corresponds to about a 19% increase in harmful ultraviolet radiation. These losses were found from data for 1992 and into early 1993. They are expected to continue at these levels through the summer of 1993.



These sudden drops in worldwide ozone levels are thought to have been triggered by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines in June of 1991. This huge eruption injected large amounts of gases and debris into the stratosphere which have now become distributed all around the

world. Alterations of upper atmospheric chemistry and wind patterns are blamed for the effects on the protective ozone blanket.

Sun-bathing enthusiasts in this part of the world need to be cautious about the extra risks of sunburn and melanoma this summer. Especial care should be exercised by mountain climbing parties at high altitudes. Stock up on sun block along with the mosquito repellents! (Perhaps some enterprising pharmacist can come up with a double-acting lotion that will handle both.)

The Public Health Service advises that people placed at most risk by the enhanced ultraviolet exposure this summer are those who are permanent residents at these latitudes and who spend much of their time outdoors. The risk is slight for short-term visitors who will soon return to lower latitudes.